

DISCOVERY LAND

Year 3 – Quarter 2

Elementary Curriculum

Adapted for use in Africa



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A Note About Curriculum Adaptations

With permission from Discovery Land Global, the original creator of this curriculum and resources, a team from Awana Africa has adapted the content, contextualizing it for use across Africa.



A Message from Kris Smoll

Dear Leaders,

As we begin this new quarter, I encourage you to pause and reflect on the goodness of God. The one true God of the Bible offers something no other religion can offer: He sent His one and only perfect Son to rescue us from our sins, so we could be welcomed as members of His eternal family.

I'm so thankful that God has so clearly shown us how we can be made right with Him and adopted into His family forever. John 14:6 teaches us that Jesus is the one and only way to heaven. What would your life be like if Jesus hadn't come as our Savior? Take a moment to reflect on the peace and hope you have each day knowing Jesus and knowing that He is truly the one way to be saved. This is what you get to share with your students! God sent a Savior so we could have a personal relationship with Him. What a life-changing, amazing truth!

As you study this curriculum, you will discover that we encourage the use of the Wordless Book as the primary way to communicate the Gospel. It's a simple tool using colors to clearly communicate the holiness and love of God, the need for a Savior to rescue us from our sins, and the choice we have to either accept or deny the free gift of forgiveness that can only be found in Jesus.

Continue to pray that your students will understand this truth, embrace it, and be excited to share it with their friends and family.

Praising God for what He will do this quarter.

Kris Smoll
Executive Director of Discovery Land Global

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Understanding the Curriculum

Overview

The curriculum is designed to be a FUN, ENGAGING, and EFFECTIVE way to inspire kids to know and love God. It is strategic and purposeful and considers the spiritual development of children beginning at six months of age and continuing through their transition to middle school ministry.

The curriculum was developed to teach students:

1. **The Bible:** the big picture of the Old Testament and New Testament as a whole, unified revelation of God's truth to us.
2. **The Gospel of Jesus:** salvation by grace through faith as presented throughout the entire Bible.
3. **The Basics of Christianity:** life transformation through prayer, worship, evangelism, Scripture memory, baptism, communion, tithing, fellowship, serving, missions, etc. (complete list, by age, available in the On Track Map).

Elementary Lessons are based on a KNOW RIGHT → THINK RIGHT → DO RIGHT → FEEL RIGHT structure

Know Right:	A key passage from Scripture – 2 Timothy 2:15
Think Right:	A key Scripture verse to meditate on during the week – Psalm 1:2
Do Right:	The challenge to live God's Word – James 1:22
Feel Right:	The result of applying the lesson and having a biblical worldview rather than a secular worldview – Psalm 23

Leaders

Each class typically has three leaders: Lead Teacher, Discover Time Leader, and Shepherd.

LEADER TIPS

All leaders remain with their class throughout the entire morning, engaging with students and assisting as needed.

Smaller classes may combine the DT Leader and Shepherd positions.

Lead Teacher: Responsible for teaching a solid Bible lesson that captures the students' attention and creates spiritual growth by following the curriculum, as well as providing leadership of the students and other volunteers throughout the morning.

Discover Time Leader: Responsible for leading a 15-minute educational, energetic, team-focused, and interactive Discover Time activity as stated in the curriculum.

Shepherd: Responsible for encouraging and coaching students throughout the morning, including connecting students with a friend and helping first-time visitors feel welcome.

Elementary Program Overview

The program for elementary students is made up of five components:

1. Pre-Service Review Game
2. Worship
3. Discover Time
4. Bible Lesson
5. End-of-Class Review Game

These pieces all tightly connect to produce an environment of Total Time Teaching where every minute matters and students are engaged in learning the main point of the lesson or an On Track Map objective.

SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

-:20	Volunteers ready and prepared to welcome students as they arrive
-:15	Pre-Service Review Game
:00	Worship
:15	Discover Time
:30	Bible lesson
:60	End-of-Class Review Game
:65	Parents pick up students

Pre-Service Review Game

LEADER TIPS

Leaders who are not welcoming students as they enter should assist and encourage all students during the pre-game. Cheer them on!

Make sure visitors feel welcomed and try to match them up with a new friend from your class.

The pre-service review game is designed to be a fun, high-energy way to review previous lessons and topics from the On Track Map. It makes the most of that time when kids are trickling in, and it is the first thing the parents see!

The pre-service review game instructions are found in the Resources Booklet.

Worship

Worship is designed to:

- Introduce the lesson of the day
- Teach what worship is
- Model authentic worship
- Encourage participation in worship

On a regular week, we will worship with two or three songs. The worship curriculum is in the Resources Booklet.

LEADER TIPS

Encourage students to be respectful and participate by doing the hand motions and/or just standing out of respect. Leaders should prevent and correct any disruptive behavior.

Discover Time

Discover Time (DT) activities are designed to engage and challenge students through hands-on learning. Through the DT, they will experience an emotion or response that will help them personally connect to the Bible lesson. Occasionally the DT activity will be used to make a “memorable picture” of the Bible lesson for students such as the feel, smell, or taste of something in the Bible narrative.

LEADER TIPS

Make sure that you understand in advance how the DT connects to the lesson and how the activity is going to work. If you are unsure, contact your ministry leader. And remember, lead with enthusiasm; DTs are an exciting part of the morning for the kids!

Bible Lesson

The Bible lesson is a teacher-led, classroom experience that brings the Bible to life for students. The Gospel is woven into every lesson. There is a Scripture outline to help guide the lesson:

Section heading: This is for the teacher's information only (not dialogue).

Read: Scripture to read out loud to the class from your Bible.

Recap: After reading the portion of Scripture, take time to explain what it means. The "recap" often asks a question, defines key words, or restates the big picture of what you read at a child's level.

Paraphrase: This means you do not need to read it straight from the Bible (due to time, length of verses, or it is covering a difficult topic that needs to be made more child friendly). Please do not read the paraphrased text to your class directly from the curriculum.

Suggested steps for preparing your Bible lesson:

1. Pray for God's direction and leading. Also spend time praying for your students by name.
2. Read the Scripture from your Bible - highlight key points. This curriculum is developed on the foundation of God's Word, and the teaching of His truth by the Holy Spirit. It is critical that all leaders read the Scripture passage before reading the Scripture outline in the lesson. Curriculum may contain errors, but the Bible is inerrant.
3. Read the review questions for the lesson.
4. Read the curriculum.
5. Plan your lesson. Be sure to use the DT activity transition to introduce and/or highlight the Do Right point in your lesson.
6. Make your lesson come alive with props, pictures, or actions, utilizing the creative ideas in the curriculum.
7. Practice the lesson so you can bring the Bible to life with excitement in your voice and good eye contact with your students.
8. Teachers should always have their Bibles open during the entire lesson, so students know the account is coming from the Bible. All students should open their Bibles to the scripture passage as directed by the teacher (see the "Find It" section in the Introduction to the Lesson). (Younger students may require assistance.) Due to a limited amount of time and the value we place on students using their Bibles, please do not read the lesson from a Bible storybook.

End-of-Class Review Game

Simple end-of-class review games are provided in the appendix of the curriculum. Discover Time Leaders or Shepherds lead the review game as parents are picking students up, while the Lead Teacher hands out Tracker's Treasures and connects with the parents.

LEADER TIP

Reword review questions, turn them into True/False questions or offer multiple choice answers to better suit the age level of the class.

Classroom Resources

The following teaching tools are provided in the classroom:

- Bible Timeline
- Wordless Book
- Top 12 verses
- *Coaching Kids for Salvation* cards
- *Believe it or Not?* booklets
- *I Believe* bookmarks
- *Now What?* booklets
- Old and New Testament books of the Bible posters
- Tracker Tickets
- Feel Right poster
- Bible Times Map

Tracker Tickets

Tracker Tickets can be earned by students throughout the morning and can later be spent at the Discover Market. Students earn an average of 8 tickets per week.

Currency Rate

3	Bringing their Bible (K-2nd) / <u>Using</u> their Bible (3rd-5th)
2	Actively participating in class
1	Demonstrating the fruit of the Spirit
1-5	Discover Time Activity (specified in the curriculum)
5	Completing Tracker's Treasures and returning coupon
10	Visitor and the friend who brought the visitor

Tracker's Treasures

Tracker's Treasures are colorful, kid-friendly take-home papers for families. It is an important way that we partner with parents. It educates them about what their child is learning and challenges them to apply the lesson in their home throughout the week. After completing the family challenge activity, students can return the coupon to their teacher for five Tracker Tickets.

Elementary Syllabus

Year 3 – Quarter 2

Lesson 1

Know Right:	Malachi to Matthew – 400 years of silence.
Think Right:	Malachi 3:6a
Do Right:	I will know that God is always at work, and He will never change.
Feel Right:	I can feel confident knowing that God is at work, and He will never change.

Lesson 2

Mark 1:1-8; John 1:19-27

Know Right:	John the Baptist prepares the way.
Think Right:	Romans 1:16a
Do Right:	I will confidently serve Jesus with my life.
Feel Right:	I can feel confident when I serve Jesus.

Lesson 3

Matthew 1:18 - 2:12

Know Right:	Jesus is born.
Think Right:	Acts 16:31 (Top 12)
Do Right:	I will believe God sent His Son, Jesus, to save me from my sin.
Feel Right:	I can feel the hope of eternal life when I trust in Jesus to save me from my sin.

Lesson 4

Mark 6:14-20; Luke 5:1-11; Mark 3:13-19

Know Right:	Jesus chooses His disciples.
Think Right:	1 Corinthians 15:58 (Top 12)
Do Right:	I will follow Jesus.
Feel Right:	I can feel successful when I follow Jesus.

Lesson 5

John 2:1-11

Know Right:	Jesus miraculously turns water into wine.
Think Right:	John 21:25
Do Right:	I will believe Jesus can do miracles in my life.
Feel Right:	I can feel amazed when I think about Jesus' miracles.

Lesson 6

John 3:1-21

Know Right:	Jesus talks to Nicodemus about being born again.
Think Right:	John 3:16 (Top 12)
Do Right:	I will believe we must be born again to go to heaven.
Feel Right:	I can feel like a new person because I have been born again.

Lesson 7

John 10:14-30

Know Right:	Jesus teaches about the Good Shepherd.
Think Right:	John 14:2 (Top 12)
Do Right:	I will believe my eternal life is secure.
Feel Right:	I can feel peaceful because my eternal life is secure.

Lesson 8

John 4:1-42

Know Right:

Jesus teaches the Samaritan woman about living water.

Think Right:

John 14:6 (Top 12)

Do Right:

I will tell others about the one true Savior, Jesus.

Feel Right:

I can feel sad about people who don't believe in Jesus, but I can feel happy when I choose to tell them about Him.

Lesson 9

John 9:1-38

Know Right:

Jesus heals the blind man.

Think Right:

Proverbs 3:5-6 (Top 12)

Do Right:

I will believe God has a plan for me.

Feel Right:

I can feel loved knowing God has a plan for me.

Lesson 10

Mark 1:35; Matthew 6:5-13

Know Right:

Jesus prays and teaches how to pray.

Think Right:

1 Thessalonians 5:17

Do Right:

I will talk to God through prayer.

Feel Right:

I can feel God's presence when I talk to God through prayer.

Lesson 11

Review Day

Know Right:

True wisdom comes from God's Word.

Think Right:

2 Peter 3:18a (Top 12)

Do Right:

I will remember God's Word.

Feel Right:

I can feel wise when I remember God's Word.

Lesson 12

Testing Day

Topical Lesson

Celebrate Jesus! (Christmas)

Know Right:

Celebrate Jesus!

Think Right:

Acts 16:31 (Top 12)

Do Right:

I will celebrate God's gift of our Savior, Jesus.

Feel Right:

I can feel joyful when I celebrate God's gift of our Savior, Jesus.

Quarter Overview

Year 3 – Quarter 2

Our study of God's Word in the last two quarters has taken us through some of Israel's darkest days of disobedience. From the reign of the judges, through the establishment and the division of the kingdom, to the rejection of the prophets, God showed His faithfulness to His chosen people. Through this study, we learned that God is at work even when life seems the bleakest. This quarter, we move on to the New Testament where God fulfills His promise of a Savior to the world and every week we will learn something new that ignites our desire to celebrate Jesus!

Although the 400 years that passed between the Old Testament and the New Testament are called the "silent" years, we know God was at work getting Israel and the world ready for the coming Savior. He worked through Alexander the Great as his empire transformed language, religion, and culture. He worked through the Roman empire who built the structures and roads that would make it possible for the Gospel message to be spread quickly once the Savior was born. These examples assure us that God is always at work, and He will never change.

Jesus grew up well in God's sight. He was completely obedient to His earthly parents and to His Heavenly Father. At 30 years of age, He began His ministry, but not without help. God sent John the Baptist to help people get ready for Jesus. John led a modest life in the desert. He confidently preached for people to repent of their sins and be baptized in water so they would be ready for the One who would baptize them with the Holy Spirit. He even gave his life as he prepared people to be saved from their sins. The example of John the Baptist is one reason we can confidently serve Jesus with our lives.

We see many of God's prophecies fulfilled in the story of Christmas (refer to "Prophecies About Jesus" in the appendix). A baby was born to a virgin in Bethlehem, the town where King David was born. A bright star led Magi from far countries to Bethlehem where they worshiped and gave gifts to God's one and only Son. He was the gift that God gave us so we can be saved from our sin. "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved – you and your household." These profound words from Acts 16:31 are why we believe God sent His Son, Jesus, to save us from our sins.

As Jesus continued to fulfill God's plan, He chose ordinary, sinful men to help Him. He called them to stop what they were doing, drop everything in their lives, and follow Him. That is exactly what they did. These are the men who carried the Good News of Jesus to the world after Jesus died for our sins, rose again, and ascended to His Father in heaven. Their obedience and success encourages us to follow Jesus.

In the beginning of His ministry, it was Jesus' mother who displayed great faith in who He was and the power He possessed. At a wedding in Cana of Galilee, Jesus honored Mary's faith in Him and turned the water that filled the hand-washing jars into wine fit for a king. Although it was not yet time for Jesus to reveal Himself to the world, His new disciples, His believing mother, and the servants at the wedding witnessed this demonstration of power - the first of Jesus' signs. In John's gospel, these signs are written down to show God's power at work through Jesus to those who have eyes to see it. This same power is active in the world today to display His continued power, and that is why we believe Jesus can do miracles in our lives.

Although the majority of the Jews and their leaders rejected Jesus, one Pharisee sought the truth. During a meeting at night, Nicodemus came to find out how one could see the Kingdom of God. It was during this conversation that Jesus revealed the truth that we all hold dear: we must be born again by believing in Him in order to go to heaven. This was a difficult truth for Nicodemus and the rest of the world to understand, but it is the truth nonetheless - we must be born again to go to heaven.

Jesus explained that when we are born again, we become His sheep, and He becomes our Shepherd. He is always there to care for us, guide us, and protect us from the enemy. He promises that He will never lose us. We will know His voice, and He will help us to follow Him, no matter what. For this reason, I will believe my eternal life is secure in Jesus, the Good Shepherd.

The people of Israel were God's chosen people. They were the nation from which Jesus came. However, they were mistaken to think that the promised Messiah would come only for them. God's plan was to save people from all nations through His Son. One day, while on His way to Galilee, Jesus stopped in Samaria. Even though the Jews considered the Samaritans to be "unclean," Jesus intentionally met a sinful Samaritan woman and shared the truth of the Gospel with her. The woman believed and shared the truth about Jesus with other Samaritans, who also believed. Even today, as believers, we should be willing to tell others about the one true Savior, Jesus.

The Jews had many wrong ideas about God, one of which was their belief that people were afflicted with disease and disabilities because they or their parents had sinned. When Jesus encountered a blind man one day, His disciples asked for an explanation of the man's condition. Jesus made it clear that the man was not born blind because of his or his parents' sin, but so that people could see that God had a plan for his life. Jesus not only miraculously healed the man's blindness that day, He also miraculously saved him from his sins. Like the blind man, those of us who believe in Jesus know that God has a plan for us.

Jesus' disciples not only saw His miracles, they saw His habits, too. From Him they learned how to have a personal relationship with God, the Father, and how to talk with Him through prayer. Through Jesus' teaching, we too can learn we should always start our day with God, and we should continue to take everything to Him in prayer throughout the day. When we have trusted in Jesus as our Savior, we can know our Heavenly Father is always with us, He is always listening, and He always answers when we talk to God through prayer.

As we come to the close of another quarter, we take a day to remember all that we learned about Jesus. We spend a day of review to make sure that His truth is safely hidden in our hearts so we can always remember God's Word.

Lesson 1

Know Right:	Malachi to Matthew - 400 years of silence.
Think Right:	"I the Lord do not change." Malachi 3:6a
Do Right:	I will know that God is always at work, and He will never change.
Feel Right:	I can feel confident knowing that God is at work, and He will never change.

GET READY!

We all have had times when we have longed for God's direction and answers, but we find ourselves in a season of waiting. It can be frustrating and faith-testing. But we can look through God's Word and through history to discover that even when we don't see what He is doing, He is at work! For 400 long years, God did not speak to His people. They had to patiently wait for what He had already promised. What happened during those "400 years of silence"? How "silent" was it? Enjoy this historical lesson as we discover that God is always at work, and nothing can stop His plan.

Pray: As you prepare to serve, ask God to lead you. Pray specifically for students who will be sitting in your class this week that they will remember this lesson as they stand firm for Christ during all seasons of life.

Know Right: Malachi to Matthew - 400 years of silence

Although the 400 years that passed between the Old Testament and the New Testament are called the "silent" years, we know God was at work getting Israel and the world ready for the coming Savior. He worked through Alexander the Great as his empire transformed language, religion, and culture. He worked through the Roman empire who built the structures and roads that would make it possible for the Gospel message to be spread quickly once the Savior was born. These examples assure us that God is always at work, and He will never change.

GET SET!

Lead Teacher's Notes:

- This unique lesson centers around history covering the "400 years of silence." Teachers are welcome to study additional historical events during this time period in addition to this curriculum.
- For younger elementary students, refer to the preschool curriculum for a simplified lesson that may be better suited to your students.
- Timeline of the Intertestamental Period:
 - 722 B.C. Samaria falls to the Assyrians
 - 586 B.C. Jerusalem falls to the Babylonians
 - Babylonian exile begins**
 - 538 B.C. Cyrus (of Persia) allows Jews to return / second temple in Jerusalem is built
 - 457 B.C. Ezra revives the Law - Israel commits to follow God again
 - 445 B.C. Nehemiah rebuilds the walls of Jerusalem
 - OT ends and "400 Years of Silence" begins**
 - 330 B.C. Greek Empire - Alexander the Great
 - Egypt and Syria both rule
 - 167-160 B.C. Jewish Independence -- The Maccabees
 - 63 B.C. Roman Empire

Life Application Study Bible, New International Version. Zondervan: Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Creative Ideas for the Bible Lesson:

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1. Create a timeline of main events on large roll paper. Cover each picture and reveal each as you teach that portion.
2. Have students create their own personal timelines with crayons or colored pencils as you teach the lesson.
3. Use props to represent main events on the timeline. Cover them and then reveal them at the appropriate time to create a “prop timeline”.

GO!

Pre-Service Review Game and Worship

Worship Leaders lead review game, followed by worship. Details in Resources Booklet.

Discover Time: Wait for it!

Goal: To allow students to **wait** while gaining excitement for the big arrival of a special guest.

Note: *Be sure to read your “DT Transition” prior to studying your DT.*

DT Tip: The more decoy hats of different colors that are “on the move”, during this activity, the better. The person with the correct colored hat should not arrive until the last three to five minutes of Discover Time. Decoy hats should have fun as they walk by different DT areas and occasionally even ask, “What colored hat are you looking for? I’m here; why don’t you cheer for me?” Teachers should be watching to see if the students are too busy to recognize the correct person in the correct hat, “flirting” with the wrong-colored hats, or are super eager as they patiently wait for the correct colored hat.

DT Activity: Sand Station

Supplies:

- Treasure chest (or a wrapped gift box) with this message inside: “**Wait**...someone special in a red hat is coming. When you see them, cheer, because they will bring you something special that you are going to love!” (place in the center of the sand area)
- Actors (one wearing a red hat and several others wearing random hats to act as decoys)
- Special snack that the students will love and cheer for (ideas: cheese pizza, ice cream, candy bar, mini yogurt parfaits with fruit, soft pretzels with cheese, etc.)
- Sand toys

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. As students enter the sand area, be excited to find a treasure chest in the center of the sand.
2. Have students sit around the edges of the sand. Select one student to open the treasure chest.
3. Read the note to the students.
4. Challenge students to work together to build a giant sandcastle as they **wait** for the red hat to arrive. During this time, you will notice other people walking by with different colored hats. Remind students to be patient and only cheer for the person in the red hat.
5. The **waiting** may get long, and several people will come to visit in different colored hats and try to get the students to cheer for them. Remind students to be patient and **wait** for the right person. Build anticipation with the students.
6. Ten minutes into the DT the person in the red hat should arrive. Have students cheer. They will bring a special treat for the class. Note: the snack can be eaten when students return to class, during the end-of-class review game, or taken home.

