

DISCOVERY LAND

Year 3 – Quarter 2

Preschool Curriculum

Adapted for use in Africa



Year 3 – Quarter 2

Preschool Curriculum

Adapted for use in Africa

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 children! 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 children 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

Table of Contents

Year 3 – Quarter 2

Understanding the Curriculum	5
Syllabus	9
Quarter Overview	11
Lesson 1: Malachi to Matthew – 400 years of silence	13
Lesson 2: John the Baptist prepares the way	18
Lesson 3: Jesus is born	26
Lesson 4: Jesus chooses His helpers	31
Lesson 5: Jesus miraculously turns water into wine	37
Lesson 6: Jesus talks to Nicodemus about heaven	43
Lesson 7: Jesus teaches about the Good Shepherd	50
Lesson 8: Jesus teaches the Samaritan woman about living water	56
Lesson 9: Jesus heals a blind man	62
Lesson 10: Jesus prays and teaches how to pray	68
Lesson 11: True wisdom comes from God's Word	73
Lesson 12: True wisdom comes from God's Word	78
Appendix	
Topical Lesson: Celebrate Jesus!	83
Prophecies About Jesus	87
Printable Resources Overview	89
Wordless Book – Presenting the Gospel	91
Acknowledgements and Permissions	93

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 children:

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).

Preschool 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 children 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 children's attention and creates spiritual growth by following the curriculum, as well as providing leadership of the children and other volunteers throughout the morning.

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

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

Preschool Program Overview

The program for preschool children is made up of six components:

1. Pre-Service Review Game
2. Large Group Opening Time
3. Bible Lesson
4. Discover Time
5. Know Right Review Activity
6. Think Right Review Activity

These pieces all tightly connect to produce an environment of Total Time Teaching where every minute matters and children 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 children as they arrive
-:15	Pre-Service Review Game
:00	Large Group Time
:15	Bible Lesson
:35	Discover Time
:50	Know Right Review Activity
:60	Think Right Review Activity
:65	Parents pick up children

Pre-Service Review Game

LEADER TIPS

Leaders who are not welcoming children as they enter should assist and encourage all children during the pre-game.

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

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

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

Large Group Time

Large Group Time is designed to:

- Introduce the concept of tithing and provide children with the opportunity to give
- Introduce the lesson of the day through music and puppets
- Teach children the Top 12 Verses

LEADER TIPS

During worship through music, encourage children 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.

Bible Lesson

The Bible lesson is a teacher-led, classroom experience that brings the Bible to life for children. 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 children by name.
2. Read the Scripture from your Bible and 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 Bible Lesson Outline. 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.
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 children.
8. Teachers should always have their Bibles open during the entire lesson, so children know the account is coming from the Bible. Due to a limited amount of time and the value we place on teaching children that the narratives come directly from the Bible, please do not read the lesson from a Bible storybook.

Discover Time

Discover Time (DT) activities are simple, non-competitive activities designed to engage and challenge children through hands-on learning. The preschool DT reinforces the main point of the Bible lesson. Occasionally, the DT activity will be used to make a "memorable picture" of the Bible lesson for children 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!

Know Right and Think Right Activities

Each lesson concludes with simple Know Right and Think Right activities. The Know Right activity reviews the content that was taught. The Think Right activity, which reviews the Scripture verse, is led by the DT Leader and/or Shepherd as children are dismissed, while the Lead Teacher hands out Tracker Jr. 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. The goal is to review and reinforce understanding.

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
- Feel Right poster

Tracker Jr.

Tracker Jr. is our colorful, kid-friendly take-home paper for families of preschool children. 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, children can return the coupon on the Tracker Jr. for a small prize.

Preschool Syllabus

Year 3 – Quarter 2

Lesson 1

Know Right: Malachi to Matthew – 400 years of silence.
Think Right: John 3:16 (Top 12)
Do Right: I will know that God has a big plan.
Feel Right: I can feel excited knowing that God has a big plan.