Mission Station - *The Mission Lesson can be downloaded from the DLG website.*

Bible Lesson Introduction

Lead Teachers ~ Connecting the DT to the Lesson: On a scale of 1-10, how many of you were really curious or excited about the “special guest” in the beginning of the DT? While waiting, did you stay super excited the whole time? Did you ever get distracted by the activity and kind of lose interest in the special guest after waiting so long? Or did you ever just get tired of waiting? I think this is how it felt when people were waiting for the promised Savior of the world for 400 very long years. This time is called the “400 years of silence”. During those years, people were put to the test on staying committed to God’s plan when nothing happened...for a really long time.

Note: If your DT was in the Mission Station, please develop a connection to the Bible lesson.

Pray: Have a student pray and ask God for wisdom as we study the 400 years of silence. Praise God for being a God who has a plan through all ages and who will never change.

Timeline: Point to the “400 Years of Silence” timeline picture. Have you ever wondered what happened during this time period? Was it actually “silent” or did things happen?

Introduction to the Bible Lesson:

Today we are going to do some research in history to figure out what happened during these 400 years and what it means when we say that they were silent. Let’s look at this part of our timeline. It connects the Old Testament to the New Testament. But what was actually happening during this time, and why can’t we find any verses in our Bible about people during this time?

Scripture Outline

Shhh...God is silent. Or is He?

From the Old Testament, we learn a lot about the Israelites. Even though God saved the Israelites again and again, they continued to disobey Him. He sent more prophets like Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi to remind them to worship God alone. Remember that a prophet is someone who gives God’s messages to people. Can you find books about these prophets in your Bible? *Have students look for these books in their Bible.*

Malachi, the prophet, delivered God’s very last special message in the Old Testament.

Read Malachi 3:1

Recap: Malachi told everyone that a messenger was going to come, and then a Savior. This was the last message that God gave to the people in the Old Testament, and it was a big one! And we know if God says He will do something, He will do it. God never changes. *Connect this to your DT.* After Malachi, God stopped using the prophets to speak to the Israelites. It was time to get His people ready for the Messiah, the Savior! God did not speak through the prophets for 400 years. We call this time the “400 years of silence”. God was there fulfilling His plan, but He was silent. The people needed to be patient and wait. They needed to trust that God had a plan and that nothing could stop His plan.

During this time, the people were not literally silent. Many important things happened. You might recognize some of these names and events because you might have learned about them in school. They really happened, and God used everything in history to get the world ready for the best news ever - Jesus!

What is happening in the world at this time?

The world did not “freeze” or stop during this time. It was a busy time; and great leaders pushed forward to expand their kingdoms so they would become more powerful and great. Many people quit waiting for the coming Savior. Some of them relied on their own strength, and others found or created a religion that was not true. Others were faithful and truly believed that God had a plan and would never change. This reminds me of our DT today. Some of you never lost focus on the special guest, but some of you either welcomed the wrong guest or even got so caught up in what you were doing you almost missed our special guest. The same thing happened during this time.

330 B.C. - Greek Empire

There was a man named Alexander the Great. He led the Greeks, and they defeated Persia and took control of many places in the world. He was an amazing leader who led a super strong army that destroyed and conquered. They became one of the largest empires the world had ever seen!

The Greeks were super powerful. Alexander the Great wanted to unite the world with the Greek language and beliefs. Everyone was forced to learn Greek, and many people began to worship the false gods of the Greeks. They became distracted by all the inventions that were quickly being built, and they lost their focus on the special Savior that God said was coming.

Some Jews refused to become like the Greeks at all, and they decided to reject that culture. They were called the Essenes and Pharisees, who spent a lot of time focusing on the OT and the rules they needed to follow. We learn a lot about the Pharisees in the New Testament.

Another group of Jews developed, and they were the ones who admired Greek culture. They were called the Sadducees (we also learn about them in the New Testament). The Sadducees stopped believing in miracles, and they became skeptical or not sure if God is real and powerful. They didn't believe God could raise people from the dead.

This was a hard time for God's people to follow Him because the wait for the Savior was becoming long, and they didn't see God's promises coming true. The Greek people continued trying to convince them to follow the false gods that the Greeks believed in.

God can turn something bad into something good. God used the Greek empire to get the world ready for the Good News:

- Since everyone learned the Greek language, communication became way easier! Later, after Jesus came, the first missionaries would be able to spread the Gospel because so many people could speak the same language. (The New Testament was originally written in Koine Greek.)
- During the Greek empire, some Jewish scholars translated the Old Testament from Hebrew into Greek. This translation was called the Septuagint. This was the first time the Bible had been translated into a different language. Because it was translated into Greek, more people could read God's Word!

63 B.C. - Roman Empire

When Alexander the Great died, his empire was divided into sections. Fighting over power began again. For a little bit, Israel had power over itself. But eventually, Rome took over. Israel gave themselves up to Rome because they were worried that a different nation would try to capture them. Instead of crying out to God and trusting Him, they took things into their own hands. A man named Herod the Great became the king of Judea. He would still be the king when Jesus was born.

Just like the Greek rulers, the Romans worshiped false gods, not the one true God. The Jews were anxiously waiting for the promised Messiah to come, but they had no idea who it would be or when. Even during this time, God used the Roman empire to get the world ready for Jesus. The Roman empire was incredibly powerful. Every other nation was scared of them, so this was a time of peace and prosperity for Rome. During this time, they built roads everywhere! These roads were used for transporting materials for sale, for travel, and eventually these roads were used by missionaries to spread the Good News about Jesus!

The world is ready for Jesus!

With a united language (Greek) and the Roman roads connecting the nations, the world was ready for something big to happen. It was time for the promised Messiah to come.

Conclusion

During the 400 years of silence, it seemed like everything was changing around God's people. They learned a new language, their rulers were changing (and their rulers did not believe in the one true God), and they did not have prophets. It must have been scary! However, God was using these 400 years to get the world ready for His Son, Jesus. Even though the whole world seemed to be changing, God had a plan, and He did not change. **Read Malachi 3:6a.** He had promised to send a Savior for the whole world. God used these 400 years to get the world ready for that promised Savior.

Next week, we will begin reading through the New Testament and hear about how God sent our Savior.

Do Right and Feel Right

What about today? Our world seems to be changing all the time, and sometimes that can be scary. But, as we learned today, God never changes, and He has a plan. He didn't change during the Old Testament, He didn't change during the 400 years of silence, and He still hasn't changed. We know that God never changes. Because we know this, we can feel confident knowing God has a plan not only for you, but for the whole world.

End-of Class Review Game: What did we discover today?

1. Why did God allow 400 years of silence? (To prepare the world for Jesus)
2. Did God change during this time? (No)
3. What are some things that did change during this time? (There were new leaders and a new language put in place, roads were built, there were no prophets speaking, etc.)
4. Did all the people continue to believe in the one true God? (No)
5. Will God always keep His promises? (Yes)

Lesson 2

Mark 1:1-8; John 1:19-27

Know Right:	John the Baptist prepares the way.
Think Right:	"I am not ashamed of the Gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes..." Romans 1:16a
Do Right:	I will confidently serve Jesus with my life.
Feel Right:	I can feel confident when I serve Jesus.

GET READY!

Each week, God uses His Word and YOU to prepare students to hear and receive Christ as their Savior! This is a special lesson as we help turn students' minds and hearts to the Good News of Jesus that we will celebrate this Christmas season. Enjoy reading the Scripture for this lesson and preparing to share the best gift ever to your students.

Pray: Ask God to bring the Bible to life as you prepare to teach or assist this week. Ask that God will move in the hearts of your students this week as you teach the Bible lesson with accuracy and enthusiasm.

Read: Mark 1:1-8; John 1:19-27

Know Right: John the Baptist prepares the way

Jesus grew up well in God's sight. He was completely obedient to His earthly parents and to His Heavenly Father. At 30 years of age, He began His ministry, but not without help. God sent John the Baptist to help people get ready for Jesus. John led a modest life in the desert. He confidently preached for people to repent of their sins and be baptized in water so they would be ready for the One who would baptize them with the Holy Spirit. He even gave his life as he prepared people to be saved from their sins. The example of John the Baptist is one reason we can confidently serve Jesus with our lives.

GET SET!

Lead Teacher's Notes:

- Definition of confidence: feeling certain about the truth.
- Definition of repentance: turning away from sin and deciding to do what is right.
- This lesson covers two passages of Scripture that may be read in full depending on the ages of students, with additional teacher commentary, as well as questions and answers in between the verse passages.
- Teachers should always have their Bibles open during the entire lesson, so students know that the account is coming from the Bible. All students should open their Bibles to the Scripture passage before you begin to study the lesson. Assistance may be required for visitors and younger grades.
- Refer to the "Prophecies About Jesus" list in the appendix.

Creative Ideas for the Bible Lesson:

1. Create a life-size John the Baptist (on paper or a stuffed version). As you teach the lesson, have John sit in your class on a chair. Introduce your lesson by introducing John. Tell the class they are going to learn about this very important man today. Add props to John, such as a locust, a towel for baptizing, etc. By the end of the class, your students should look at John as a real person and be able to tell you about the purpose for his life, his desire to confidently serve God, and his excitement to announce the coming of Jesus.
2. Create a “time machine” in your classroom. As the students enter, tell them you are going to test out the machine today and see if you can bring somebody from the past to the class. Allow the machine to work and have an actor dressed as John the Baptist appear in your class to teach the lesson. (Note: send him back in time before the class ends.)
3. Serve honey and crickets (search the internet for seasoned crickets) to bring to life what John the Baptist ate.



GO!

Pre-Service Review Game and Worship

Worship Leaders lead review game, followed by worship. Details in Resources Booklet.

Discover Time: I will confidently serve Jesus!

Goal: To challenge students to **confidently serve** Jesus as we prepare for others to know the true meaning of Christmas.

Students will serve by participating in an “Art Fest” to prepare the way for Christmas!

Students will do a **service** project by preparing for Christmas guests in your church. Students will paint posters or fill in jumbo words on roll paper that will prepare their minds to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas. After your “Art Fest” is done, decorate your children’s ministry space or your entire church with the art.* As students create their works of art, remind them to **confidently** communicate the true meaning of Christmas.

*Or offer to share your display with a local nursing home, art gallery, or community building.



DT Activity: Art Station

Supplies:

- Posters with “I will celebrate JESUS this Christmas!” (one per student) (see appendix)
- Crayons and/or markers

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Say: Today we are going to make small posters that say, “I will celebrate JESUS this Christmas!” We are doing this to help others **confidently** understand the true meaning of Christmas.
2. Students will color in the letters for “JESUS” and draw a picture of themselves celebrating Christmas. Remind students that the picture should include something about Jesus.
3. Leaders should keep the finished posters and display them at your Art Fest!

4. Continue to remind students why they are doing art – to help others **confidently** understand the true meaning of Christmas!

Mission Station - The Mission Lesson can be downloaded from the DLG website.

Bible Lesson Introduction

Lead Teachers ~ Connecting the DT to the Lesson: It was fun to watch you prepare the way for the Christmas season. Did you joyfully serve with **confidence** as you worked on your art project? Our Think Right verse for this week is Romans 1:16a: “I am not ashamed of the Gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes.” How confident would you be if you were asked to do a poster for Christmas at school? Would you confidently announce the true meaning of Christmas? This reminds me of someone from the Bible. He served with **confidence** as he was preparing the way for Jesus. His name was John the Baptist.

If your DT was in the Mission Station, remind students that everyday missionaries prepare the way for people to understand the Good News of Jesus, just like John the Baptist.

Pray: Explain that it is an honor to lead the class in prayer. The person who prays is focused on God and talks as a representative for the class. The rest of the students should also focus on what the person is saying and present the same requests or praises to God in their mind.

Find it: What is the relationship between the OT and the NT? The NT fulfills many prophecies of the OT such as the birth of Jesus as the promised Savior. Write the verse reference, Mark 1:1-8, on the whiteboard and have students open their Bibles. Teach that the reference is the verse’s “address” in the Bible. The big number is the chapter, and the little number is the verse. This may seem repetitive at times but reviewing this shows sensitivity to first time visitors.

Timeline: We are going to study John the Baptist today. Where would we learn about him - in the OT or NT? (NT) Can you find John the Baptist on our timeline? Have students point. Optional: Place a paper arrow on the appropriate spot on the timeline to highlight the lesson you’re studying. Use this as a review tool each week.

Introduction to the Bible Lesson:

It’s been 400 years of exciting things happening in history, like roads being built and everyone learning the Greek language. God’s people were still waiting for God to speak to them through another prophet or for Him to send the coming Savior. And then, God sent a very confident person to help people get ready for the coming of Jesus on this earth. A confident servant is a person who is willing to get the work done without being ashamed, complaining, or compromising. This is the type of person we are going to study today in our Bible.

Scripture Outline: Mark 1:1-8; John 1:19-27

God sends John the Baptist

Paraphrase of Mark 1:1-6:

God sent John the Baptist to help people get ready for Jesus. He announced the coming of Jesus. Why was this so important? Because when someone important was coming, the Roman officials would announce their arrival in advance to the town. This would help the people become ready for their arrival. John the Baptist was not your normal announcer; he wore camel’s fur for clothes with a leather belt and ate wild honey with his locusts - yum, yum. Why did John the Baptist choose to wear and eat strange things? He lived a humble life. He lived in the desert to stay away from distractions so he could hear God’s instructions and confidently make a firm stand for God when he was around people. This reminds me of Romans 1:16a, “I am not ashamed of the Gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes.” He wasn’t shy; he did what God asked him to do, and he was confident

as he did it.

John the Baptist was God's very important servant. But even though he was confident, he was also humble. Do you remember what it means to be humble? He understood his weaknesses. He knew he was not better than anyone else and sought to understand and learn from others.

Gospel

Do you know that the opposite of humility is pride, and pride is a sin? Wow, when I watch TV, I often see very proud people. *Point to the dark page of the Wordless Book, and have students recite Romans 3:23.* John the Baptist helped people get ready for Jesus by telling them it was time for them to repent. *Point to the red page.* Do you remember what repent means? It means to turn away from sin and decide to do what is right. John baptized people with water to help get them ready for the coming of Jesus. Listen to what John the Baptist told the people.

John baptizes people

Read Mark 1:7-8

Recap: John the Baptist told people that he wasn't the important one; he wasn't the Savior. The important one was Jesus, and people needed to get ready because Jesus, the Savior, was coming to rescue people from their sin and give them God's Holy Spirit so they could have eternal life.

How about you? Do you like being the center of attention, or do you want people to focus more on Jesus? Think about our Art Fest during Discover Time. Were you more excited about your art, or that you are helping others focus on the true meaning of Christmas?

Preparing the way for Jesus is way more than just a Christmas Art Fest. You can confidently point others to Jesus all year long. Think back to your last sporting event or concert. What did you do when you did well? Did you give credit to God for giving you such awesome gifts and talents, or did people only cheer for you? God wants us to be His servants, not proud attention getters. What about John?

If John were on your soccer team, what do you think his #1 goal would be? To win and get a trophy to put in his bedroom, or to be a confident servant so others could see Jesus through his words and actions? What would this look like? Let's see how John the Baptist showed that he was God's servant when people questioned what he was doing.

Jewish priests and Levites question John

Read John 1:19

Recap: The Jewish priests and Levites thought they were in charge. They saw the work that John the Baptist was doing, and they wanted to know who he was. This is what John told them.

Older students: Read John 1:20-23

Younger students: *Paraphrase of John 1:20-23:*

John the Baptist confidently knew what he believed and stood firm. He told the priests and the Levites that he was not the most important one. Instead, he was the one who was helping people get ready for the important one, Jesus. But they still didn't understand.

Paraphrase of John 1:24-27:

Again, John was helping people get ready for the Savior, the one who would save people from their sins. John wasn't proud, he was confident. He didn't brag about what he was doing as God's servant. He just kept confidently talking about the Savior who was coming - Jesus.

Conclusion

There is no doubt that John the Baptist was God's servant. He wanted to obey God and get people ready for the coming of Jesus. John knew that Jesus was, and still is, the most important person ever. John the Baptist knew that Jesus was the only way for people to have their sins forgiven and have eternal life.

Gospel:

What about you? Do you realize that Jesus, the same one that John was announcing, can be your Savior in the year 2022? What verse reminds you that Jesus is the only way to be saved from your sins? (John 14:6) Some of you confidently know this, and others may not understand or believe. If you are confused or maybe even a little unsure if Jesus is your Savior, I encourage you to talk with a leader in our class today as we play our review game.

Do Right and Feel Right

If you are a Christian, what kind of servant of God are you? Are you a **confident** servant who is not ashamed of the Good News of Jesus? Or are you ashamed and embarrassed when you have to tell others about Him? This week, let's go out and confidently tell others about the true meaning of Christmas.

End-of-Class Review Game: What did we discover today?

1. What did John the Baptist look like on the outside? (He wore camel's hair clothes with a leather belt, and he ate locusts and wild honey)
2. How would you describe John the Baptist on the inside? (He loved God and confidently served Him)
3. What did God send John the Baptist to do? (God sent John to help people get ready for Jesus)
4. What did John say to the people he was helping get ready for Jesus? (He told them to listen to Jesus and obey Him)
5. Was John the Baptist confident or wimpy? (He was confident)
6. How was John the Baptist confident? (He told people the Savior, Jesus, was coming and that Jesus was the important one)
7. What does God want you to be? (A confident servant who tells people about Jesus)
8. Can you think of some ways you can be God's servant this Christmas season?

Lesson 3

Matthew 1:18 – 2:12

Know Right:	Jesus is born.
Think Right:	“Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved - you and your household.” Acts 16:31 (Top 12)
Do Right:	I will believe God sent His Son, Jesus, to save me from my sin.
Feel Right:	I can feel the hope of eternal life when I trust in Jesus to save me from my sin.

GET READY!

Do you remember the day you received the free gift of salvation? What an amazing day that was! This is why we can celebrate the birth of Jesus. As we study this week's Scripture passage and lesson, let's pray that the unsaved students in our class will hear the Gospel clearly and will desire to know and love Jesus.

Pray: *As you prepare for your lesson, confidently ask God to lead you. Pray specifically for the students who will be sitting in your class this week who have never heard the true meaning of Christmas.*

Read: Matthew 1:18 - 2:12

Know Right: Jesus is born

We see many of God's prophecies fulfilled in the story of Christmas (refer to “Prophecies About Jesus” in the appendix). A baby was born to a virgin in Bethlehem, the town where King David was born. A bright star led Magi from far countries to Bethlehem where they worshiped and gave gifts to God's one and only Son. He was the gift that God gave us so we can be saved from our sin. “Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved – you and your household.” These profound words from Acts 16:31 are why we believe God sent His Son, Jesus, to save us from our sins.

GET SET!

Lead Teacher's Notes:

- Please refer to the Children's Ministry Resource Bible: page 1189 (Lesson: The Conception and Birth of Jesus); page 664 (Children Learn About Angels).
- Make it your goal to bring the Bible to life for your students as you teach this lesson. Allow them to feel, taste, touch, and hear the lesson as you teach it.

Creative Ideas for the Bible Lesson:

1. This is a great day to use drama in your classroom. Pre-assign specific parts to students and have them silently act while the DT Leader and Shepherd read the verses. Hint: To make this extra special, call parents in advance and ask them to review this portion of Scripture with their child and send in props to enhance the student's role.
2. Clothesline lesson! Hang costumes on a pole or clothesline. As you teach, have students step behind the costume and create facial expressions to represent the person in the lesson.

GO!

Pre-Service Review Game and Worship

Worship Leaders lead review game, followed by worship. Details in Resources Booklet.

Discover Time: The Gift!

Goal: To teach and review **Acts 16:31**.

*If you are certain that all your students confidently know Acts 16:31,
an alternate verse to learn would be Luke 2:11.*

DT Activity: Food Station

Supplies:

- Activity sheet with **Acts 16:31** in bubble letters (see appendix)
- Small plates (one per student)
- Small food items on each plate (M&Ms, pretzel sticks, Cheerios, chocolate chips, etc.)
- Whiteboard (in advance, write out the verse, **Acts 16:31**)

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Say: Today we are going to learn **Acts 16:31** in a fun way.
2. Give each student an activity sheet and have them fill in the words to the verse **Acts 16:31**, with the food items.
3. Repeat the verse as students work.
4. At the end, students may eat their food items as they celebrate that they learned the verse.

Bible Lesson Introduction

Lead Teachers ~ Connecting the DT to the Lesson: What verse did you just focus on in your Discover Time activity? (Acts 16:31) Let's all stand and say this verse with confidence, just like John the Baptist, who was confident. Why do you think this verse is so important and how does it connect with Christmas? *Allow some brief answers.*

Pray: *Challenge a student to open the class in prayer. If they are hesitant or unsure, give them a suggestion of what to pray about such as, "Before we start digging into the Bible together, will someone come up and confidently pray and ask God to help us understand something new about the true meaning of Christmas?"*

Find it: *Ask the class about the relationship between the OT and the NT. The NT fulfills many prophecies of the OT, such as the birth of Jesus, the promised Savior. Repeat this for several weeks until students can confidently state the relationship between the OT and the NT. Write the verse reference, Matthew 1:18, on the whiteboard and have students open their Bibles. Teach that the reference is the verse's "address" in the Bible. The big number is the chapter, and the little number is the verse. This may seem repetitive at times, but by reviewing this you are showing sensitivity to first time or newer visitors.*

Timeline: *On the count of three, have students see how quickly they can find and point to the picture on the timeline that depicts the birth of Jesus. 1...2...3...*

Introduction to the Bible Lesson:

Do you remember what a prophecy is? A prophecy is a message from God that tells us about the future. We know God told us a Savior would be born; this was written in the OT. This week in the NT we celebrate God's gift of our Savior, Jesus! As we read about Jesus' birth in the book of Matthew, I want you to listen for some of God's prophecies that came true. If you hear a prophecy that came true, I want you to _____ (teacher should choose a creative way for students to respond such as clap your hands, raise your hands, put your hands on your head, etc.).

Scripture Outline: Matthew 1:18 – 2:12

Mary trusts God

Read Matthew 1:18

Recap: While Mary and Joseph were engaged to be married, an angel told Mary that God was going to use her for a miracle. God was going to bring His Son, Jesus, into the world, and Mary would be His mother, but Jesus would not have a man as His real father*. Instead, God was going to be Jesus' real Father! Prophecy fulfilled! See *Psalm 2:7*. What *Top 12* verse tells us that Jesus was the Son of God? (John 3:16) *Isaiah 7:14* tells us the same thing in the OT.

**Lead Teacher's Note: If questions come up about the virgin birth, please direct students to talk to their parents and highlight that this was a miracle that we can't totally understand.*

What do you think Mary said about this? The book of Luke tells us that Mary said, "May it be to me as you have said." Did Mary trust and obey God? (Yes!) How do you know? (Even though Mary was probably very afraid, she accepted the truth that was told to her) What about Joseph? Let's find out.

Joseph

Read Matthew 1:19

Recap: Poor Joseph! The girl he was supposed to marry was going to have a baby, and he knew that he wasn't the father! Joseph thought the right thing to do was to cancel the wedding, but he still wanted to protect Mary. He didn't want her to be embarrassed.

Angel

Read Matthew 1:20-23

Recap: The angel came to Joseph in a dream and told him not to be afraid to marry Mary. She was going to have God's Son, and His name would be Jesus, because He would save His people from their sins. Prophecy fulfilled! See *Isaiah 7:14*.

Older students: Explain Matthew 1:23. Immanuel means "God with us." This is a great verse to connect with the Trinity - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Joseph obeys

Paraphrase of Matthew 1:24-25:

Joseph trusted and obeyed God. When he woke up, he did what the angel told him to do and took Mary home as his wife. He obeyed even though it must have been very hard. So, both Mary and Joseph did what God wanted them to do. Let's see what happened next!

The Savior (David's descendant) is born in Bethlehem

Read Matthew 2:1a: "... Jesus was born in Bethlehem ..."

Recap: Jesus was born! But where was He born? (Bethlehem) How could that happen? Mary and Joseph lived in Nazareth in Galilee, so He should have been born in Nazareth, right? When Jesus was born, Rome ruled over the country of Israel. Jesus was born in Bethlehem because the Roman ruler, Caesar Augustus, commanded everyone to go to their hometown so all the people in the Roman Empire could be counted. Mary and Joseph had to go to their hometown of Bethlehem, because they were descendants of King David, who was also born in Bethlehem. That is why Jesus was born in Bethlehem! Prophecy fulfilled! See *Micah 5:2*. This is a great time to point out King David on the timeline.

Magi from far countries come to worship and give gifts to Jesus

Read Matthew 2:1-2

Recap: After Jesus was born, some men called Magi came from far away to find and worship baby Jesus. The Bible calls them wise men. They believed that the Savior had been born when they saw His star in the sky. They came to Jerusalem because it was the capital of Judea. They thought the new baby king would be there. Listen to what happened when they got to Jerusalem.

King Herod

Paraphrase of Matthew 2:3-6:

The Romans had made a man named Herod the king of Judea. However, King Herod wasn't a Jew. He called all the Jewish experts in to find out where God had said the Savior would be born. The experts told him that the Savior was going to be born in Bethlehem. Let's find out what King Herod did next.

King Herod doesn't believe

Read Matthew 2:7-8

Recap: What do you think King Herod thought about Jesus? King Herod knew something about God's prophecies. He believed that Jesus was to be a king like him and would take over his (Herod's) throne. This upset King Herod, so he asked the Magi to report back to him after they found baby Jesus. Do you think the Magi listened to King Herod?

Magi worship

Read Matthew 2:9-12

Recap: The Magi followed the star for a very long time until they reached Mary and Joseph's house in Bethlehem. It took them so long; Jesus was probably a toddler by the time they got there. The Magi worshiped Jesus and gave Him gifts of gold, incense, and myrrh because they knew that He was the Savior of the world!

Magi believe

Paraphrase of Matthew 2:13:

Do you think the Magi believed Jesus was the true Savior? Why? (Yes, because they didn't go back to tell King Herod where baby Jesus was)

Gospel

How could King Herod be so foolish not to believe that Jesus was the Savior? It was so obvious! Hmm...there are people even today who know about Jesus but do not believe in Him. This is a personal choice that God gives each person. Who do you believe in? *Present the Gospel and review the Believe it or Not booklet.*

Conclusion

Isn't it amazing how we can see God at work through so many people, even people that didn't believe in Him? God promised to send His Son into the world to save us, and that's exactly what He did! He sent us the gift of His Son to rescue us, just like Acts 16:31 says. *Have students recite the verse.* If you have trusted in Jesus to save you from your sin and made Him the leader of your life, that's something to celebrate!

Do Right and Feel Right

People celebrate Christmas for a lot of different reasons. For some, it's about Santa Claus and presents. For some, it's about just having time off from school or work. As Christians, we celebrate because we believe and know that God sent His one and only Son, Jesus, to save us from our sins, and we can feel the hope* of eternal life that comes from trusting in Him!

**Definition of hope: To be confident of what God has promised to us.*

End-of-Class Review Game: What did we discover today?

1. Who was Jesus' mother? (Mary)
2. Who was Jesus' real Father? (God)
3. Where was Jesus born? (Bethlehem)
4. Why did God send Jesus as a gift to this earth? (To be our Savior)
5. Recite Acts 16:31.
6. Have you trusted in Jesus to save you from your sin and made Him the leader of your life?
7. How can you celebrate Jesus, the true meaning of Christmas, this season?

Lesson 4

Mark 6:14-20; Luke 5:1-11; Mark 3:13-19

Know Right:	Jesus chooses His disciples.
Think Right:	“Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.” 1 Corinthians 15:58 (Top 12)
Do Right:	I will follow Jesus.
Feel Right:	I can feel successful when I follow Jesus.

GET READY!

Following Jesus isn’t always easy. It takes self-discipline, focus, and perseverance. Let’s pray that our students will understand how to follow Jesus throughout their entire lives.

Pray: *Pray specifically that your students will understand this lesson and be willing to stop, drop, and follow God when He calls them.*

Read: Mark 6:14-20; Luke 5:1-11; Mark 3:13-19

Know Right: Jesus chooses His disciples

As Jesus continued to fulfill God’s plan, He chose ordinary, sinful men to help Him. He called them to stop what they were doing, drop everything in their lives, and follow Him. That is exactly what they did. These are the men who carried the Good News of Jesus to the world after Jesus died for our sins, rose again, and ascended to His Father in heaven. Their obedience and success encourages us to follow Jesus.

GET SET!

Lead Teacher’s Notes:

- Please refer to the Children’s Ministry Resource Bible: page 1289 (Lesson: Fishers of Men); page 1548 (The Life of Peter).
- Definition of success: doing what God wants for your life.
- This lesson covers three shorter passages of Scripture which allows us to read most of the account directly from the Bible. Suggestions for verses to read from Scripture are noted in the outline below.
- When prepping for this lesson, ask yourself, “How will I creatively make the Bible come alive for my students?”

Creative Ideas for the Bible Lesson:

1. As you read the Scripture passage to prepare your lesson, look for opportunities to incorporate sound, physical movement, and different tones of voice into your lesson. This will help bring the Bible to life for your students.
2. Use Google maps or a picture of the Sea of Galilee.
3. Create the scene with a sand table - use action figures, fish crackers, and small nets.
4. Every time you use the word “follow”, have students shout, **“Stop, drop, and follow!”**

GO!

Pre-Service Review Game and Worship

Worship Leaders lead review game, followed by worship. Details in Resources Booklet.

Discover Time: Stop, drop, and follow!

Goal: To teach students that they need to **stop, drop** everything, and **follow** Jesus no matter what.

DT Activity: Box Station or large open space

Supplies:

- Twenty blown-up balloons
- Painter's tape (make a line that divides the area in half)
- Whiteboard with dry erase markers to record points (or use chalk on the Chalk Wall)
- Tracker Tickets

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Divide class into two teams.
2. Assign the Lead Teacher and the Shepherd to be the team captains.
3. Assign each team a side and have students stand on their side (spaced out).
4. The goal for each team is to keep balloons off their side of the floor by continually hitting them over to the other side.
5. The twist in this contest is that you will occasionally interrupt them and say, "**Stop, drop, and follow!**" When you do, the students must **stop, drop** (the balloons), and **follow** (have them line up behind their team captain). After they line up, allow them to return to the game.
6. Each time you yell "**Stop, drop, and follow!**":
 - a. Award one point to the team with the least amount of balloons on their side.
 - b. Award one point to the team that **stops, drops, and follows** first.
7. Repeat several times.
8. When time is up, award the winning team members two Tracker Tickets each.

Bible Lesson Introduction

Lead Teachers ~ Connecting the DT to the Lesson: After doing our DT, would you say it is easy to **stop, drop, and follow** when you are in the middle of something? It's not always easy to **stop** and **drop** and **follow** different instructions. This takes a lot of self-control and a huge desire to do what's right! In today's lesson, we're going to learn about some people who had to **stop, drop** everything they were doing in their life, and **follow** Jesus.

*Note: If your DT was in the Mission Station, highlight how missionaries **stop, drop, and follow** Jesus on a daily basis. This isn't always easy, but it honors God and serves others.*

Pray: Challenge one of your students to open the class in prayer. This will help them learn to pray in a public setting, build confidence, and develop their spiritual leadership skills. Remind students that when we pray, the God of the universe hears us.

Find it: Ask the class for the relationship between the OT and the NT. (The people in the OT were waiting for the promised Savior. In the NT, the Savior, Jesus, came!) Repeat this for several weeks until the students can confidently state this relationship between the OT and the NT. Have students place their Bibles in front of them and sit on their hands. Say the verse, have the students repeat it, and then say "Go!" The first person to find the verse wins one Tracker Ticket. Shepherds should assist visitors.

Timeline: Remind students that you are studying the New Testament. You are studying Jesus' life, in between His birth and death on the cross.

Introduction to the Bible Lesson:

A few weeks ago, we learned about John the Baptist. Do you remember how we described John the Baptist? (He was confident as he prepared the way for Jesus) John the Baptist told people the importance of repenting of their sins and being baptized. This week, we're going to learn about more men who Jesus chose to follow Him. Let's open up the Bible to learn more about them.

Scripture Outline: Mark 6:14-20; Luke 5:1-11; Mark 3:13-19

Following Jesus is not always easy

Paraphrase of Mark 6:14-20:

After Jesus began performing miracles and preaching, the ruler, Herod, put John the Baptist in prison because he was mad at him. Herod eventually had John the Baptist killed. Was this fair? Has anyone ever done something mean to you because you follow Jesus? Even though John did what was right, he was put in prison and even killed. Someday, those of us who have also trusted in Jesus will see John in heaven.

It was time for Jesus to choose His helpers. Let's find out how He chose them.

I will follow Jesus in little ways

Read Luke 5:1-3

Recap: Do you know where the Sea of Galilee is? *Show students a map or use Google maps.* What was Jesus teaching? (The Word of God) Why do you think so many people were listening to Him?

I will follow Jesus when it doesn't make sense to me

Read Luke 5:4-5

Recap: Jesus told Simon Peter to go out into the deep water during the day to fish. But that didn't make sense. Simon Peter was a professional fisherman - an expert. He knew that he and the others had fished the "right" way, at night, in the shallow water, but they had not caught a thing. Now Jesus, a carpenter, was telling the fisherman how to catch fish. Even so, Simon Peter called Jesus "Master" and obeyed Jesus by stopping, dropping the nets into the water, and following what Jesus told him to do.

Has Jesus asked you to do anything that doesn't make sense to you? (Examples: loving the mean student in your school or forgiving someone who may have hurt you) Have you obeyed Him anyway?

I will follow Jesus and know that I will be successful based on God's standards

Remember our Think Right verse, 1 Corinthians 15:58? *Have a student recite it.* What does it mean when you say, "...for you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain"? It means that the work you do for Jesus will never go to waste. What did it mean to Peter? Let's look.

Read Luke 5:6-7

Recap: Simon Peter and his crew caught so many fish that their boats started to sink! Jesus had turned their fishing failure into another miracle! Just think if Simon Peter had refused to obey Jesus. He and his partners would never have seen this awesome miracle.

When we follow Jesus and watch Him do amazing things, we can understand that we don't deserve what He's done for us

Older students: Read Luke 5:8-10a

Younger students: Paraphrase of Luke 5:8-10a:

Simon Peter recognized that he was just a sinful man, but that Jesus is awesome and powerful. Simon Peter knew that he didn't deserve what Jesus had done for him, but Jesus did it anyway.

Gospel

Do you realize that you don't deserve Jesus taking your punishment and dying on the cross for your sins, but He did it anyway because He loves you? You are that important to Him! *Explain the Gospel.*

If we believe in Jesus, we need to follow Him

Paraphrase of Luke 5:10b-11:

Jesus wanted Simon Peter and the others to leave their jobs as fishermen and go with Him to "catch" men for God's Kingdom. Simon Peter had followed Jesus in a few little things, Simon Peter had followed Jesus in something that didn't make sense, and now Simon Peter and his friends made the decision to stop, drop, and follow Jesus with their whole lives!

Jesus has work for His servants to do

Read Mark 3:13-19

Recap: Jesus continued to ask people to follow Him. Did you recognize any of these names? For each person He had a special plan. Do you think God has a plan for your life if you follow Him?

Conclusion

Simon Peter and his friends made the best choice ever. They stopped what they were doing, dropped their nets, and followed Jesus. When they followed Jesus, God used them to spread the Good News about the one true God, and they were able to witness His power and His miracles.

Do Right and Feel Right

What about you? If you are a Christian, are you willing to stop, drop, and follow Jesus any time of the day? If you see a person in need, do you stop, drop what you are doing, and help them? If you see a person struggling (crying), do you stop what you are doing, go to that person, and ask how you can help or pray for them? If God calls you to help a missionary, are you willing to stop, give some of your money, and follow God's plan rather than yours? When you do this, you can feel successful, not based on the world's standards, but based on God's standards. Close your eyes and think about 1 Corinthians 15:58 as I read it to you. I want you to put your name in the verse. *Read the verse from your Bible, pausing after "dear" so students can mentally add their name ("Therefore my dear _____, stand firm. Let nothing move you...")* Let's take a few moments so you can talk to God and tell Him if you are willing to follow Him and stand firm for Him.

End-of-Class Review Game: What did we discover today?

1. What was Jesus doing when Peter and his friends were washing their fishing nets? (He was teaching the Word of God to a crowd of people)
2. What little thing did Jesus ask Simon Peter to do? (Put the boat out from shore so Jesus could continue to teach the people)
3. What did Jesus ask Simon Peter to do that didn't make sense? (Put the boat out in the deep water during the day and let the nets down to catch the fish)
4. Did Simon Peter obey Jesus? (Yes)
5. What happened when Simon Peter and his friends let the nets down into the deep water? (They caught so many fish the two boats began to sink)
6. What did Jesus ask Simon Peter and his friends to do after they had caught so many fish? (Follow Him to go catch men)
7. What did Simon Peter and his friends do? (They followed Jesus and became His servants)
8. What is Jesus asking you to do as you follow Him? Will you do it?

Lesson 5

John 2:1-11

Know Right:	Jesus miraculously turns water into wine.
Think Right:	“Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written.” John 21:25
Do Right:	I will believe Jesus can do miracles in my life.
Feel Right:	I can feel amazed when I think about Jesus’ miracles.

GET READY!

Have you ever witnessed a genuine miracle? They do still happen today, and they are incredible reminders of how powerful God is and that He is working beyond the boundaries of the everyday, natural world. This week we get to hear testimonies of some modern-day miracles with our students during Discover Time, then we'll dig into the Bible and look closely at one of Jesus' miracles.

Pray: As you prepare to serve, ask God to lead you. Pray specifically for the students who will be sitting in your class this week. Pray that God will give you a clear understanding of Scripture and that the students in your class will truly understand that God can do miracles...even in their lives.

Read: John 2:1-11

Know Right: Jesus miraculously turns water into wine

In the beginning of His ministry, it was Jesus' mother who displayed great faith in who He was and the power He possessed. At a wedding in Cana of Galilee, Jesus honored Mary's faith in Him and turned the water that filled the hand-washing jars into wine fit for a king. Although it was not yet time for Jesus to reveal Himself to the world, His new disciples, His believing mother, and the servants at the wedding witnessed this demonstration of power - the first of Jesus' signs. In John's gospel, these signs are written down to show God's power at work through Jesus to those who have eyes to see it. This same power is active in the world today to display His continued power, and that is why we believe Jesus can do miracles in our lives.

GET SET!

Lead Teacher's Notes:

- Please refer to the Children's Ministry Resource Bible: page 1202 (The Life of Jesus).
- Definition of sign: a powerful act of God.
- Please do not bring actual wine to show students. It is fine to bring grape juice.
- This lesson covers a short passage of Scripture which allows us to read the entire account of Jesus at the wedding in Cana directly from our Bibles. Practice reading the Scripture so you can bring the Bible to life!

Creative Ideas for the Bible Lesson:

1. Create a wedding atmosphere in your classroom. As you teach the lesson, act it out with students focusing on how people must have felt throughout the lesson. Freeze the drama occasionally and ask, "How would you feel?" or "What would you do?"
2. To create the water to wine scene, have red Kool-Aid powder at the bottom of a container or jar. Pour in clear water and instantly watch it turn red/purple.
3. Use a map to show students where Cana is and show pictures from this historical location. Older students: show this video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9KCx9TysC4w>

GO!

Pre-Service Review Game and Worship

Worship Leaders lead review game, followed by worship. Details in Resources Booklet.

Discover Time: It's a miracle!

Goal: To teach students that there are modern day **miracles**.

What is a modern-day miracle? A miracle that has been witnessed by someone who is currently living. *For this DT, we highly recommend that you ask people in your church if they have seen God do a miracle. You might be surprised how many testimonies they have. Modern day miracle stories can also be found at cmalliance.org.*

DT Activity: Sand Station

Supplies:

- Five small treasure chests, each one should be filled with gold coins (or marbles) and a scroll with a short story of a modern-day miracle (the treasure chests should be buried in the sand)
- Actor to play the part of "Adventure Jones"

Advanced planning: Make sure the treasure chests are hidden before students arrive at the Sand Station.

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Adventure Jones should be intensely searching the sand area as students arrive. When they arrive, he should look startled and then tell students that he heard there is an incredible treasure hidden deep in the sand. Ask if they want to help find some hidden treasure. Also, alert them to bring the treasure chest to him, prior to opening it, because he needs to make sure it is safe.
2. Have all students begin to search. Hint: You (the DT Leader) may need to guide students where to dig so they can find the treasure.
3. Once a treasure chest is found, have Adventure Jones open it up with suspense.
4. Adventure Jones should say: "Wow, there is gold in here, but what's written on this scroll?" (Read)
5. After reading, Adventure Jones should say: "This gold is okay, but what I hear from this scroll is that there is a God who is greater than gold. Let's look for another treasure."
6. When a student finds another treasure chest with a **miracle**, instantly freeze the whole group and have Adventure Jones repeat his opening of the box.
7. Keep digging until all the treasure chests with miracles are found or you run out of time.
8. As you leave, Adventure Jones should highlight how the God who performs **miracles** is so much greater than any gold this world can offer.

Bible Lesson Introduction

Lead Teachers ~ Connecting the DT to the Lesson: Isn't God incredible?! Which of the miracles did you think was super amazing? God is so powerful, and His miracles are incredible! Can you imagine if you could go back in time and actually follow Jesus and watch Him do miracles?

Pray: *Open your class by having a student pray. Remind students that when they are praying, they are talking to the one and only true God who can do miracles.*

Find it: Our lesson today comes from the New Testament. *Write the verse reference on the whiteboard so students can work on finding the verse as you point to the timeline.*

Timeline: *Have students point to the picture on the timeline that shows God's miracles.*

Introduction to the Bible Lesson:

A few weeks ago, we met John the Baptist. He confidently served Jesus. We also met Jesus' new disciples who stopped, dropped everything they were doing, and followed Him. Because they followed Him, His disciples witnessed the amazing things that Jesus did. They saw Jesus, the Son of God, show His power in front of many people. Just think what it would have been like to see even one of Jesus' miracles with your own eyes! Today we're going to find out about one of Jesus' amazing miracles. Let's open His Word right now!

Scripture Outline: John 2:1-11

Jesus and His disciples go to a wedding

Read John 2:1-2

Recap: By the time of this wedding, Jesus had called Andrew, Simon Peter, James, John, Philip, and Nathanael to be His disciples. Jesus, His six new disciples, and His mother went to the wedding.