Lesson 2

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

Know Right: John the Baptist prepares the way.
Think Right: John 3:16 (Top 12)
Do Right: I will be God's helper.
Feel Right: I can feel good when I'm God's helper.

Lesson 3

Matthew 1:18 – 2:12

Know Right: Jesus is born.
Think Right: John 3:16 (Top 12)
Do Right: I will believe God sent His Son, Jesus, to save me from my sin.
Feel Right: I can feel peaceful when I believe Jesus can save me from my sin.

Lesson 4

Luke 5:1-11; Mark 3:13-19

Know Right: Jesus chooses His helpers.
Think Right: John 3:16 (Top 12)
Do Right: I will follow Jesus.
Feel Right: I can feel happy when I follow Jesus.

Lesson 5

John 2:1-11

Know Right: Jesus miraculously turns water into wine.
Think Right: 2 Peter 3:18a (Top 12)
Do Right: I will believe Jesus can do miracles.
Feel Right: I can feel amazed when I think of Jesus' miracles.

Lesson 6

John 3:1-21

Know Right: Jesus talks to Nicodemus about heaven.
Think Right: 2 Peter 3:18a (Top 12)
Do Right: I will know Jesus is the only way to heaven.
Feel Right: I can feel happy when I think about heaven.

Lesson 7

John 10:14-30

Know Right: Jesus teaches about the Good Shepherd.
Think Right: 2 Peter 3:18a (Top 12)
Do Right: I will know that Jesus loves me.
Feel Right: I can feel peaceful when I know that Jesus loves me.

Lesson 8

John 4:1-42

Know Right: Jesus teaches the Samaritan woman about living water.

Think Right: 2 Peter 3:18a (Top 12)

Do Right: I will tell others about Jesus.

Feel Right: I can feel courageous when I choose to tell my friends about Jesus.

Lesson 9

John 9:1-38

Know Right: Jesus heals a blind man.

Think Right: 2 Peter 3:18a (Top 12)

Do Right: I will believe God has a plan for me.

Feel Right: I can feel excited 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: 2 Peter 3:18a (Top 12)

Do Right: I will talk to God through prayer.

Feel Right: I can feel cared for when I talk to God.

Lesson 11

Review Day – Part 1

Know Right: True wisdom comes from God's Word.

Think Right: John 3:16 and 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

Review Day – Part 2

Know Right: True wisdom comes from God's Word.

Think Right: John 3:16 and 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.

Topical Lesson

Celebrate Jesus!

Know Right: Celebrate Jesus!

Think Right: John 3:16 (Top 12)

Do Right: I will celebrate Jesus.

Feel Right: I can feel joyful when I celebrate 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 has a big plan, and His plan will be fulfilled.

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 be God's helpers.

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 – Jesus is the only way 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 that Jesus, the Good Shepherd, loves me.

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 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:	“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 know that God has a big plan.
Feel Right:	I can feel excited knowing that God has a big plan.

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: Pray that our children will have a desire deep in their soul to know, love, and serve Jesus for their entire lives. Pray for emotional, spiritual, and physical protection over each child.

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 has a big plan, and His plan will be fulfilled.

GET SET!

Lead Teacher’s Notes:

- This unique lesson centers around history covering the “400 years of silence.” Our elementary students will be diving into a history lesson while our preschool children will be learning about how God had a big plan during those 400 years.
- Why was it quiet? Prophets did not speak during this time, even though God was at work in powerful ways to fulfill His plan.
- This lesson is a historical lesson, and it connects the OT to the NT.

Creative Idea for the Bible Lesson:

Print out the “400 years of silence” poster from the Bible timeline or draw something that looks similar. Attach it to the front of an empty box. Pull props from the box and talk about some of God’s plans that took place during this time. Suggested props: Alexander the Great (male action figure), Bible with a bookmark in the Old Testament, paper to look like roads, plastic toy horse and a chariot (cut a foam or paper cup to resemble a chariot), and a place of worship (make with blocks or LEGO® bricks).

GO!