Have you ever gone to a wedding? They're very special. A man and a woman get married, and then they usually have a fun celebration called a reception. At the reception, you get to eat special food, such as wedding cake, and have special drinks. During Jesus' time, weddings were a huge event. But guess what happened at this reception.

There is a problem!

Read John 2:3a

Recap: During the time that Jesus was here on earth, people drank wine at weddings, which is a drink made from grapes. At this wedding, they ran out of wine and that meant no one could have any more to drink!

How would you feel if you were at a wedding reception, and they ran out of something to drink? Everyone would be thirsty, and they would probably blame the people who were giving the reception. That wouldn't be much of a celebration, would it? Well guess what? At the Cana wedding, someone came up with an idea. Let's see whom.

Mary comes up with an idea

Read John 2:3b

Recap: Did Mary know who Jesus was? Yes, she did! Remember how God's angel told Mary that she was going to have the Son of God? At the wedding, Mary saw a problem, and she believed Jesus had the power to fix it! She made a very wise decision. Mary took the problem straight to Jesus. Let's see what Jesus did.

Jesus only does His Father's will

Paraphrase of John 2:4:

Mary knew that Jesus is God, and she knew that He could take care of the problem of no more wine. Jesus knew that it wasn't time to show His power to everyone yet, and He wanted her to understand that He was only going to do what God the Father wanted Him to do. What do you think Mary did?

Mary submits to Jesus

Read John 2:5

Recap: Mary continued to show her faith in Jesus when she told the servants to do whatever He said. She was leaving it up to Jesus and letting Him do what He knew was best. Do you take your problems to Jesus? When you do, do you want Him to do what you want, or do you ask Him to do what He knows is best? Do you leave your problems, big or little, with Him and trust Him? That's what His mother, Mary, did. What do you think Jesus did? Let's see.

Jesus is the answer to our problems

Read John 2:6-11

Recap: The servants were listening to Jesus and did exactly what he asked. Just think, He told the servants to take the pots that people used to wash their dirty hands and fill them up with water, and then give the water to the master of the banquet to drink! He used His power and turned the water into wine, and He didn't even have to touch it! And this wasn't just any wine, it was the best wine! The wine was a huge gift to the groom and the bride, but they didn't even know it. This was a miracle! Do you know what a miracle is? It's something that only God can do! Just think, Jesus didn't show this miracle to everyone, but His disciples and His mother knew what He had done.

Conclusion

Mary, Jesus' mother, had faith in her Son. The servants obeyed Jesus. The disciples followed Jesus, and they all got to be part of His very first miracle on this earth. They were able to see and celebrate God's power! That miracle was just the beginning, though. Remember our verse, John 21:25? "Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written." Can you imagine all the miracles that Jesus did while He walked on this earth?

Do Right and Feel Right

Does Jesus still do miracles today? Yes, just like we learned in our Discover Time. Has Jesus ever done a miracle in your life? *Allow students to share.* If you are a Christian, He has. When you were obedient to Him and followed Him, He took away your sins and made you clean. This was a gift and a true miracle. *Opportunity to share the Gospel through the Wordless Book.* Remember, a miracle is something only God can do. He is the only One who can take away your sin and give you eternal life. If He has done this for you, you can feel amazed and celebrate His power. You should also continue to look for and acknowledge miracles when you see them, just like you heard in your Discover Time, and give all the praise to God.

If you haven't trusted in Jesus yet, will you let Him do a miracle in your life today, so you can feel amazed and celebrate His power, too?

End-of-Class Review Game: What did we discover today?

1. Where did Jesus, His disciples, and His mother go? (They went to a wedding in Cana)
2. What was the problem at the wedding? (They ran out of wine)
3. What did Jesus' mother do when she found out they had run out of wine? (She told Jesus about it)
4. What did Jesus do? (He told the servants to fill up the hand-washing pots to the brim with water and take some to the master of the banquet; the water turned into wine)
5. What did the master of the banquet say about the wine? (It was the best)
6. When Jesus turned the water into wine, it was His very first miracle. Has Jesus done any miracles in your life? What?

Lesson 6

John 3:1-21

Know Right:	Jesus talks to Nicodemus about being born again.
Think Right:	“For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16 (Top 12)
Do Right:	I will believe we must be born again to go to heaven.
Feel Right:	I can feel like a new person because I have been born again.

GET READY!

Jesus is the One who restores our minds and hearts and makes us new! What an incredible gift! As you prepare for this week, reflect on when Jesus saved you. Since being born again, how have you seen Jesus transform you?

Pray: As you prepare, pray specifically for students who have not made a personal decision to be born again. Pray that you will clearly present the Gospel, and that God will open their ears and hearts to truth.

Read: John 3:1-21

Know Right: Jesus talks to Nicodemus about being born again

Although the majority of the Jews and their leaders rejected Jesus, one Pharisee sought the truth. During a meeting at night, Nicodemus came to find out how one could see the Kingdom of God. It was during this conversation that Jesus revealed the truth that we all hold dear: we must be born again by believing in Him in order to go to heaven. This was a difficult truth for Nicodemus and the world to understand, but it is the truth nonetheless - we must be born again to go to heaven.

GET SET!

Lead Teacher's Notes:

- Please refer to the Children's Ministry Resource Bible: page 1140 (God's Word Teaches Child Evangelism), Page 1143 (Leading a Child to Christ), Page 1145 (Giving an Invitation to the Unsaved Child), Page 1148 (Counseling the Unsaved Child for Salvation).
- Pronunciation of Nicodemus: nick-oh-DEE-mus
- It is critical for you to utilize the Wordless Book during this lesson, so you do not confuse the students on the salvation message. Please use specific colors of the Wordless Book in the lesson. If you are not confident using the Wordless Book, you can request assistance from your children's ministry leader.
- This lesson covers a shorter passage of Scripture that allows us to read most or all of the account of Jesus and Nicodemus directly from our Bibles.
- Have *Believe It or Not* booklets available to be passed out to all students at the end of the lesson.

Creative Ideas for the Bible Lesson:

1. Assign your DT Leader to be the voice of Nicodemus and your Shepherd can be the voice of Jesus. You, as the Lead Teacher, will be the narrator as you read from the Scripture.
2. Give each student a set of Wordless Book colors. As you teach the lesson and highlight colors, have them put the correct color on their Bible. This lesson can be used as a tool to teach your students the "story" of the Wordless Book as well as help them understand each color. Collect the Wordless Books at the end of the

lesson to be used in future lessons or allow students to take them home.

3. Type out the Scripture verses and give each student a copy. Give them a set of Wordless Book colored markers. As you teach the lesson, have students make a dot with the appropriate color by specific verses that refer to the Wordless Book.

GO!

Pre-Service Review Game and Worship

Worship Leaders lead review game, followed by worship. Details in Resources Booklet.

Discover Time: Old vs. New!

Goal: To challenge students to desire to live a **new** life in Christ.

DT Activity: Art Station

Supplies:

- John 3:16 posters (one per student) (see appendix)
- Two tables:
 - One should have a small, dirty box of **old**, broken crayons with disorganized, crumpled copies of the poster (Tip: Ask a few parents for **old** crayons from their homes)
 - One should be covered with a bright tablecloth and have balloons, several **new** boxes of crayons (one for every 3-4 students), and clean, neat copies of the poster
- An easel (to display the winning picture)
- Tracker Tickets or a prize for the winner

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Before students sit down, tell them they are part of a coloring contest! The winner will be announced at the end of the DT. Show them the prize or five Tracker Tickets.
2. Show the old and new supplies, and then allow students to choose which art supplies they would like to use; they can pick from the **old** supplies on table one or the **new** supplies on table two.
3. Allow students to color the John 3:16 posters.
4. Occasionally point out the **old** supplies the students can use (note these should look bad enough that nobody would want to use them), and then highlight the **new** supplies.
5. Judge the posters and award the winner of the coloring contest the prize or the Tracker Tickets.
6. Have the winner clearly write their name on the back of their poster, and then display it in a prominent location in your children's ministry space. (Optional: Tell the winner that they will get their poster next week, and then don't forget to have it ready to give to them next week.)

Alternate Idea: Hang all posters on a clothesline rope in a prominent place in your children's ministry area. Have students pick up their poster from the clothesline after class or the following week.

Mission Station - *The Mission Lesson can be downloaded from the DLG website.*

Bible Lesson Introduction

Lead Teachers ~ Connecting the DT to the Lesson: Today, some of you had a choice between using **old/rough** _____ or **new/smooth** _____ (*insert item from DT*). What did you pick? Why? Do you realize there are two ways to live? There's the old way or the new way. The new way is called being born again or becoming a Christian. That's when you are "made new." Let's open our Bibles to find out more of what I am talking about.

Pray: Challenge one of your students to open the class in prayer. This will help them learn to pray in a public setting, build confidence, and develop their spiritual leadership skills. Remind students that when we pray, the God of the universe hears us.

Find it: Today we will be learning about a man named Nicodemus. Will we find Nicodemus in the OT or the NT? For older students, give them thirty seconds to write down as many facts about Nicodemus as they can remember. Tell students that during the lesson if you mention a fact they wrote down, they can have one Tracker Ticket for each fact. This is also a good, quick “test” to see what your students know before the lesson. It will help you evaluate the level of teaching you need to teach towards in your future lessons. Challenge students to bring their own Bible each week so they can be very familiar with their Bible when looking up verses.

Timeline: Can you find the time when Jesus walked on earth on our timeline? Have students point.

Introduction to the Bible Lesson:

In last week’s lesson, we learned about one of Jesus’ miracles. *Point to the timeline.* Do you remember what a miracle is? It’s something only God can do. After Jesus turned the water into wine at the wedding in Cana, He continued to perform miracles and more people in Jerusalem believed in Him. Some people didn’t know what to believe about Jesus. Others, like the Jewish religious leaders, became so angry with Jesus they eventually wanted to kill Him. But one of the religious leaders who heard Jesus teaching and saw His miracles wanted to know more from Him. Let’s open our Bibles to find out what this Jewish religious leader did.

Scripture Outline: John 3:1-21

Nicodemus comes to Jesus

Read John 3:1-2

Recap: The Bible tells us that Nicodemus was one of the Jewish religious leaders and a Pharisee. The Pharisees knew a lot about the rules from God’s Word, and they even made up lots of extra rules. They told the people that the way to be right with God was to follow all the rules. This is not true or right.

Even though the Pharisees knew a lot about the Old Testament, many of them didn’t really love God at all. It was just a duty or a religion that they “had to do.” It was something that gave them power. But Nicodemus was different. Unlike almost all of the other Pharisees, he believed that Jesus came from God. He made a good decision when he went to Jesus to find out about God’s Kingdom (*gold page*).

Lead Teacher’s note: While there are theories about why Nicodemus came to Jesus at night, the Bible does not tell us the reason. We will not address the issue of the night-time visit in this lesson.

Jesus tells Nicodemus the truth

Read John 3:3

Recap: Did you notice something? Jesus was ready to answer Nicodemus’ question before he even asked it! Did you know that God knows what you need before you ask Him? (Matthew 6:8) Isn’t that amazing? Jesus told Nicodemus that people must be “born again” to be a part of God’s Kingdom. Have you ever heard that you need to be born again to be right with God and be a part of His Kingdom? Do you know what that means? Well, Nicodemus didn’t either. Let’s read what he said to Jesus.

Jesus explains what it means to be born again (Gospel)

Read John 3:4-9

Recap: Let’s think about this for a minute. Do your parents have a picture of you when you were born? When your mom gave birth to you, you were just a tiny little baby. This was your first birth. We are born with a sinful nature. A sinful nature means we want to do things our way instead of God’s way. When

we choose to do things that are against God with our words, actions, or even our thoughts, we disobey God. That's called sin (*dark page of Wordless Book*). Sin separates us from God because He is holy and perfect. But God loves us so much He gave us a chance to be born again (*clean page of Wordless Book*). Our first birth is the time our mom gave birth to us. The second time is when we are born into God's family (*white and gold pages of Wordless Book*). Jesus told Nicodemus that being born again is like the wind. Can you see the wind? (No) Can you feel the wind? (Yes!) Well just like we can't see the wind, no one can see you being born again into God's family, like they could when your mom gave birth to you. But, when you are born again, your life goes from the old to the new (*white and green pages*).

Even though Jesus explained what born again means, Nicodemus was having a hard time believing it. Let's find out what Jesus told him next.

Older students: Explain that when you become "new," the Holy Spirit fills you. "The old is gone, the new is here!" 2 Corinthians 5:17

Jesus confirms that He is the way to heaven

Older students: Read John 3:10-15

Younger students: *Paraphrase of John 3:10-15:*

Nicodemus was supposed to be teaching the Jews about God and the coming Savior, which was Jesus, but he didn't understand this. Jesus was trying to explain this to him, but he had a hard time believing it.

Recap for all students: Do you believe Jesus when He says that He is the only way to have eternal life in heaven? This reminds me of one of our Top 12 verses, John 14:6. Do you have this verse memorized? *Have students recite this verse.* Jesus Himself said those words. Do you believe what Jesus said?

Jesus tells Nicodemus the Good News again

Read John 3:16-18

Recap: Did one of these verses sound familiar? Even though we disobey God, He loves us, and He sent Jesus to save us. If we believe in Jesus, we can become part of God's family and have eternal life with God in heaven. Isn't that Good News? But there's bad news, too. People who don't believe in Jesus are not a part of God's Kingdom, and they do not have hope. They don't get eternal life with God, and they will be separated from Him forever in a terrible place called hell. Hell is a real place.

Do you believe in Jesus? Have you trusted in Him to save you from your sins? Why wouldn't everyone trust in Jesus? Well, He tells us why. Let's find out.

Jesus tells us why people don't believe in Him

Older students: Read John 3:19-21

Younger students: *Paraphrase of John 3:19-21:*

Jesus explained that Jesus came to bring truth, but many people don't want to believe the truth. They choose darkness (sin) instead of the truth that Jesus brings.

Recap for all students: Many people don't understand that Jesus can give them new spiritual life! This reminds me of our Discover Time activity. You had two choices. You could have used the old items or the new items. It seems like everyone (or almost everyone) wanted to use the new items. Why? The new items were clean and would work better! It was kind of obvious in our DT activity. But in real life, people often keep hanging on to their sin and trying to follow the rules to get to God, instead of trusting in Jesus alone to forgive their sin (*dark page of Wordless Book; clean/white page of Wordless Book*) and be made new. When someone doesn't believe in Jesus to forgive their sin, they will be separated

from God forever. That is so sad! Asking Jesus to forgive your sin and be the leader of your life is the only way to be spiritually born again.

Conclusion

Even though Nicodemus was a Pharisee, he believed that Jesus came from God. He went to Jesus to find out how he and others could have eternal life in heaven. Jesus told him the truth - a person must be born again into God's family to be a part of God's Kingdom and live forever with God. Jesus explained that people are born again (*clean page and gold page*) when they trust in Him to be saved from their sin. The Bible doesn't say Nicodemus believed what Jesus told him, but it does say he defended Jesus to the other Pharisees. He also was one of the brave men who took spices and prepared Jesus' body and buried Him in the tomb after He was crucified. It seems like he trusted in Jesus.

Do Right and Feel Right (Gospel)

Have you been born again? Have you trusted in Jesus to forgive your sin and give you a new life with Him? *Pass out Believe It or Not booklets and review the Gospel with the students.*

Everyone rest your head on the table and put your fist above your head. If you know for sure you are a Christian (meaning you asked Jesus to forgive your sin) and you are "born again", give me a thumbs up. If you are not sure, put your thumb to the side. If you are not, put your thumb down.

If you put your thumb up because you are a born-again Christian, then you are in God's family. You can feel like a new person because your sins have been taken away. You can celebrate your eternal life!

If you haven't been born again or if you are unsure, and you want to talk with someone about it, one of the leaders would love to talk with you in the hallway or a quiet location. *Dismiss students who want further discussion. If students leave, send out two of the leaders, and have the other leader stay and lead the class in prayer for the students outside the room. Play a review game until the students return and parents pick up.*

End-of-Class Review Game: What did we discover today?

1. Who was Nicodemus? (Nicodemus was a Jewish religious leader and teacher; he was also a Pharisee)
2. True or False: Nicodemus believed that Jesus was sent by God. (True)
3. Why did Nicodemus go to see Jesus? (Nicodemus wanted to know how people can have eternal life in heaven, the Kingdom of God)
4. What did Jesus say was the only way people can enter heaven? (People must be born again)
5. What does being born again mean? (It means that you believe in Jesus to save you from your sin, then you're born into God's family, and you become a new person)
6. Why do some people not believe in Jesus to save them from their sin? (They choose their way instead of choosing God's way)
7. Have you been born again? If you have, what can you feel like? (A new person who is in God's family)

Lesson 7

John 10:14-30

Know Right:	Jesus teaches about the Good Shepherd.
Think Right:	"In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you." John 14:2 (Top 12)
Do Right:	I will believe my eternal life is secure.
Feel Right:	I can feel peaceful because my eternal life is secure.

GET READY!

What a blessing to confidently know that Jesus is our Good Shepherd, both now and for eternity. In Him we find peace and security. As we study this week's Scripture passage and lesson, let's pray that our students will find comfort in knowing Jesus as their loving Good Shepherd.

Pray: As you prepare to serve, ask God to give you wisdom and creativity as you teach or assist with this passage of Scripture. Pray specifically for the students who will be in your class this week. Pray that they remember this lesson and understand the peace and joy they can have when they know Jesus is their "Good Shepherd."

Read: John 10:14-30

Know Right: Jesus teaches about the Good Shepherd

Jesus explained that when we are born again, we become His sheep, and He becomes our Shepherd. He is always there to care for us, guide us, and protect us from the enemy. He promises that He will never lose us. We will know His voice, and He will help us follow Him, no matter what. For this reason, I will believe my eternal life is secure in Jesus, the Good Shepherd.

GET SET!

Lead Teacher's Notes:

- We strongly encourage you to read John 10:1-40 prior to studying the lesson, to give you a better understanding of the bigger picture of this passage of Scripture.
- Please refer to the Children's Ministry Resource Bible: page 1153 (Counseling the Saved Child); page 1156 (Teaching New Christians); pg. 1520 (Teaching Doctrine Effectively).
- This lesson covers a shorter passage of Scripture and does not hold a big "story plot", rather it introduces students to important spiritual concepts.

Creative Ideas for the Bible Lesson:

1. Give all students a little sheep (a cotton ball with two wiggle eyes). Tell them to pretend that they are the shepherd, and the cotton ball is their sheep. Have them name their sheep. As you explain the Bible lesson, frequently stop and ask how it would feel to be the shepherd or the sheep. As the lesson progresses, emphasize that Jesus is the Good Shepherd, and we are the sheep.

2. For older students: Draw a large sheep and an outline of a shepherd on your whiteboard. As you teach the lesson, write descriptive words, actions, or roles of the sheep or the shepherd. At the end of the lesson, ask students what a sheep would look like without a shepherd and add to the whiteboard with a different color marker. At the end of the lesson, be sure to ask students what kind of sheep they are and Who their shepherd is.
3. At the end of class, give each student their own cotton ball sheep and challenge them to be a good shepherd to the sheep all week. Whoever brings the sheep back next week will get five Tracker Tickets.
4. You will need a roll of string or yarn for the lesson and *Now What?* booklets to hand out to students at the end of the lesson. *This idea is written into the lesson.*

GO!

Pre-Service Review Game and Worship

Worship Leaders lead review game, followed by worship. Details in Resources Booklet.

Discover Time: Counting sheep!

Goal: To help students begin to understand the characteristics of sheep and the value of a **Good Shepherd**.

DT Activity Option 1: Large open space

Supplies:

- Pen of live sheep (if possible, put the pen of sheep and actors on a platform so large groups of students can see better)
- **Shepherd** (guest speaker or an actor who is educated on what a **shepherd** is and who truly loves, protects, cares for, and knows the names of the live sheep [see below]) Note: This is critical for the students to see so they can best understand the “**Good Shepherd**” in the Bible lesson.
- A person to interview the shepherd
- Space for students to stand or sit around the pen of sheep
- Microphone for speaker so students can easily hear

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Have someone interview the knowledgeable **shepherd** or actor (who has studied sheep).
2. Questions the **shepherd** will need to answer:
 - Why do sheep need a **shepherd**?
 - How much should the **shepherd** care for and love the sheep?
 - How do they care for their sheep?
 - What are the biggest dangers for sheep?
 - Are sheep smart?
 - What do they eat?
3. What does a modern-day **shepherd** do, compared to a **shepherd** in the Bible? (Possibly have two actors so students can understand how focused a **shepherd** needed to be in the NT without modern technology.)
4. Allow students to ask questions about sheep or being a **shepherd**.
5. **Younger students:** As students return to class, the Lead Teacher should act as the **shepherd** of the flock, by lining up students behind them and leading them back to the room. Be spontaneous - go a different direction and have fun leading the class back to the room.

Director’s Note: For larger churches, divide the younger and older students and have them visit the

sheep and **shepherd** at different times. It is critical for the students to understand the need and value of the **shepherd**.

DT Activity Option 2: Large open space

Supplies:

- Set up a multi-team obstacle course (or assign different groups different stations to start at) that will last ten minutes. Note: You will need to move around your building to make this meaningful for the students.
- Assign a “**shepherd**” to be responsible for each team (it is critical that they love, care and protect each team member)
- Tracker Tickets

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Divide students, “the sheep”, into flocks of five to eight students. Assign a leader, “the **shepherd**” to each team (the DT Leader, the Lead Teacher, or the Shepherd).
2. Challenge your “sheep” to hold hands and race through the obstacle course. If they release hands, they need to go back to the previous obstacle or take a ten second “grass eating break” (like a penalty).
3. Assure the sheep that the **shepherd** will coach them, encourage them, protect them, and guide them. The **shepherd** will not leave any of them behind and will help them through the obstacles.
4. The first team to complete the race will each win two Tracker Tickets.

Optional idea: For older students, make it more difficult by blindfolding them and/or adding in more difficult obstacle course activities. All students must rely on the **shepherd** for this DT to be effective.

Mission Station - *The Mission Lesson can be downloaded from the DLG website.*

Bible Lesson Outline

Lead Teachers ~ Connecting the DT to the Lesson: What did you learn about sheep today? Why do you think we learned about sheep and **shepherds** today, and how does it connect with the Bible? *Allow several students to guess.* Let’s dig into our Bible and act like a detective to discover more about sheep, the **shepherd**, and how this all connects to you and me!

Note: If your DT was in the Mission Station, please develop a connection to the Bible lesson.

Pray: *Have a student open your class in prayer, asking God to help students to learn something new and then remember it for the rest of their lives.*

Find it: Do you realize that we study the shepherd in both the OT and the NT? How many of you have memorized Psalm 23? It’s from the OT, and the chapter starts off with, “The Lord is my _____ (Shepherd).” We also learn about shepherds in the NT. Let’s open our Bibles up to John, chapter 10. *Write the verse reference on the whiteboard and have students open their Bibles. Shepherds, be proactive in assisting new students or students who look confused when using their Bibles.*

Timeline: *Have students point out different people on the timeline who were shepherds.*

Introduction to the Bible Lesson:

Last week, we learned about the time when Jesus explained to Nicodemus that people must be born again to have eternal life in heaven. When we trust in Jesus to save us from our sin, we are then forgiven for all of our sins, we are officially part of God’s family, and we have eternal life. *Briefly review the Wordless Book. Older students: Allow a few to briefly share their testimony of when they were saved.* But what does eternal life mean, and what happens if I disobey God after I’m born again and

have this new life in Christ? In today's lesson, Jesus is going to talk about sheep to teach us about eternal security. What does eternal security mean? Let's open God's Word and find out what He said.

Scripture Outline: John 10:14-30

Saved people are Jesus' sheep

Read John 10:14-16

Recap: Can you guess who Jesus' sheep are? *Allow students to guess.* You're right! The people who trust in Jesus to save them are His sheep, just like we talked about last week. The people that were listening to Jesus when He said these words were Jewish. That means that they were God's special people. Jesus told them that He can be the shepherd for Jewish people *and* for people that are not Jewish. Jesus is the Shepherd who takes care of **all** the people who have trusted in Him. Even today, Jesus wants to be the Shepherd of all the people of the world.

Jesus gives His life for us

Paraphrase of John 10:17-18:

Jesus is our Good Shepherd. He loved us so much that He was willing to die on the cross to take the punishment for our sin. He also had the power to rise again so we can have eternal life when we trust in Him.

Let's really think about this. This is an incredible gift our Shepherd was willing to give you. Nobody else could do this...nobody else would do this for you. That's how much He wants you to be part of His family. What a loving and caring "Good Shepherd". If you have trusted Him as your Savior, you can confidently know that you are part of His family, and He is your Shepherd for eternity.

What does eternity mean? It means forever or never ending. Let me show you. *Take out a roll of string or yarn and point to the fuzzy end.* This fuzzy end represents your life here on earth. It is really short. If I unrolled this whole roll of string, and if it never ran out, that would help us understand eternity! *Allow your DT Leader to unroll the whole roll...they should walk outside the room so the students can't see the end of the yarn.* It goes on forever!

Let's find out what the people thought when they heard that Jesus is the one and only Good Shepherd.

Many Jews think Jesus is crazy

Paraphrase of John 10:19-21:

Many of the Jews, God's special people, wouldn't believe in Jesus even though He did many great miracles and spoke the truth. They thought He was crazy, but He wasn't. Jesus was telling the truth. Can you remember our Think Right verse for today? *Repeat John 14:2.* Even today, people can hear about Jesus, but yet choose to reject Him. This is very sad.

Jesus says and proves who He is

Read John 10:22-26

Recap: Jesus had already told the Jews that He was God's Son, and they had seen His miracles, but they still did not believe in Him because they were not His sheep. Listen to what Jesus says.

Jesus' sheep have eternal security (Gospel)

Read John 10:27-30

Recap: So, who are Jesus' sheep? (They are the people who trust in Him) What does Jesus give to those who believe in Him? (Eternal life – that means forever) Let's read verses 27-30 again and put your name in it. *Replace the words "sheep" and "them" with a student's name.* How does this make you feel? *Point to the Feel Right poster. Remind students that this only applies if they believe in Jesus as their Savior from sin.*

A good shepherd is like a good father. A father should care for, protect, and love their family no matter the cost. We can call God our “Good Father.” When a person is born again, they are born into God’s family, and they will be part of His family forever. Isn’t that incredible? Christians are part of a “new family” along with being part of their current earthly family. Verses 27-29 are all about the family of God. Can the people who believe in Jesus ever be taken away from Him? (No) Will God be their Heavenly Father forever? (Yes!)

Let’s stop for a second. Do you believe in Jesus, and have you asked Him to take away your sin and be the leader of your life? *Have students answer: yes - thumbs up or no - thumbs down.* If your answer is yes, what has Jesus given to you? (An eternal Father, a Good Shepherd, and eternal life) How many times do you need to ask Jesus to save you from your sin? (One time) Can you ever lose your eternal life if you have believed in Jesus? (No) But what if you sin again? (Jesus has forgiven you for all your sins - the ones in the past, the ones you make today, and even the ones you make the rest of your life on this earth!) What should you do when you sin against your Heavenly Father? (Admit, confess, and repent)

What about those who haven’t trusted in Jesus to save them from their sins? Do they have eternal life? Yes, but not with God. Their souls will live forever but they will be separated from God. Some of you today may not be sure if you have made this decision. Do you want to hear more about how to trust in Jesus, so you can be in God’s family forever? *Take these students to a quiet area in the hallway and share the Gospel through the Wordless Book and the Believe it or Not booklet. Hand out “Now What?” booklets to the students who’ve made a decision today and go through it with them if time allows.*

Older students: *The concept of the Trinity (John 10:30) can be introduced.*

Conclusion

Jesus is the Good Shepherd who gave His life to save us. He tells us that we are His sheep when we believe in Him. He protects us, and nothing can take us away from Him. *Clasp your hand around the cotton ball sheep.* He gives us eternal life, and He will keep us safe and sound in God’s family forever! What could be better than that?

Do Right and Feel Right

As a Christian, eternal security can give me an incredible amount of peace. Do you know why? It’s because eternal security means you are safe and sound with Jesus forever. Nothing can take you out of God’s family. When you believe this, you can feel the peace that only Jesus can give.

End-of-Class Review Game: What did we discover today?

1. Who is the Good Shepherd? (Jesus)
2. Who are the Good Shepherd’s sheep? (The people who believe in Jesus to save them from their sin)
3. Who are the sheep that don’t belong to the Good Shepherd? (The people who don’t believe in Jesus to save them from their sin)
4. When Jesus saves you from your sin, is it just the sins you’ve done in the past? (No, He forgives all our sins - past, present, and future)
5. What does the Good Shepherd give His sheep? (Eternal life)
6. How long is eternal life? (Forever)
7. Can anyone or anything ever take you out of God’s family? (No) What is this called? (Eternal security)
8. Do you have eternal life and eternal security?

Lesson 8

John 4:1-42

Know Right:	Jesus teaches the Samaritan woman about living water.
Think Right:	“Jesus answered, ‘I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.’” John 14:6 (Top 12)
Do Right:	I will tell others about the one true Savior, Jesus.
Feel Right:	I can feel sad about people who don’t believe in Jesus, but I can feel happy when I choose to tell them about Him.

GET READY!

Think about the children that you run into each day - at the park, in your neighborhood, at the grocery store, etc. Many of the children in your community don’t know that they are loved by a great, big, amazing God and that there is a way to become His child. This lesson focuses on challenging your students to tell others about that way - Jesus. As we prepare, let’s ask God to challenge us first, and to fill us with excitement as we bring this truth to our students.

Pray: Pray that your students will understand, believe, and live for truth no matter the cost.

Read: John 4:1-42

Know Right: Jesus teaches the Samaritan woman about living water

The people of Israel were God’s chosen people. They were the nation from which Jesus came. However, they were mistaken to think that the promised Messiah would come only for them. God’s plan was to save people from all nations through His Son. One day, while on His way to Galilee, Jesus stopped in Samaria. Even though the Jews considered the Samaritans to be “unclean,” Jesus intentionally met a sinful Samaritan woman and shared the truth of the Gospel with her. The woman believed and shared the truth about Jesus with other Samaritans, who also believed. Even today, as believers, we should be willing to tell others about the one true Savior, Jesus.

GET SET!

Lead Teacher’s Notes

- This lesson covers a longer passage of Scripture and requires us to paraphrase some of the account of Jesus and the Samaritan woman. Suggestions for verses to read from Scripture are noted in the outline below. Teachers should always have their Bibles open during the entire lesson, so students know that the account is coming from the Bible. All students should open their Bibles to the Scripture passage before you begin to study the lesson. Assistance may be required for younger grades.

Creative Ideas for the Bible Lesson:

1. Create a well in the center of your room and have your lesson around the well. Include a jar, water, and a Bible by the well as you teach the lesson. Shoe boxes can be used as “bricks” to make the well, or chairs in a circle can be covered with brown sheets with a blue blanket in the center representing water.
2. Create a well and have a surprise guest, a woman, sitting at the well when you arrive to the class. (Make sure your guest remains in character for the full class period.) Teach the lesson as normal while the woman stays focused on the well. Near the end of the lesson, go to the woman and ask if she was listening. Ask her if the events were true, how she felt during the different events, and if she was thankful that Jesus told her the truth. Then challenge students to think about who is “sitting

- at their well” and ask if they are really willing to tell others about Jesus.
3. Turn your Bible Times Map into your creative resource for the day by drawing routes, people, pictures that represent main events, and speech bubbles of important quotes or phrases. Emphasize that these locations still exist today!
 4. Give students a bottle of water in the beginning of class to look at during the lesson. They can drink it after class if they can answer the question: What is the difference between this water and “living” water?

GO!

Pre-Service Review Game and Worship

Worship Leaders lead review game, followed by worship. Details in Resources Booklet.

Discover Time: One way!

Goal: To emphasize the truth that Jesus is the **one and only way** to heaven.

DT Activity: Box Station

Supplies:

- Two sets of twenty-one boxes with the words from John 14:6 - one word per page; print in color or print each set on different colored paper (see appendix)
- Tracker Tickets

Discover Time Tip: Do not show a poster of John 14:6. Let students think about this verse and try to figure it out; they should know this verse by 5th grade.

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Divide students into two teams.
2. Say: We know that Jesus is the **only way** to heaven! But there are many people who do not know this. Some people believe there are many ways. We know that John 14:6 clearly states that Jesus is the one and **only way** to heaven.
3. Challenge teams to together John 14:6 in the correct order as they stack the verse to the ceiling.
4. Say: This is very important! There is only **one way** to do this:
 - Words must be in accurate order.
 - You can only use your team boxes.
 - Everyone must be involved. (This means visitors who don't know the verse can help keep the word side of the boxes up so other students can quickly see the words.)
5. First team to get it stacked in the correct order wins three Tracker Tickets per person!
6. Repeat if time permits.

Discover Time Tip: If students are stacking incorrectly, ring a bell and challenge the team to re-evaluate before they continue stacking higher.

Alternate Idea: If you don't have boxes, use popsicle sticks with words of the verse written on them; divide students into pairs.

Bible Lesson Introduction

Lead Teachers ~ Connecting the DT to the Lesson: What was the most important thing you had to remember in your Discover Time activity? There was only **one way** to do it! If you didn't follow that **one way**, you weren't able to do the _____ (*insert activity*). I'm sure glad your DT Leader loved you enough to continually remind you that there was only **one right way** for you to go or do it. They really wanted the best for you and didn't want to see you fail. This reminds me of God. He loves you all so much that He told you the **one way** - not two or three or a hundred ways - just **one way** to get to heaven. He made it simple, so we could know how to follow Him.

Pray: As you open your class in prayer, teach or remind students the meaning of “Amen” (‘let it be so’ or ‘we agree’).

Find it: Write the verse reference on the whiteboard and have students open their Bibles. Shepherds, be proactive in assisting new students or students who look confused when using their Bibles.

Timeline: Throughout the Bible people have pointed others to God. Can you name a few people from the OT who were known for telling others about the one true God? Can you name people from the NT who told others about Jesus?

Introduction to the Bible Lesson:

Do you remember Nicodemus? When we studied Jesus and Nicodemus, we learned that we must be born again. When a person is born again, they become part of God’s family. Once they are in God’s family, they have eternal security. Remember last week when we talked about a good shepherd? A shepherd cares for and loves his sheep. This taught us that Jesus is going to keep us safe and sound in His family forever. If you are His children, He has a very special way for you to be part of His plan. Today we are going to learn about what God wants us to do when we become part of His family. Let’s open our Bibles and find out.

Scripture Outline: John 4:1-42

Jesus travels through Samaria

Paraphrase of John 4:1-3:

Jesus had been in the part of Israel called Judea. Judea is where He talked to Nicodemus, and it’s where His disciples were baptizing people. Jesus left Judea and traveled to Galilee. On the way, He stopped in Samaria.

Jesus stops at a well

Paraphrase of John 4:4-6:

Jesus walked through Samaria and went to a town called Sychar. Do you remember Jacob and Joseph? *Point out on the timeline.* They were an important part of God’s plan. Remember, Jacob had twelve sons. One of his sons was named Joseph. Joseph was the one who was sold as a slave by his older brothers, and then he was taken to Egypt. This happened a long time before Jesus was born. When Jesus got to Jacob’s well, He was tired and sat down.

Jesus meets the Samaritan woman

Read John 4:7-9

Recap: Why do you think the woman was surprised that Jesus asked her for a drink? One reason was that Jesus was Jewish, and the Jews didn’t like the Samaritans. The Samaritans were people who used to be all Jewish, but then they disobeyed God when they married some of Israel’s enemies. Now they were part Jew and part enemy. Another reason was that men and women who didn’t know each other weren’t supposed to talk to each other in public. But Jesus had a very good reason to talk to the Samaritan woman. Let’s find out what it was.

Jesus tells the woman about the living water

Read John 4:10-15

Recap: The woman was at the well to get drinking water. Do you know how important it is for us to drink water? Water keeps our bodies alive. We can’t live without it. But Jesus wants to give us a different kind of water than the water we drink to keep our bodies alive. He knows that our souls want to know God and be in a relationship with Him. Our souls are “thirsty” for God. Jesus said that He is the One who can satisfy that thirst. If we choose to trust in Jesus, we get His grace, love, joy, and hope because we have a relationship with him. And those things will never run out; Jesus will be with us and

keep filling us up forever! He called what He gives us “living water.” Jesus knew everything about the woman, especially that she needed this living water - Himself - and that’s what He wanted to give her. The woman believed Jesus and wanted Him to give her the living water.

Jesus knows all about the woman’s sins (Gospel)

Read John 4:16-18

Recap: When the woman wanted Jesus to give her the water, He told her to go and come back with her husband. Jesus knew that the woman was disobeying God (sin) because she was living with a man who was not her husband. She had also been married and divorced five times. Divorce or having a live-in girlfriend or boyfriend is not God’s good plan for people. But Jesus had compassion for her. He loved her and wanted her to be rescued from her sin and become a daughter of the King of Kings.

What can these verses teach us about the Gospel and our own lives? *Have students give current examples of sin that they struggle with.* Just think, when we believe in Jesus, our sins are washed away with the living water (*clean page of Wordless Book*) and we get Jesus’ grace, love, joy, and hope instead. Isn’t that amazing!?

The woman knows that God is going to send a Savior (Gospel)

Read John 4:19-27

Recap: The woman started to talk to Jesus about God. She said that she knew that God was going to send the one and only true Savior (*red page of Wordless Book*). What verse does this remind you of? (John 14:6) Jesus told her that He was the Savior. What do you think the woman did when she heard this?

The woman tells others about Jesus

Read John 4:28-30

Recap: How do you know this woman was excited about Jesus? The woman left her water jar at the well and ran back into town to tell the people that Jesus is the one true Savior. The Samaritan people went to see Jesus. Are you all excited about Jesus? On a scale of 1 to 10, how excited are you to tell others about Him? *Allow a few students to answer.* Why are you or why aren’t you excited?

Jesus talks with His disciples

Paraphrase of John 4:31-38:

As the woman ran to tell others, the disciples listened to Jesus as He told them the importance of telling others about how to be saved. Jesus knew that many people were ready to believe in Him.

Many people are saved from their sins

Read John 4:39-42

Recap: Some people believed in Jesus because of what the woman had told them. They asked Jesus to stay with them, and He did. When Jesus talked to the people, many more of them believed in Him. They knew that Jesus was the one and only true Savior of the world.

Conclusion

Even though the Samaritans had not obeyed God, He loved them and sent Jesus to rescue them from their sin. First, Jesus talked to the Samaritan woman, and she believed in Him. Then she went to tell other people about Jesus, the one true Savior. Because she told the other Samaritans about Jesus, many of them believed in Him, too.

Do Right and Feel Right

Have you trusted in Jesus as your Savior and Lord? Have you ever told anyone else about Jesus? Do you know that God loves people, and He wants us to tell them about Jesus so they can be rescued from their sin, too? Do you remember our Think Right verse? Let’s say it now. *Repeat John 14:6.* We

should feel very sad about people who don't believe in Jesus, because He is the only way to be saved from sinning and receive eternal life in heaven. When we tell people about Jesus, we can feel happy because we are doing what God wants us to do. When we tell others about Jesus, maybe they'll believe in Him, too, and we can celebrate God's love together!

End-of-Class Review Game: What did we discover today?

1. Where did Jesus stop to rest when He was on His way to Galilee? (He stopped at Jacob's well in Samaria)
2. Who came to the well when Jesus was there? (A Samaritan woman)
3. Why was she surprised Jesus asked her for a drink of water? (1. The Jews didn't like the Samaritans because they had disobeyed God and married their enemies, and 2. Men and women who didn't know each other weren't supposed to speak to each other in public)
4. What kind of water did Jesus tell the woman He could give? (Living water)
5. What did Jesus mean when He talked about living water? (The grace, love, joy, hope, and eternal life that comes from trusting Jesus as Savior and Lord)
6. What did the Samaritan woman do when she believed Jesus? (She went to tell other Samaritans about Him)
7. What happened after the woman told others about Jesus? (Many believed in Jesus and were saved)
8. Who have you told about Jesus? Why or why not?

Lesson 9

John 9:1-38

Know Right:	Jesus heals the blind man.
Think Right:	“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight.” Proverbs 3:5-6 (Top 12)
Do Right:	I will believe God has a plan for me.
Feel Right:	I can feel loved knowing God has a plan for me.

GET READY!

Just as God had a perfect plan for the blind man in our lesson this week, He has a perfect plan for each of us. His plans are loving and good, and we can trust Him to equip us to live out His plan. This week, let's thank God for His good plans for each of us.

Pray: Ask God to reveal Himself to the students in your class this week. Some students are going through difficult situations, and some are living a great life, but no matter the situation, they need to recognize that God has a plan for their life.

Read: John 9:1-38

Know Right: Jesus heals the blind man

The Jews had many wrong ideas about God, one of which was their belief that people were afflicted with disease and disabilities because they or their parents had sinned. When Jesus encountered a blind man one day, His disciples asked for an explanation of the man's condition. Jesus made it clear that the man was not born blind because of his or his parents' sin, but so that people could see that God had a plan for his life. Jesus not only miraculously healed the man's blindness that day, He also miraculously saved him from his sins. Like the blind man, those of us who believe in Jesus know that God has a plan for us.

GET SET!

Lead Teacher's Notes:

- Please refer to the Children's Ministry Resource Bible: page 1208 (Methods of the Master Teacher); page 1291 (Note at bottom of the page explaining who the Pharisees were); page 1544 (Problems Children Face); page 1623 (The Miracles of Jesus).
- This lesson covers a longer passage of Scripture and requires us to paraphrase some of the account of Jesus and the man born blind. Suggestions for verses to read from Scripture are noted in the outline below.

Creative Ideas for the Bible Lesson:

1. While teaching the lesson, make a "life map" (kind of like a timeline) for the blind man using simple pictures that you draw on a large poster board, roll paper, or whiteboard. Emphasize the main events of his life and add in the details. By the end of the lesson, you should have a "life map" that

represents the man's challenges and highlights of his life. Make sure you talk about the specific time when the man believed in Jesus. (*Opportunity to share the Gospel with the Wordless Book*) Under the life map, write Proverbs 3:5-6. When you are done with the lesson, tell the class that God has a plan for each of their lives.

2. Create a timeline of props. Timeline props would include a doll with his eyes closed; old, torn ("beggar's") clothing; mud in a jar (optional: as you teach about the miracle, actually spit in the jar and create mud), and a Wordless Book.