Pre-Service Review Game

Worship Leaders will lead children in a review game. Game details are in the Resources Booklet.

Large Group Opening Time

Offering: We are going to worship God right now by giving our money. When we give our money to God, our church will use it to tell others about Jesus (*or insert a specific way your church will use the offering*).

Think Right verse: John 3:16

Can you think about a verse that tells us that God loves us? It starts out with, "For God so _____ the world." This means that God loves each one of you. He also loves the children all around the whole world. Let's stand and say John 3:16 with our actions.

"For God (point up) **so loved** (hands over heart) **the world** (hands circled above head) **that He gave His one** (pointer finger) **and only Son** (point to the palm of each hand), **that whoever believes** (point to head) **in Him** (point up) **shall not perish** (shake finger and head) **but have eternal life** (thumbs up)." **John 3:16**

Transition: Talking about how much God loves me makes me want to jump for joy! Let's all jump up and down five times. Now let's sing our song.

Song 1: "Jump for Joy"

Puppet Skit: The big plan

When doing the skit, the puppeteer needs to know the script and be animated.

T: (Tracker jumps up) Hey kids! Good mornin'! Can ya guess what today is? Well, I'll just tell ya. It's my grandpa's birthday!

WL: Well, that's exciting, Tracker! How old is he turning today?

T: He's super-de-duper old. It's such a big number I don't even know it.

WL: Wow! That means he's lived a really long life.

T: And I guess what, _____? I gots a plan. It's a really great big plan to surprise my grandpa.

WL: That sounds exciting! What is the plan?

T: When I gets home, we're gonna decorate our house for a HUGE party! We're gonna hang a bunch of balloons and streamers and my sister is gonna make a birthday cake with my mom, and my dad is gonna wrap all the presents!

WL: It sounds like you have really thought about everything, and you have a great plan.

T: I sure do. Everyone is workin' really hard to get it done. THEN, when we get it all done, I gets to call my grandpa and say, "Hey Grandpa, do you want to come over and watch TV with me?"

WL: Oh, that is a great idea.

T: Then when he walks through the door, we're gonna yell "SURPRISE!" and have a huge party.

WL: That's an awesome plan; I hope everyone will work hard to get it done.

T: Oh, they will. We all love Grandpa!

WL: Well, we better get going on our plans for our class today.

T: Ha, ha...that sounds like a good plan, _____. Bye, kids!

WL: Tracker has a plan for a birthday party, I have a plan for our class, and God has a big, big, BIG plan that we will learn about today.

Transition: God is a great God, and all His plans are perfect. That makes me want to tell everyone about Him!

Song 2: “Go Tell it on the Mountain”

Pray

Bible Lesson Introduction

Pray: Does God hear you when you pray? (Yes!) Our God is big, and He loves you very much. This is why He wants to hear you. You can talk to God when you pray. Let me show you how to pray. When we pray in our classroom, we fold our hands, bow our heads, and close our eyes. We do this to show respect to God so we can really think about what we are saying while we pray. Let’s pray and talk to God. *Leader should pray.*

Timeline: Can you find the color blue on our timeline? Do you see a number on this color? That number is 400. That’s a really big number! Today we are going to learn about how people had to wait for a long time, 400 years, for something big to happen. Let’s all say “400.” That’s a long time!

Introduction to the Bible Lesson:

Do you remember who Tracker is planning a party for? Yes, his grandpa! He told us that his sister is going to bake a cake with his mom, his dad is going to wrap the presents, and he is going to hang the streamers and balloons. They are all getting ready for something big.

Something kind of like that happened before Jesus was born. Jesus was going to come soon, and God had a plan to get things ready. Let’s learn about some of the things that He needed to get ready.

Bible Lesson Outline

God has a plan to get everyone to speak the same language

What language do you speak? Do you know a different language? *Speak a few words from a common second language.* During this time, a man named Alexander the Great made everyone speak one language - this language was called Greek. If everyone spoke Greek, everyone could listen and learn together. This was part of God’s plan.