GO!

Pre-Service Review Game and Worship

Worship Leaders lead review game, followed by worship. Details in Resources Booklet.

Discover Time: Mission possible!

Goal: To help students experience the challenges of a **plan**.

DT Activity: All of your church or just your children's ministry area

Supplies:

Be creative and make it fun!

- Each grade will need a total of five envelopes with clues (if grades are extra-large, divide into two groups). Each envelope should be labeled with the grade/class and the clue # (for example: Kindergarten Clue #1). Inside each envelope should be a clue that leads to the next location and clue, along with a challenge that students must follow as they move to that location (examples: "When going to the next location, all students must link arms to form one long line" or "All students must be blindfolded" or "All students must walk in sync – right, left, right, left" or "Every other student must hop on one leg" or "Re-link as boy, girl, boy, girl, etc."). Each grade should go to five different locations throughout your church or children's ministry space (different for each grade). The last clue will lead to the Hidden Treasure Final Destination (the classroom).
- Supplies (as needed to complete the challenges along the way)
- Mission Impossible music
- Treats (should be the hidden treasure found at the final destination)

Discover Time Tip: We recommend that younger students go before the lesson and older students go following their lesson. For younger students, make the challenges easy so they can complete the **plan** in the correct amount of time.

Note: The Final Destination is in the classroom.

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Each grade will begin in their worship location.
2. Explain that you are going on a treasure hunt. At each location you are going to get an envelope with a clue about how to get to the next location. In each envelope will also be a difficult challenge that you need to complete. It is important that you follow the **plan** at each challenge so you can find the treasure!
3. Open the first envelope and read the first clue and challenge.
4. Lead your class, as you do the challenge, to the first location.
5. Continue with each clue and challenge.
6. Make sure you enforce the challenges and emphasize that following the **plan** will lead to the treasure.
7. Challenge the teams to work together and communicate. Make sure all students are involved.

8. Ultimately, the teams will reach a hidden treasure at their final destination if they follow the **plan**.
9. When you reach the treasure, celebrate, and enjoy the treats.

Mission Station - *The Mission Lesson can be downloaded from the DLG website.*

Bible Lesson Introduction

Lead Teachers ~ Connecting the DT to the Lesson: When you found your clues, how did you feel? Did you think you could follow the **plan** to find the treasure? When you found out there were going to be challenges, how did you feel? Why do you think there were challenges along the way? Did it make you a more united team to work together to meet the challenges? Did it make the reward seem more exciting? Do you realize that God has a **plan** for your life? Sometimes **plans** are hard and challenging, but God's plans always have a purpose.

Note: If your DT was in the Mission Station, please develop a connection to the Bible lesson.

Pray: *Challenge one of your students to confidently lead the class in prayer. What does "lead the class in prayer" mean? It means that even though only one person is praying, we are all praying together as one large voice. To lead the class in prayer is an honor.*

Find it: Quick review: Where do we find the following people - in the OT or the NT: Nicodemus, the woman at the well, and many life lessons from Jesus? (NT) *Write "John 9:1-38," the reference for today's Bible passage, on the whiteboard. Have students open their Bibles. Shepherds, be proactive in assisting new students or students who look confused when using their Bibles. Encourage students to put a bookmark in this spot and read the whole Scripture passage during the week.*

Timeline: Where on our timeline do we find the time when Jesus walked on earth and performed miracles? *Have students point.*

Introduction to the Bible Lesson:

God has a plan for everything. When we look at the timeline, we can see how God had everything planned out. It's not by accident that anything happens. *Review how Nicodemus came to ask Jesus questions.* Jesus taught people in unexpected places, like the woman at the well in Samaria. He also taught people through amazing miracles such as when He healed a man who had been sick for 38 years, when He fed over 5,000 people with five loaves of bread and two fish, and when He walked on the water in the storm. This didn't just happen; it was all part of God's perfect plan. Today, Jesus is going to teach us about God's plan for a blind man. Let's open God's Word and learn from Him.

Scripture Outline: John 9:1-38

Jesus sees the blind man

Paraphrase of John 9:1-2:

As Jesus was walking along, He saw a man who had been born blind. The man had never seen anything his entire life. Can you imagine what his life must have been like? To make things worse, the Jews, including Jesus' disciples, thought that he was born blind because he or his parents had sinned.

Do you know our Think Right verse? *Have students quote Proverbs 3:5-6.* The disciples were leaning on their own understanding instead of trusting in the Lord. Let's see what Jesus told His disciples.

The man is born blind so people can see God's power

Read John 9:3-5

Recap: Jesus told His disciples the man was not born blind because of his or his parents' sin. He was

born blind so people would be able to see God at work in his life. Even though it was sad that the man had never seen anything, God had a plan to do something really awesome in his life! God has a plan for everyone. He can use hard things from our broken world to show people who He is and what He is like. Let's see what Jesus did next.

Lead Teacher's Note: The original cause of suffering was man's sin, not God (Genesis 3:14-19 and James 1:13-15). However, God does use suffering in the world to accomplish His will, He works it for good (Romans 8:20-22, 28), and one day, He will bring all suffering to an end (Revelation 21:4).

Jesus heals the blind man

Read John 9:6-7

Recap: Wow! That's incredible! Jesus made some mud with His spit and put it on the man's eyes. When the man obeyed Jesus and washed his eyes off in the pool, he could see! Was there something magical or powerful about the mud? (No!) The power to heal belonged to Jesus!

Older Students: What can we learn from this? Have you ever had something gross on or in your eyes? It's not comfortable, is it? It doesn't feel good, so the first thing you want to do is get it off! Sometimes God helps us obey Him by making us uncomfortable. That's what Jesus did for this blind man. The man obeyed Jesus, and then he could see everything! Imagine what that must have been like! God's plan for this man was happening. If God can use dirt and spit to heal a blind man, just think of how He can use you if you follow His plan!

The people have a hard time believing the miracle

Read John 9:8-12

Recap: The people were so shocked that the blind man could now see, some of them wouldn't believe it was the same man. Do you know people who just won't believe in Jesus and His miracles? Do you believe in Jesus' miracles? Are you thankful that you know they're true?

The unbelieving Pharisees get involved

Read John 9:13-25

Recap: Once again, the Pharisees - the Jewish religious teachers and leaders - would not believe that Jesus was the one true God, even though there was evidence that Jesus was the one who healed the blind man. How would you feel if you were the man who just received his eyesight and were being questioned by the Pharisees?

Paraphrase of John 9:26-34:

The Pharisees were mad, and they wouldn't believe the man had been blind and could now see. When they finally believed Jesus healed him, they still weren't happy about the miracle. They called Jesus a sinner because He had healed the man on the Sabbath Day and that was against their law. When the man kept telling them Jesus was from God, and He had done a miracle, they kicked the man out of the synagogue (which is like a church). That's like someone telling you that you can't come to our church anymore because you believe in Jesus! Can you guess what happened to the man next?

The healed man is saved from His sins and worships Jesus

Read John 9:35-38

Recap: The man not only was able to see, but more importantly he believed in Jesus!

Conclusion

This man had gone from being blind, to being healed, to worshipping Jesus, His Savior! God had a special plan for this man. He took something that seemed really bad – being blind from birth – and made it into a miracle. He used this miracle to teach us that He has a special plan for our lives, no matter what! The man trusted in Jesus, and Jesus made the man's path straight.

Do Right and Feel Right

God allows many of us to suffer through hard things like the blind man did. Why does He do this? He does it because He loves us, and He has a special plan for us. He wants us to learn to trust in Him instead of leaning on our own understanding. *Have the class recite Proverbs 3:5-6.* God wants us to follow Him so our paths can be straight. Most of all, He wants us to be saved from our sin so we can have eternal life with Him and then we'll never suffer again! Have you trusted in Jesus to be your leader? *Insert Gospel.* When we know that we have been saved, we can feel loved!

End-of-Class Review Game: What did we discover today?

1. Why did Jesus say the man was born blind? (So people could see God at work in his life)
2. What did Jesus do to heal the blind man? (He made mud out of dirt and His spit and put it on the man's eyes)
3. What did the man have to do to be healed? (He had to obey Jesus and go to the pool to wash the mud off)
4. Were the Pharisees happy Jesus healed the blind man? (No, at first they didn't believe it, and then they called Jesus a sinner because He healed the blind man on the Sabbath Day)
5. What did the Pharisees do when the man said Jesus was sent by God? (They kicked him out of the synagogue)
6. What did the man do when Jesus came to Him the second time? (He believed in Jesus to be saved from his sin, and he worshiped Him)
7. What special plan does God have for your life?

Lesson 10

Mark 1:35; Matthew 6:5-13

Know Right:	Jesus prays and teaches how to pray.
Think Right:	"Pray continually." 1 Thessalonians 5:17
Do Right:	I will talk to God through prayer.
Feel Right:	I can feel God's presence when I talk to God through prayer.

GET READY!

What an honor it is to come before God in prayer. In a rushed world, it is refreshing to know He has time to listen to us when we pray. How amazing is that? Before we study this week's lesson, let's spend time in prayer for our students and present our requests to God.

Pray: Pray over the names of the students on your class roster. Ask God to protect them spiritually, physically, and emotionally this week and into their future.

Read: Mark 1:35; Matthew 6:5-13

Know Right: Jesus prays and teaches how to pray

Jesus' disciples not only saw His miracles, they saw His habits, too. From Him they learned how to have a personal relationship with God, the Father, and how to talk with Him through prayer. Through Jesus' teaching, we too can learn we should always start our day with God, and we should continue to take everything to Him in prayer throughout the day. When we have trusted in Jesus as our Savior, we can know our Heavenly Father is always with us, He is always listening, and He always answers when we talk to God through prayer.

GET SET!

Lead Teacher's Note:

This lesson covers two short passages of Scripture, which allows us to read Jesus' example and instructions about prayer in their entirety. Suggestions for verses to read from Scripture are noted in the outline below.

Creative Idea for the Bible Lesson:

Divide your whiteboard into four sections to represent the four main topics of the Lord's Prayer. In each section, write the main idea of that section of the prayer, such as: pray for His will, pray for our needs, pray for the needs of others, and God answers our prayers. Cover each section with a different colored piece of construction paper. Write one letter of the word P-R-A-Y on each paper, so students can see it when they walk in. Lift the paper off as you explain each topic. Add in art illustrations next to your main ideas to keep students engaged.

GO!

Pre-Service Review Game and Worship

Worship Leaders lead review game, followed by worship. Details in Resources Booklet.

Discover Time: Pray first!

Goal: To help students understand that starting their day with prayer gives them the right **foundation** for the day.

DT Activity: Art Station

Supplies:

- Fast-drying clay (one golf-ball-sized piece of clay per student; recipe available at: kidscrafty.com/self-hardening_clay.htm)
- Crazy (curvy) straws or straight straws (one per student)
- Small flag with “Pray first!” and the reference for the Lord’s prayer (one per student) (see appendix)
- Colored pencils or thin markers
- Clear tape
- Optional: 11x17 cardstock “Pray first!” flag (see appendix) (use to decorate the Art Station)

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Give each student a ball of clay, a straw, and a small “Pray first” flag.
2. Have them work the clay so it has a flat bottom (the rest of the clay should stay rounded or can be molded into a fun shape). Emphasize that it’s important the bottom be very flat since it is the **foundation** of their project.
3. Have each student stand a straw upright into the clay.
4. Then have students color their “Pray first!” flag.
5. Give each student a piece of tape to attach the “Pray first!” flag to the straw.
6. Ask if the clay is holding the straw and the postcard securely. Did they make a solid **foundation**? If not, have them work the clay again so it is secure.
7. They should take their project home at the end of class to remind them to “Pray first!”
8. Encourage them to let the clay dry and paint it at home.
9. Encourage them to put it by the side of their bed so they remember to pray right away when they wake up in the morning.

Bible Lesson Introduction

Lead Teachers ~ Connecting the DT to the Lesson: What did you need to do first in your Discover Time activity? *Students should be able to name the foundation they used.* If you didn’t use it, what would have happened? Do you know there is one thing you should do first to start your day off right? It’s super important, and if you don’t do it, things can fall apart during your day. We’re going to learn about it right now!

Pray: *Challenge a student to stand up and humbly open your class in prayer. Remind your whole class that when someone leads in prayer, each person in the room should be listening and praying along in their mind.*

Find it: Let’s do a quick review. Where in the Bible can we find the following people: Nicodemus, the woman at the well, and many lessons from the life of Jesus? (NT) *Write the following verse references on the whiteboard: Mark 1:35 and Matthew 6:5-13. Have students open their Bibles. Shepherds, be quick to assist new or confused students. Encourage students to put a bookmark in their Bible so they*

can read the Scripture more completely during the week.

Timeline: When we look at our timeline, who would you consider to be a prayer warrior...someone who prayed often?

Introduction to the Bible Lesson:

Jesus came to this earth to be our Savior. That's why He took our punishment and died for our sins. Jesus also came to be our Lord. What does "Lord" mean? *Have students try to guess.* Lord means someone that rules over us and guides us. Take a few moments to think about that. If you are a Christian, Jesus is your Lord and the leader of your life. When we call Jesus our Lord, we are telling Him that we want to listen to Him and follow Him knowing that His plan is bigger and better than our plan.

To do this we should follow His example in everything. One of Jesus' examples was to spend time alone talking with His Father through prayer early in the morning; this was the foundation of His day. Let's open our Bibles to discover how Jesus prayed and how He taught others to pray.

Scripture Outline: Mark 1:35; Matthew 6:5-13

Jesus has quiet time and talks with His Father

Read Mark 1:35

Recap: What example did Jesus give us? To begin His day, Jesus spent time alone talking with His Father. This is the first thing we should do each day. *Refer back to the DT activity and highlight the importance of putting the foundation down first.* We should begin our day spending time alone with God, just like Jesus did. Why? Because when we spend time alone with God through prayer and reading His Word, we get to know Him better and it impacts the decisions we make all day long.

Will God listen to me?

Do you know how to talk to God? We will find out in a bit. But you may wonder, "How do I know God will listen to me when I talk to Him?" That is a very good question and Jesus gave us the answer! Do you remember our Top 12 verse, John 14:6? Let's say it together: "Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'" John 14:6

When we trust in Jesus to save us from our sin, we become part of God's family, and He becomes our Heavenly Father. As our Father, He will always be with us and hear us when we pray. From the Bible, we learn that God loves to hear us so much that He says in 1 Thessalonians 5:17, "Pray continually." God will never get tired of us talking to Him!

Jesus also taught us what to do and what not to do when we talk with God. Let's turn to Matthew 6:5 and find out.

Jesus teaches us how to pray

Read Matthew 6:5-8

Recap: Jesus was talking to His disciples, and crowds of people were listening. Jesus was clear that when we pray, we should never talk to God to show off to people. God knows when we do that. Instead, we should always talk directly to God from our hearts, even when we lead our class in prayer. Do you know that God knows what we need even before we ask Him? Isn't that awesome? But He still wants us to ask Him because it shows that we honor and trust Him. How do we ask Him? Jesus tells us that, too. We call it the Lord's Prayer. How many of you know it? Let's look at the prayer and really think about what Jesus tells us to say when we pray to God.

God is great!

Read Matthew 6:9

Recap: We should tell God why He is so great and how much we love Him! What are some words that

you could use to tell Him how great He is? *Allow students to answer.*

Pray for His will, not our own

Read Matthew 6:10

Recap: We should tell God we want His will to be done in our lives and in our world. What does that mean? Praying for God's will means that we tell God that what He wants is what we want, too. Why shouldn't we just tell Him what we want instead of praying for what He wants? Because we don't know what's best for us. Thankfully, He does know what is best for us. He wants to do His best in our lives and in our world, and that's what we should want, too.

Pray for our needs

Read Matthew 6:11

Recap: God is our provider, and we need to depend on Him to give us what we need. That's why we should always pray for what we need. We should also thank God for who He is, everything He gives us, and everything He does for us.

Pray for the needs of others

We should not just pray for ourselves; we should pray for others. Everyone needs God's help. You can pray for things like family, friends, other Christians, and missionaries who help people around the world know about Jesus.

Sometimes we don't know what to pray for

Did you know that even when we don't know what words to pray, the Holy Spirit knows and prays for us? The important part for us is to pray from our heart, even when we don't know what words to use! (*Romans 8:26*)

God always answers our prayers

When we ask God for something, what will His answer be? It might be 'yes', it might be 'no', and it might be 'wait', but we know He will always do what's best.

For example, if you pray for a brand-new car, God may say, "No!" He knows you are not old enough and it wouldn't make any sense for you to have a car right now. He may say, "Yes!", knowing your dad could drive you to church in the car. He may say, "Wait!", knowing that when you are old enough, you will need this car to get to school or your job. You need to trust that God knows best, because He is your Lord and the leader of your life.

Admit, confess, and repent

Read Matthew 6:12

Recap: As Christians, we should always admit, confess, and repent when we sin. It's never fun to be caught in sin and sometimes it is even embarrassing. To restore your relationship with other people (or make things right with them), you need to confess your sin to the person you sinned against and also confess that sin to God. This helps you keep healthy relationships with God and others.

If you've trusted in Christ, Jesus forgave all your sins, so you should also forgive others. That means you completely let go of the wrong that someone has done to you.

Pray to not sin

Read Matthew 6:13

Recap: Sometimes it's hard to do the right thing and not sin, so we should always ask God to help us do what He wants us to do, not what Satan wants us to do.

Conclusion

Jesus gave us an important example to spend time alone talking with God. He told us that God will listen to us if we are in His family. He taught us to pray from our hearts. He showed us that God answers prayer. He may answer “Yes”, He may answer “No”, or He may answer “Wait”, but His answer is always the best.

Do Right and Feel Right

Have you trusted in Jesus to save you from your sin? *Opportunity to share the Gospel through the Wordless Book.* If you have trusted in Jesus, then you are in God's family! He is always with you, and He always hears you when you pray. Do you begin your day (the foundation of your day) spending time alone with your Heavenly Father talking with Him? If you do, then keep it up! If you don't, then you can start as soon as you wake up tomorrow!

End-of-Class Review: What did we discover today?

1. What example of prayer did Jesus give us? (Jesus began His day spending time alone talking with His Father)
2. How can we be sure God hears us when we talk with Him? (If we have become part of God's family by trusting in Jesus, God always hears us) *Read John 14:6.*
3. When should we pray? (The first thing every day and then all throughout the day)
4. Should we ask for what we want or for what God wants for us? (What God wants for us)
5. For whom should we pray? (Ourselves and others)
6. How does God answer our prayers? (Yes, no, or wait)
7. What should we do about our sin when we talk with God? (We should admit, confess, and repent of our sin; we should also ask Him to help us to not sin)
8. Will you begin your day spending time alone talking with God?

Lesson 11

Review Day

Know Right:	True wisdom comes from God's Word.
Think Right:	"But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." 2 Peter 3:18a (Top 12)
Do Right:	I will remember God's Word.
Feel Right:	I can feel wise when I remember God's Word.

GET READY!

Our students have learned so much from the New Testament this quarter! As we prepare to review, let's reflect on this quarter. Where have you seen God at work? How has He been shaping you as you lead and teach His Word? Let's thank Him for the ways He is working.

Pray: As we review this week, pray that the students will be quick to remember what they've learned and eager to apply it to their own lives.

Know Right: True wisdom comes from God's Word

As we come to the close of another quarter, we take a day to remember all that we learned about Jesus. We spend a fun day of review to make sure that His truth is safely hidden in our hearts so we can always remember God's Word.

GET SET!

Lead Teacher's Notes: Be sure to study and prepare the review questions in the back of the curriculum. Make them into quick, thought-provoking true/false, multiple choice, and fill-in-the-blank questions. Study the game plan below, think through all the details, and get ready to experience an awesome review day with your students!

GO!

Pre-Service Review Game and Worship

Worship Leaders lead review game, followed by worship. Details in Resources Booklet.

Discover Time

Note: *There will be no Discover Time this week. Worship will be extended to 20 minutes.*

Basketball Championship

Supplies and set-up:

- A hoop and two small balls
- Basketball court (two vertical lines, parallel down the center of the room, with horizontal slash marks every foot; the older the students, the longer the court)
- Team chairs should be placed along the two sides of the basketball court
- Lesson Review Questions and On Track Map Questions (see Resources Booklet)



- Kitchen timer (each quarter is five minutes)
- Small whiteboard and dry erase marker (to keep score)
- Popcorn or another snack for all students (individual bags)
- Vacuum cleaner (used to clean up between and/or after services)

Note for all leaders: Wear basketball jerseys or referee shirts. Have fun getting into the theme!

Instructions:

1. When students arrive, divide the class into teams of equal ability. Be sure to take notice of those visiting and those with special needs.
2. Have each team sit on one side of the basketball court in their team chairs.
3. Have teams quickly pick a team name (give them only 15 seconds to lock in the name) or assign team names.
4. Flip a coin to see which team goes first and start the timer for five minutes.
5. Each team's ball should start on the first slash (farthest away from the hoop) on their side of the court.
6. The teacher should stand or sit near the first slash (farthest away from the hoop).
7. The two students sitting the closest to the person asking the questions are on the "question seats."
8. The leader will ask the first student (from the team that won the coin toss) a question from the review questions.
9. If the student answers correctly, they can move their team ball one slash mark.
10. If the student does not know the answer, but the full team can answer it, they can move half a slash.
11. After the ball is moved, the next question goes to the other team. Questions will rotate between teams.
12. When that "round" is finished, the leader should yell, "Go!" and the students should rotate chairs. How to rotate chairs: students who just answered a question will race to the last chair on their side of the court (closest to the basketball hoop) and all other students should scoot over one chair towards the "question chair." This should take around three seconds. First team to rotate chairs can move half a slash.
13. Continue to play until the timer dings and the quarter is over. Then both teams will get one chance to shoot from where their ball rests on their team slash mark to make a point. Select one player from each team to shoot.
14. If nobody scores, leave each ball on their team's slash mark, and continue the game (this shoot-out doesn't require the timer). With each correct answer, the ball will move one slash mark and that student will be allowed to shoot their ball. Shoot each time you move the ball until one team scores.
15. Once one team scores, reset the timer, return both balls to the first slash (farthest away from the hoop), and continue the game.
16. Repeat starting at #4 above.
17. Serve popcorn or another snack half-way through the game. Students can eat as you continue to play.

Ten Minute Countdown

During the last ten minutes, have students break up into small groups. Ask groups to share one thing they learned this past quarter (five minutes), share what you learned (two minutes), and then have students bow their heads and pray silently, asking God to help them use what they have learned this past quarter (three minutes).

Lesson 12

Testing Day

GET READY!

We've come to the time of year when we give a basic test to all our elementary students. We all want our students to be biblically literate, trust in Christ for their salvation, and continue to grow in their relationship with Him. This is a great opportunity to find out how God is working in and through our students, and what areas we might want to focus on for the rest of the year. Next up is another quarter of learning more about Jesus' life on earth - His character, His amazing miracles, His death, and His glorious resurrection!

Pray: Pray for your students by name. Ask God to protect them spiritually, physically, and emotionally. Whether students are going through difficult situations or living a comfortable life, they need to recognize that God loves them and has a plan for their life.

GO!

Pre-Service Review Game and Worship

Worship Leaders lead review game, followed by worship. Details in Resources Booklet.

Discover Time

Note: There will be no Discover Time this week due to testing.

Testing Day in the Classroom

First, we want to commend you and the rest of your team for spending countless hours planning and preparing each week. Second, we know that each week you invite the Holy Spirit to move in powerful ways in your classroom. God was and is at work - be encouraged!

The word "test" can sound intimidating, and it definitely isn't typical in a church setting! It's important that as leaders we understand the heart and purpose behind testing.

So why test?

1. It helps evaluate the effectiveness of the curriculum.
2. It helps discover what types of leader training and equipping would be most useful.
3. It provides a measurement of students' growth in biblical literacy and life application.
4. It sets a mark, or a bar, for expectations in the classroom.
5. It helps parents to know and understand what we teach, and it encourages them to reinforce what was taught in the classroom by using Tracker's Treasures at home. They can see how it all connects.

Instructions for testing:

Immediately following worship, all students will go to their classrooms to take the test for their age group.

- Provide sharp pencils in the classrooms.
- Cover the Bible timeline and Top 12 posters. Do not allow 2nd - 5th grade students to use their Bibles (Kindergarten and 1st grade students will need their Bibles).
- Each class should use the test based on their grade and/or reading level. There are three tests:

- Version A is an oral test recommended for Kindergarten - 1st grade students.
- Version B is a written test recommended for 2nd and 3rd grade students.
- Version C is a written test recommended for 4th and 5th grade students.

The tests have questions from On Track Map topics, such as the Wordless Book, books of the Bible, OT vs. NT, as well as lesson review questions from this quarter and the previous quarter. The written tests also include the Top 12 verses and life-application story problems.

- Encourage students to do their best, since the tests will be given or sent to their parents. Also remind them that communicating what they have learned from the Bible is more important than spelling or handwriting.
- Make sure students understand that the tests are two-sided (if applicable).
- When students finish their test, they can work on the word search that is included with the test.
- Following the test, play a review game and/or have a special snack.
- Visitors should not take the test. Some alternate ideas for these students include:
 - Get to know them. Ask them some basic questions about themselves (family, school, interests, church background, etc.). Tell them a little bit about yourself, too!
 - Show them around your children's ministry space (Discover Market, DT Stations, etc.).
 - Share the Gospel using the Believe It or Not booklet and make a Wordless Book wristband with beads and leather.
 - Give them a Top 12 bookmark card, explain what the Top 12 verses are, and work on memorizing John 14:6 in some fun ways.
 - Ask if they have a Bible (give them a Bible if needed). Show them some basic Bible navigation (Old Testament vs New Testament, books/chapters/verses). Help them find the Bible passage they will be studying next week and mark it with their new bookmark (see previous idea).

What to do with completed tests:

- Teachers should collect all tests and circle any incorrect answers. This will give leaders and parents an idea of how their students are doing.
- Directors can choose to hand out graded tests to parents (in sealed envelopes) the following week with an answer key. For students who do not attend the following week, tests can be mailed or emailed to parents.
- Suggestions for scoring: If your children's ministry director decides that it would be helpful for tests to be scored numerically, please use the scoring system indicated on the Answer Key for the test you are using. Blanks are provided on the tests to assign a score for each section (____/____). On the first blank, write the number of points the student earned in that section, and on the second blank, write the total number of points possible for that section. When all sections have been scored, add up the scores and write the totals on the blanks at the top of Page 1. (Some sections are for informational purposes only and will be marked "Not Scored".) If a percentage score is desired, multiply the student's total number of points earned by 100; then divide by the number of total points possible.

Please note: We recognize some students have a difficult time reading and understanding tests. We also know some students come very irregularly. These factors and others should be considered as you look to strengthen how you coach and train your students to stand firm for Christ in our world.

Making testing day fun and effective!

1. Bring a treat for the students to snack on.
2. Pass out only one page at a time to younger students.
3. If students have a hard time reading, have the Shepherd or DT Leader take the students in the hallway to ask questions and, if necessary, record answers on the paper. (Don't forget a clipboard to write on.)
4. Before the tests begin, have students warm up with a few jumping jacks, push-ups, or have them jog a bit in place, around the classroom, or around your children's ministry area.
5. Allow students to ask questions during the test if they have them.
6. We recommend that you do not advertise that it is testing day, or your attendance may drop.

7. Hand out Tracker Tickets to those who are working extra hard during the test.
8. Occasionally say encouraging words, like "Great job!" or "I know you are working hard!"
9. If a student is struggling, be proactive and ask them, along with another student, to work with a leader in the hallway. Don't give answers but read the questions and assist them to get on the right track.

On Track Map

Topical Lesson: Celebrate Jesus! (Christmas)

Elementary

Know Right:	Celebrate Jesus!
Think Right:	“Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved – you and your household.” Acts 16:31 (Top 12)
Do Right:	I will celebrate God's gift of our Savior, Jesus.
Feel Right:	I can feel joyful when I celebrate God's gift of our Savior, Jesus.

GET READY!

Can you imagine waiting for the promised Savior and then finally hearing that He was born? Feelings of excitement and joy would rush through you as you rejoice in this incredible news. Let's recreate that type of excitement this week with our elementary students as we celebrate God's gift to us, Jesus.

Pray: Pray that God will bring many visiting children to your class this week. Ask God to eliminate any distractions or previous commitments so children can easily come worship and celebrate Jesus this week.

Read: Matthew 1:18 - 2:12

Know Right: Celebrate Jesus!

GET SET!

Lead Teacher's Notes:

This lesson may seem simple to your regularly attending students, but there are two end goals for this lesson:

- Regular Students: If asked at school, “What is the true meaning of Christmas?”, we want them to be able to confidently and accurately tell someone why we celebrate Christmas, beyond just saying, “Jesus was born.” Your goal is to challenge students to listen carefully so they can clearly communicate the same lesson to a friend, family member, or teacher at school while referring to Scripture. Encourage students to use their scavenger hunt worksheet as a tool to tell others.
- New students/visitors: This may be the first time they will hear the Gospel and the true meaning of Christmas. Show the love of Jesus to these students and bring the Bible to life as you passionately teach the lesson.

Creative Idea for the Bible Lesson:

Students will be challenged to fill in the blanks of your lesson with props or key words as you teach the lesson. (Note: The props and key words are all from the DT Scavenger Hunt. You will also need two clear containers filled with water, black food coloring, two clean matching sponges, and a red cross) Please do not get caught up in the exact script by reading it word for word. Instead, bring the Bible to

life as you cover the main points surrounding each prop. As you begin your lesson, have all the props lying on a table for students to see out of order. As you teach the lesson, have students guess what object would “fill in the blank” of your lesson and place the props in the correct order. A supply of *Believe it or Not* booklets will be needed at the end of the lesson. *This idea is written into the lesson.*

GO!

Pre-Service Review Game and Worship

Worship Leaders will lead students in a review game followed by worship.

Discover Time: Celebrate the best gift ever...Jesus!

Goal: To create a “celebration atmosphere” as we celebrate the best gift ever!

Location: large open space throughout your children’s ministry area

Supplies:

- Crayons (one per student)
- Props (should be hidden; see list below)
- Fun, Christ-centered Christmas music
- Scavenger hunt worksheet (see appendix)
- Cones to represent each team’s “home base” in an open area
- Confetti
- Silly string
- Cheap poncho (for the leader to quickly put on before getting sprayed with silly string)

Scavenger hunt props:

- Bible
- Red sign that says “Jesus!”
- Angel
- Beautiful gift box wrapped with a baby doll inside to represent Jesus
- Star
- Shepherd’s hook
- Clothing to represent Mary and Joseph (or use live mannequins dressed as Mary and Joseph)
- Wooden sign that says “Bethlehem”
- Treasure box to represent the wise men (optional: use live mannequins dressed as the wise men)
- Wordless Book
- A crown to represent King Herod (optional: use a live mannequin dressed as King Herod)
- Cross

Discover Time Tips:

K-2nd Grade – Lesson first / DT second

3rd-5th Grade – DT first / Lesson second

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Divide students into teams (by grade, by class, or use a mixture of grades on each team).
2. Say: Today you can win the chance to “confetti-ize” your leader! This means that the winning team will get to blast their leader with silly string and dump confetti on them! Classes, are you ready?
3. Have the other leaders pass out the scavenger hunt worksheets and crayons as you explain the rules of the scavenger hunt:

- a. Students will race individually to find the pictured items on their scavenger hunt worksheet in a designated area in a set amount of time.
 - b. Once the item is found, the student should cross off the item on their worksheet.
 - c. When a student finds all their items, they can help a friend if they still need help.
 - d. Fun, Christ-centered Christmas music will signal when to start and when to end the scavenger hunt. When the music ends, all students should quickly return to their home base.
4. Leaders will quickly total how many answers each team found to determine the winner, while the emcee brings excitement about the upcoming celebration for the winning team!
 5. Announce the winning team.
 6. Have the entire audience count down from 10 to bring suspense as the winning team dumps the confetti over their leader and sprays silly string as celebration music plays. The more fun you can make this the better!

Bible Lesson Introduction

Lead Teachers ~ Connecting the DT to the Lesson: Celebrating is fun! We can celebrate when we win something, when a new video game is released, when it's our birthday, or when our sports team wins. But today we celebrate something WAY more important than any of those things. Actually, it's someONE, and His name is Jesus. But what makes Jesus different? Why would He be so much more important compared to these other things? Let's find out.

Pray: *Have a student lead the class in prayer, giving thanks to God for sending His Son, Jesus, to be the Savior of the World.*

Find It: Where would you find the facts about the birth of Jesus? (In the Bible, in the New Testament) You could also jump on an airplane and fly to Bethlehem to see the city where Jesus was born. In that city there is a location marked where Jesus was born.

For older students: Did you know that the first four books of the New Testament are called the Gospels? The four books cover basically the same events but are written by different authors. Each author shared from his own point of view. Even though four different authors wrote about the same things, their words all line up so we can know that what happened is true.

Timeline: In the Old Testament, God told the Israelites that a promised Savior was coming. The people waited and waited. Today, we are going to learn in the New Testament that this Savior did come, just like God promised. *Have students point to "Jesus is born" on the timeline.*

Introduction to the Bible Lesson:

Has anyone at school asked you why you celebrate Christmas? *Have a few students answer.*

Today as I teach the lesson, I am going to have you fill in the blanks with the props sitting on my table. If you know the answer, raise your hand, and if you have the right answer, I will give you a Tracker Ticket. For those of you who come each week, at the end of the lesson I'm going to ask one of you a big question, "Why do you celebrate Christmas?" Your goal is to answer the question by using as many props as possible that are on our table.

Lesson

The Bible is truth

We know that the _____ (Bible) is 100% true. How do we know this book is true? It is “historically accurate.” This means that when we learn about Bible times from other places (other than the Bible), it matches up! Everything written in the Bible is true. This is important to know as we read from it today.

Jesus matters!

Let me tell you more about Jesus and why He is so important. Jesus is God’s Son. We learn this in John 3:16. How many of you have heard this verse? Let’s say it. *Recite John 3:16 with class.* Why did He come? He loved us so much that He wanted to save people from their _____ (sins / prop: dark page of the Wordless Book) so they could have eternal life with Him. This is why He is also known as the “Savior.” He came to save people from their sin.

Wait! Why is sin so wrong? And why do we need to be saved from it?

Gospel

God is a holy and perfect God. He has never done anything wrong. He is kind, and loving, and wise... every good character trait we could think of would describe Him. *Show the two clear containers filled with water. Point to the first container.* When God created the world, it was perfect, *(point to the second container of clear water)* until sin entered. *Drop black food coloring into it.* The punishment for sin is being separate from God. Before our sins are forgiven, we can’t be with Him *(put one sponge in the dark water and allow it to absorb the dark water - representing how sin invades our life)*. God knew sin was bad. It covers up the wonderful way that God made us – in His image! – and the punishment for sin would be painful, sad, and frustrating. He also knew that with sin our lives, we would be separated from Him. But God loved us so much that He sent His Son, Jesus, *(connect the two containers of water with the cross)* so if we believe in Jesus, we could be saved from our sin and become part of His family. *Take out the dirty sponge and lay it behind the container and put the new sponge in the clear water and allow it to absorb the clear water.* When Jesus died, He took all of our sin on Himself so we can be clean and forgiven before God.

Christmas is all about Jesus!

The only Person who can rescue us from our sin is Jesus. Let me tell you more about Him.

Hold up the cross. Jesus was a gift to us from God. When we celebrate Christmas, we are celebrating a _____ (gift) that God gave us, and His name is _____ (Jesus / prop: baby doll inside box).

In the Bible, God tells us in the book of Matthew that He sent an _____ (angel) to Joseph. The angel told Joseph that _____ (Mary) would have a very special baby. This is what the angel of the Lord said:

Read Matthew 1:20b-21

Recap: This baby would be the Savior of the world, and His name would be called _____ (Jesus / prop: red sign that says “Jesus!”).

Jesus is born in Bethlehem

Jesus was born in _____ (Bethlehem). Does Bethlehem still exist today? Yes, we hear about it in the news. This is the actual place that God chose for Jesus to be born. *Show on the Bible Times map.* You may ask, how did people know where Jesus was going to be born? God tells us in the Old Testament that Bethlehem would be the location, and that there would be a large _____ (star) over the location. This is what alerted the Magi, otherwise known as the _____ (wise men / prop: treasures to represent the wise men).

Read Matthew 2:1-2

Not everyone believes

There were people who believed that Jesus was the Savior and people who didn't. The _____ (shepherds / prop: shepherd's hook) who came right away believed, but King _____ (Herod / prop: crown) didn't. Even though history books also tell us that King Herod was a rich and strong leader, he was scared that this baby would become a king who would take over his kingdom. He also thought it was his job to get rid of this baby that people called the Savior of the world.

Jesus is a gift

God protected Jesus and His parents because He is indeed the only Savior that can save people from their sin. Jesus is a _____ (gift). This gift is for us! How do we receive this gift? First of all, we need to individually admit that we have sinned (*show dark page of the Wordless Book*), believe that Jesus (*show red page of the Wordless Book and the cross*) died for our sins, and confess that we need Jesus to forgive our sins, and that we want Him as the Savior and leader of our life (*show clean page of the Wordless Book*)! To be rescued from our sin is amazing! This means that we become a child of God. We are a part of His Kingdom. He gives us His love, joy, peace, and hope. He gives us Himself. And He promises that heaven will become our eternal home someday. That's pretty incredible!

Conclusion

Christmas is way more than the gifts under the Christmas tree. It's about the ultimate gift, which is Jesus! But, just like any gift, we have to choose to accept it. Acts 16:31 says, "Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved – you and your household." Have you made this choice? Is Jesus your Savior?

Many of you may be new today. I would like to give you this booklet called, "Believe It or Not?" This is a gift from me to you. This booklet tells you more about the incredible gift that God has for you! If you would like to pray to receive Jesus as your Savior, you can raise your hand now, and a leader can answer more of your questions and help you make this important decision.

Many of you come here often. Let me ask one of you this question: "What is the true meaning of Christmas?" *Select a student to answer the question using the props; they should begin their answer with, "In the Bible, God teaches me that..." If time permits, allow other students to share their answers using the props.*

Do Right and Feel Right

This Christmas, let's celebrate JESUS! During our DT, the winning team had a great time celebrating! Let's celebrate Jesus with even more excitement and enthusiasm. He is the best gift to this world in the past, present, and the future!

End-of-Class Review Game: What did we discover today?

1. Why do you celebrate Christmas? (Jesus was born to be the Savior of the world)
2. Why did Jesus come to earth? (To save us from our sin)
3. Where was Jesus born? (Bethlehem)
4. Did everyone believe that Jesus was the Savior? (No)
5. Is Jesus the one true Savior? (Yes)
6. Is Jesus your Savior?

Bonus End-of-Class Review Game

The DT Leader or Shepherd will lead students in a review game.

Main Idea: Students who answer questions correctly will receive points for their team based on the “point card” they pull out of a Christmas gift bag. If the “five” is selected and the student gets the question correct, they will instantly receive five Tracker Tickets, as well as five points for their team.

Supplies:

- Point cards (index cards with 1, 2, 3, or 5 written on them; the card with the five should also say, “Instant five Tracker Tickets”) placed inside a Christmas gift bag
- Paper cut into confetti, used to keep track of points (could cut post-it notes into strips)
- Whiteboard or poster board to keep track of team points

Instructions:

1. Divide students into two teams.
2. Divide the whiteboard or poster board into two sections - one section per team.
3. Ask questions based on the lesson.
4. Whoever answers correctly can pick the point value from the bag.
5. Add a confetti square for each point to that team’s section of the whiteboard.
6. The team with the most color in their square wins!

Prophecies About Jesus

Here are some of the prophecies that God gave to people who lived in Old Testament times:

1. Adam and Eve were there when God told the serpent (Satan) that Eve's descendant would crush his head. That means Jesus would defeat Satan. The very first people God made knew a Savior was coming, and He would have victory over sin. Jesus was also called Eve's offspring or seed. Seed is singular according to Galatians 3:16. (Genesis 3:15; Galatians 4:4)
2. God told Abraham all nations would be blessed through his descendants. Abraham knew about the Savior, too. (Genesis 22:18; Acts 3:25-26)
3. God gave Jacob the same promise He gave to Abraham. God said all people on earth will be blessed through Jacob's descendants. Abraham's grandson Jacob knew about the Savior. (Genesis 28:14)
4. Jacob told his twelve sons that Israel's ruler would come from his son named Judah. Now the twelve sons who moved to Egypt knew about the coming Savior. (Genesis 49:10)
5. God told Moses, and Moses told the Israelites that He would send a prophet who would tell them everything God wanted them to hear. The Israelites who were slaves in Egypt knew about the coming Savior, too. (Deuteronomy 18:15-19; Acts 3:22-23)
6. King David knew one of his descendants would be the Savior. Do you think King David told others? Of course, he did. (2 Samuel 7:12-16; Luke 1:32-33)

Here are more of the prophecies about Jesus that God gave people hundreds of years before Jesus came to this earth:

God gave people prophecies so they would know when the Savior was born.

1. The Savior would have a virgin mother. That means the Savior would not have a man as His real (biological) father. This came true when the virgin Mary became Jesus' mother. (Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:18-25)
2. The Savior would be God's Son. Joseph was only Jesus' earthly father. God was His real Father! (Psalm 2:7; Matthew 3:17)
3. The Savior would be born in Bethlehem. This was amazing because Jesus' family lived in Nazareth in Galilee, not Bethlehem. But Jesus was born in Bethlehem because of King Herod's census. (Micah 5:2; Luke 2:4-7)
4. Magi from far countries would come to honor the Savior and give Him gifts. Do you remember the men called Magi that came to see Jesus? What gifts did they bring Him? They gave Him gold, incense, and myrrh. (Psalm 72:10-11; Matthew 2:1-11)

God gave people prophecies about the Savior's life so they would be able to recognize Him when He was here on earth.

1. The Savior would begin His work in Galilee. Guess what... He did! (Isaiah 9:1-7; Matthew 4:12-16)
2. The Savior would heal people with all kinds of sicknesses and disabilities. He did these things, too! (Isaiah 35:5-6; Matthew 11:3-6)
3. The Jews would not believe the Savior. That's right! Most of the Jews didn't believe Him. (Isaiah 53:1; John 12:37-38)
4. The Jews would reject and hate the Savior without reason. This happened too, even though Jesus was doing many wonderful miracles. (Isaiah 53:3; John 1:10-11; John 15:23-35)
5. The Savior would ride into Jerusalem on a donkey. Remember when Jesus did this, the people shouted, "Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!" Matthew 21:9. (Zechariah 9:9; Matthew 21:1-11)

God gave people many prophecies about how the Savior would die and that He would be raised from the dead to be alive forever!

1. The Savior would be betrayed by a friend. That friend turned out to be Judas, didn't it? (Psalm 41:9; John 13:18, 21)
2. The Savior would be sold for thirty pieces of silver. Thirty pieces of silver was what the chief priests paid Judas. (Zechariah 11:12-13; Matthew 26:15)
3. The Savior would be deserted by His disciples. Remember how all of Jesus' disciples were so scared that they ran away? (Zechariah 13:7; Matthew 26:31, 56)
4. The Savior would not give an answer when the Jewish leaders lied about Him. That's what happened. But Jesus did tell the Jewish leaders that He was the Son of God. (Isaiah 53:7; Matthew 26:62-63, 27:12-14)
5. People would beat, mock, and spit on the Savior. Jesus took all of this punishment for us. (Isaiah 50:6; Matthew 26:67, 27:26-31)
6. The Savior would die with sinners. Remember the two thieves that hung on each side of Jesus? (Isaiah 53:12; Matthew 27:38)
7. The Savior would be crucified. It happened, didn't it? (Psalm 22; Matthew 27:34-50)
8. The Savior's hands and feet would be pierced. Jesus showed His disciples the wounds in His hands and feet after He was raised from the dead. (Psalm 22:16; Luke 24:36-39)
9. The Savior would be pierced. Remember when one of Jesus' disciples named Thomas wouldn't believe Jesus was alive? Jesus came to him and told Thomas to put his hand in His side where they had pierced Him. (Zechariah 12:10; John 20:27)
10. The Savior would be given vinegar and gall (myrrh) to drink. This happened, but Jesus didn't drink it. (Psalm 69:21; Mark 15:23)
11. The Savior's legs would not be broken. Jesus died so quickly that the soldiers didn't have to break His legs. (Psalm 34:20; John 19:33, 36)
12. Men would gamble for the Savior's clothes. I wonder what they did with Jesus' clothes. (Psalm 22:18; Matthew 27:35)
13. The Savior would be buried with rich people. Who buried Jesus? That man named Joseph of Arimathea buried Jesus in a brand-new tomb. (Isaiah 53:9; Luke 23:52-53)
14. God would raise Jesus from the dead to eternal life. Do you remember how many people saw Jesus after He was raised from the dead? Over 500 people! (1 Corinthians 15:6; Psalm 16:10-11; Matthew 28:5-9)
15. Jesus would go to heaven to be at God's right hand until He returns. Jesus' disciples saw Him go up in a cloud. (Psalm 110:1; Luke 24:51; Acts 1:9)

End-of-Class Review Games

Ring In (supplies: two bike bells or any other type of bells)

1. Bring two contestants to the front of the class.
2. Ask a review question.
3. The first person to ring their bell and answer correctly earns a Tracker Ticket.
4. Repeat.

Sink or Swim

1. Divide students into two teams.
2. Have all students stand up.
3. Ask a question to a student who is standing.
4. When a student answers a question correctly, they can “sink” an opposing player, who then must sit down, or they can “save” someone on their team who has already been sunk. When a student is sunk, they will sit down and wait for someone to “save” them, or for the game to end.
5. Once an entire team is sunk, the other team is declared the winner!

Waterfall

1. A sheet with review questions must be prepared by the teacher in advance.
2. Copies of the review sheet and pens/pencils will be needed for all students.
3. Divide students into two or more teams.
4. Give each student a review sheet.
5. Students have 15 seconds to answer as many questions as possible.
6. After 15 seconds, the leader will say “Waterfall!” Students will then pass their paper to the teammate next to them. Continue passing for 2 minutes.
7. The team who answers the most questions after 2 minutes wins!
8. Repeat several times with review sheets that focus on different topics such as Top 12, Wordless Book, review questions from the curriculum, etc.

The Big Race

1. Divide students into two or more teams.
2. Ask to use one shoe from each team as their team token.
3. Place shoes at the end of the table or against a wall.
4. When a student answers correctly, their team shoe moves forward one step.
5. The first team to get their shoe across the room/table wins!

Dice Roll

1. Divide students into two or more teams.
2. Ask a review question.
3. When a student answers a question correctly, they will roll a die and their team will receive the corresponding points.
4. The team that has scored the most points at the end wins!

Note: You can use an average-sized die or make it even more exciting with a large inflatable die.

Tic-Tac-Toe

1. Divide students into two teams.
2. Draw a Tic-Tac-Toe board on a whiteboard, chalkboard, or large piece of paper.
3. Ask a review question.
4. When a student answers correctly, they will pick a spot on the Tic-Tac-Toe board to place their mark.
5. The first team to get three in a row wins.

Hole in One (supplies: plastic golf ball and putter)

1. Do not divide students into teams.
2. Ask a review question.
3. When a student answers correctly, they will earn a chance to putt.
4. If the student gets a hole-in-one, they will earn three Tracker Tickets.

Trash Can Basketball

1. Do not divide students into teams.
2. Call on a student to answer a review question.
3. If they answer the question correctly, give the student a scrap piece of paper which they will shoot into a trash can.
4. Award the student two Tracker Tickets if the shot is successful.

Spin and Win

1. Divide students into two or more teams.
2. Ask a review question.
3. When a student answers the question correctly, they spin a wheel and earn the corresponding number of points for their team.
4. The team with the most points at the end wins!

Note: If you have a magnetic whiteboard, the "SpinZone® Magnetic Whiteboard Spinner" works great. Add point values or special prizes around your spinner (on your whiteboard). You can also use a spinner from a board game, or you can make your own! Google "DIY Game Spinner" to find many ideas.

All In

1. In advance, arrange numbered envelopes on a bulletin board or wall. Inside each envelope should be a point value.
2. Divide students into two or more teams.
3. Ask a review question.
4. When a student answers correctly, they choose one of the envelopes and their team earns the corresponding point value.
5. The team with the most points at the end wins!



Score Big

1. In advance, mark review questions by point value, with more difficult questions being worth more points (difficult = 20 points, medium = 15, easy = 10).
2. Divide students into two or more teams.
3. The team should choose their question based on point value.
4. When a team answers a question correctly, they will receive the points for their team.
5. The first team to reach 100 points wins!

Cup Stacking (supplies: two sets of cups)

1. Divide students into two teams.
2. As students answer questions correctly, they earn a cup for their team to stack. Team should start their pyramid and continue to build as they earn cups.
3. First team to successfully earn all their cups and finish their pyramid wins.

Push-Ups

1. This game is students vs. leaders.
2. There is no winner.
3. Ask the students a review question.
4. If the students answer correctly, the leader must do 10 push-ups.
5. If the students answer incorrectly, they must do 10 push-ups.

Cup of Goodness (Limited prep needed in advance)

1. In advance, mark popsicle sticks with point values, both positive and negative. Put the popsicle sticks in a colorful cup. Be sure to put them in the cup point-side down so the students cannot see the point values.
2. Divide the students into two or more teams.
3. Ask a student a review question.
4. When a student answers a question correctly, they choose a popsicle stick and earn the corresponding number of points for their team.
5. The team with the most points at the end wins!

Four Corners

1. Do not divide students into teams.
2. Label the corners of your room with numbers 1-4.
3. Write the numbers 1-4 on slips of paper and put them into a hat or container.
4. Shout "Four Corners!" and have students run to any corner.
5. Choose one of the numbers from the hat and ask the students in that corner a review question.
6. If the students are successful in answering the question, they can stay in; if they are incorrect, then they sit down in their seats.
7. Repeat steps 4-6.
8. The winner is the last student standing.

The Hot Seat

1. Divide students into two teams.
2. Have one student sit facing the class, with a marker board or chalk board behind them. This is the "Hot Seat" student.
3. Write the name of a person the class learned about in a previous lesson on the board behind the "Hot Seat".
4. The students raise their hands, and the "Hot Seat" student calls on three students for clues to guess the person.
5. If the student guesses correctly, they receive one Tracker Ticket.
6. The person who gives the best clue can take over the "Hot Seat."
7. Repeat.

Just Give Points

1. Divide the class into two (or more) teams.
2. Ask a review question.
3. Call on the first hand raised, and if the student answers correctly, give their team a point.
4. If they answer incorrectly, the other teams get a chance to answer.
5. Keep a tally of points on a whiteboard, chalkboard, or piece of paper.
6. The team with the most points at the end wins!

Beach Ball

1. Do not divide students into teams.
2. Write a variety of review questions on a white beach ball that could apply to multiple lessons. For example: Who was the main person of this lesson? What did we learn from the DT? What is our "Think Right" verse of the day? Where in the Bible was our lesson found?
3. The students should volley the ball around while music is playing.
4. When the music stops, whoever is holding the ball must answer the question that their right thumb is touching.
5. Award the student one Tracker Ticket if they answer correctly.

Around the World

1. Do not divide students into teams; have students sit in a circle (on the floor or on chairs).
2. Choose two students to stand up in the center of the circle to compete against each other.
3. Ask a review question.
4. Whichever of the two students shouts the answer first wins that round.
5. The winner remains standing, while the other student sits back down.
6. The winner then competes against the next student.
7. The goal is to move around the circle as far as you can before losing, at which point the losing student sits in the seat of the person who beat him or her.
8. The student who makes it “around the world” and back to his or her own seat is the winner.
9. Note: Time may run out before a student wins. In that situation, the person who traveled the furthest wins.

Swatter

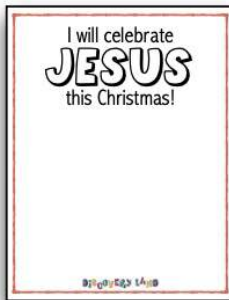
1. Divide students into two or more teams.
2. On a whiteboard or chalkboard, write multiple answers to a review question.
3. Choose one student to come up to the board; hand that student a fly swatter.
4. Ask a review question.
5. The student uses their swatter to swat the correct answer.
6. Repeat until time is up.
7. There is no winner in this game.

Dig in! (supplies: two tubs – each filled with shaving cream and props to match the lesson)

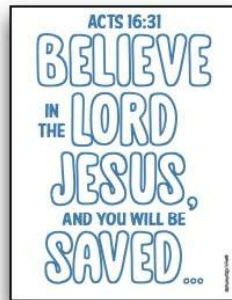
1. Divide students into two teams.
2. Select a student from each team who is paying attention, learning, and answering questions.
3. Ask a question related to one of the hidden props. Have the selected students close their eyes and try to grab out the correct prop. Enforce a five-second rule for choosing.
4. Give each team one point if the correct item is found.
5. Return items to the tub before asking the next question.

Elementary Printable Resources

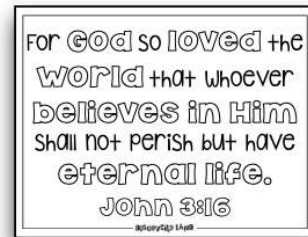
Year 3 - Quarter 2 (Africa Version)



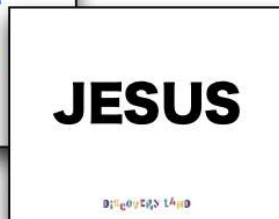
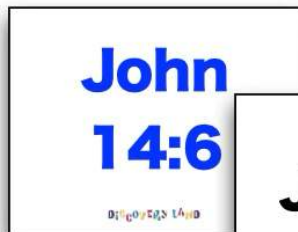
Lesson 2 Art
Celebrate Jesus
poster



Lesson 3 Food
Acts 16:31
activity sheet



Lesson 6 Art
John 3:16 poster



Lesson 8 Box
John 14:6 box signs



Lesson 10 Art
Pray First flag (8.5x11)
(enough for five students)



Lesson 10 Art
Pray First 11x17 flag



Lesson 10 Art
Pray First 11x17 flag -
multi-colored (6 colors)



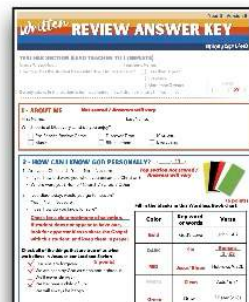
Lesson 12
Verbal Review, Instructions,
& Answer Key
Version A (K-1st)



Lesson 12
Student Answer
Sheet
Version A (K-1st)



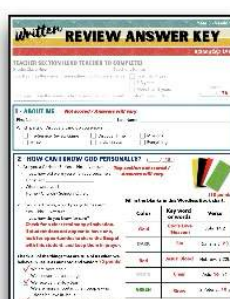
Lesson 12
Written Review
Version B
(2nd-3rd)



Lesson 12
Answer Key -
Written Review
Version B
(2nd-3rd)



Lesson 12
Written Review
Version C
(4th-5th)



Lesson 12
Answer Key -
Written Review
Version C
(4th-5th)



Get on Track Lesson
Scavenger Hunt worksheet

The Wordless Book - Presenting the Gospel to Children



The Wordless Book is the primary way the Gospel is shared with children in the Discovery Land curriculum. You will notice that it is referred to on a weekly basis as you present the Gospel message.

Each color has a simple meaning and a key verse that will help children understand the true meaning of God's love and how they can have a personal relationship with Him now and for eternity.

The Wordless Book is a tool that outlines a clear Gospel message. For older children, you may feel that this tool has become repetitive, but after reviewing test results, we learned our older children know the key word, color, and verse, but often they do not know how to use it as a tool to share or defend their faith. Keep this in mind as you role model the Gospel message to your children each week.

Occasionally try using the Gospel outline without referring to the colors. After you are done, ask children what this reminds them of. Or begin sharing the Gospel by expressing the joy you have by being clean (saved) from the sin in your life.

It is important to tie in the joy of becoming part of God's family. When you become a Christian, God is your Heavenly Father and you join all Christians as part of His church family.

Using the Wordless Book:

Gold - The gold page reminds us of God's love for us and how we, as Christians, can have confidence that someday we can go to heaven. John 14:2 says, "In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you." Heaven is real...and is a perfect, literal place. It will be filled with happiness, joy, streets of gold, a perfect family, and the presence of God Himself.

But there is one thing that is not in heaven...and that is sin.

Dark - The dark page represents sin. Sin is anything we think, say, or do that is against God. Examples of sin are cheating, stealing, and gossiping. These are things that are not going to be in heaven and things that displease God. Romans 3:23 says, "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." The penalty of sin is eternal death, meaning we can't go to heaven, but there is hope...

Red - The red page reminds us of Jesus. Jesus is God's only perfect Son who came to this earth to live a perfect life. Because of His perfect life, only He could take the punishment for our sin. Hebrews 9:22b says, "...and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness." Jesus did shed His blood, and because of that, He is the only way to heaven. It is not by good works (Ephesians 2:8-9), it is only through the gift of Jesus. It's a personal choice if we want to accept this free gift of Jesus. But wait, I need to tell you something...Jesus didn't stay dead, He rose again and had victory over sin!

Clean - The clean page reminds us that if we believe in these truths, our sin is forgiven. Acts 16:31 says, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved - you and your household."

Believe and you will be saved from the penalty/punishment of your sin. Your sin can be forgiven and you can be washed clean. But that is a choice that each individual needs to make.

Green - The green page reminds us that once you ask Jesus to forgive your sin, He wants you to grow closer to Him. It's a *relationship*, not a religion. He becomes the leader of your life. Because He is your leader, you will want to grow...like grass in the warm summer months (green). 2 Peter 3:18a says, "But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." We grow closer to Him by reading our Bible, praying, and obeying His Word.

This sounds pretty cool, doesn't it? No matter how old you are, it's a choice you have to make for yourself! You can choose today to accept this amazing truth. If you want to choose to ask Jesus to be your Savior and Lord, you need to pray, or talk to God, about it. God is real, and He can hear you when you pray.

If you'd like to make this decision, you can pray about it right now:

1. Admit you are a sinner...tell Him about the sin you struggle with and how you know they displease God. (**dark**)
2. Tell Him you believe that Jesus died and took the penalty for your sin. (**red**)
3. Personally ask Jesus to forgive you of your sin and become the leader of your life. (**clean**)
4. Thank Him for forgiving you and being the new leader of your life.

If you have truly asked Jesus to save you and be the leader of your life, you can know that your sin is forgiven and that you are a child of God!

Additional Tips:

To help coach children toward salvation, the DL program provides the *Coaching Kids for Salvation* card.

Coaching Kids for Salvation

After the Gospel is presented by the teacher...
...during the lesson, invite children to a quiet location if they want to make a decision.

Making sure the child is ready for salvation:
Ask: I think I know why you came to talk to me; but, would you tell me?
Answers may vary from "I want to go to Heaven," "I have sinned," "I love Jesus," or "I don't know." If child says, "I don't know," encourage them to go back to class and you can talk more later.

Checking to see if the child has an understanding of the Gospel:
Ask: Can you tell me anything about the Wordless Book?
Allow the child to explain the Gospel to you. Don't expect perfection. Look for an understanding of sin and the need for Jesus to forgive them of their sin.

Allowing the child to personalize the need for a Savior:
Ask: Have you sinned? How have you sinned?
Show child **Romans 3:23** in your Bible.
If the child denies sin in their life, they are not ready to go further in this discussion. If the child can tell you about sin and personalize that they have sinned, you can continue with the conversation.

Ask: Who can forgive your sin?
Answer should be Jesus.

Ask: What did Jesus do for your sin?
Show child **Hebrews 9:22b** in your Bible.
Have child put their name in the sentence, "Jesus died for _____'s sin."

Ask: What happened after Jesus died for you?
Answer: "He rose again!" (**1 Corinthians 15:3b-4**)

DISCOVERY LAND

Making a personal choice:
Ask: What would you like Jesus to do for you?
Answers may vary: "Take away my sin," or "Take the punishment for my sin."

Say: In **Acts 16:31**, it says that if we believe in the Lord, Jesus Christ (point to the red page) you can be saved (dark page) from your sin (clean page).

Ask: Would you like to pray and ask Jesus to take away your sin?
If a child says, "No," let the child to continue to think about it through the week and ask to you next week if they would like to.

If a child says, "Yes," say, "Why don't you pray and tell Jesus you have sinned, that you believe in Him, and that you need Him to forgive your sin."

Allow child to pray. If the child needs coaching with words, inform them that you will help them, but they need to remember they are talking to God and they need to really mean what they are saying.

Assurance of salvation:
Following the prayer, ask: What did Jesus just do for you?
Allow child to answer: "He saved me from my sin."

Ask: How do you know?
Allow child to answer: "The Bible tells me so."

Hebrews 13:5b teaches us that when we ask Jesus to be part of our lives, He will never leave us. Use your fingers (starting with your pinky) and say, "Jesus will never leave _____."

I am so excited about the decision you made today. Why don't we go back to class and tell the Teacher/Shepherd about what happened." (Allow the child to explain what happened.)


DISCOVERY LAND

To assist you with presenting the Gospel and beginning to disciple a child, the DL program provides the *Believe It or Not?* booklet, the *Now What?* booklet, and the *I Believe* bookmark.

The *Believe it or Not?* booklet explains the Gospel using Scripture, kid-friendly definitions, and the Wordless Book framework. It is a great tool to explain the Gospel to an interested child, and/or to send home with a child who wants to consider trusting Jesus as their Lord and Savior.



If a student chooses to trust Jesus as their Lord and Savior, the *Now What?* booklet is a great introduction to what it means to live the Christian life. It briefly covers topics such as who they are in Christ, spiritual disciplines, such as worship and prayer, and being a part of the family of God.



I BELIEVE!

"Believe in the Lord, and you will be saved." (you are your own soul!) Acts 16:31

Name: _____ Date: _____

BELIEVE!

Read and say words: _____

Guide: _____ Date: _____

Labeled: Please turn in this portion to your director or staff person.

Following a child's decision to trust Christ as their Savior, the *I Believe* bookmark can be filled out as a reminder of this important decision. The bookmark remains with the student and the tab at the end is filled out and turned in to your director or staff person, so they can rejoice with the student.

Acknowledgements and Permissions

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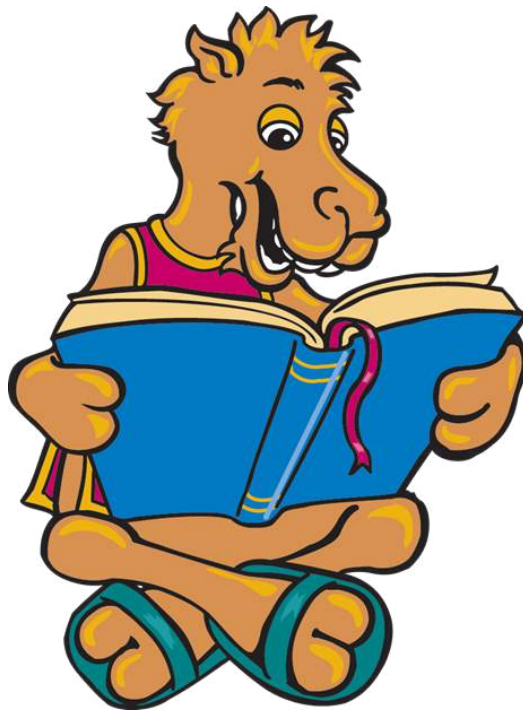
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