God has a plan so everyone can read the Bible (OT)

As people were learning this new language, some very special men translated part of the Bible - the Old Testament - into the new language. Translated is a big word; it means they changed each word into the new language. That is a lot of work. The people who wrote it didn’t have fancy computers like we do, they had to do it by hand. Let’s pretend to write in Greek. *Have children pretend to write in the air.* God wanted everyone to hear about Jesus quickly.

God has a plan so people can travel

The time was coming soon for baby Jesus to be born. It was important that people could travel to go see baby Jesus and for some to go out and tell others about the Good News of Jesus. God had a plan, and He used people to create roads. Many roads were built so people could travel from city to city. When Jesus was born, people could use these roads to get from their houses to the place where Jesus was born. This was very important. What did people ride in? Did they have cars and airplanes? No, they walked or used animals like horses. The people who built the roads helped with God’s perfect plan!

God has a plan and people need to wait

People knew that God was going to send a Savior (Jesus) to the world. But they needed to wait until everything was ready. During this time, a man named Alexander the Great told people they should not

worship God, but instead worship fake gods. Many people became confused and worshiped the fake gods. Some people still believed in God, and still believed that God would send a Savior. They built places to worship God, and they waited for the new promised Savior to come. This was part of God's plan.

Conclusion

The world was ready for Jesus! Many of the people spoke one language (Greek) so they could understand each other and spread the Good News when Jesus arrived. The roads were built so people could travel to other cities to tell them that Jesus was born. The world was ready for the promised Savior, Jesus, to come. God had a plan, and He made sure everyone worked together to get it done. 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 in the New Testament and in the next couple of weeks will learn about how God sent our Savior, Jesus.

Do Right and Feel Right

Our God had a big plan, and He used many people to get it done. We can feel excited knowing that our God is strong, powerful, and able to get us ready for what is to come.

Review Questions: What did we discover today?

1. Did God have a big plan? (Yes)
2. How many years did it take for God to finish the plan – 400 years or 2 years? (400 years)
3. Did the people learn how to speak one language? (Yes)
4. What did the people make so they could travel from one city to another? (Roads)
5. Did all the people wait patiently? (No)
6. Was Jesus going to come soon? (Yes)

Discover Time

Transition to Discover Time: God had a great plan. Let's go and make roads just like the people did.

Do Right: I will know that God has a big plan.

Goal: To allow children to pretend they were the people who made roads as part of God's big plan.

Location A: LEGO® Station

Supplies:

- Green LEGO boards
- Small LEGO chariots (four wheels connected with LEGO bricks) or cut a foam or paper cup to resemble a chariot with two wheels and a string in the front (search for chariot kids crafts online for ideas) (one per child)

Setup Instructions: In advance, create a road system using LEGO boards connected with LEGO pieces, but just use enough to keep the boards together. (Optional: If you do not have enough LEGO boards, draw roads on roll paper.)

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Have children add additional LEGO bricks to line the sides of the roads.
2. Once the road is finished, allow children to have fun pushing their chariots through the maze of roads.
3. Talk about how God had a plan to make roads so many people could learn about Jesus.

Location B: Art Station

Supplies:

- Large white roll paper (see below for instructions)
- Optional: Cut out pictures of trees, mountains, houses, churches, and stores that children can glue next to the roads.
- Washable markers or crayons
- Toy cars and/or chariots (cut a foam or paper cup to resemble a chariot with two wheels and a string in the front or search for chariot kids crafts online for ideas) (one per child)

Setup Instructions: In advance, draw a road system on roll paper; the larger the class, the larger the road system should be. Include outlined trees, mountains, houses, churches, and stores that children can color.

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. When children arrive, have them help color in the road and items along the road.
2. Talk about how God had a plan to make roads so many people could learn about Jesus.
3. After about eight minutes, give children cars or chariots and let them pretend to use the roadways.

Classroom Review Time

Lead Teachers ~ Connecting the DT to the Lesson: God had a plan to make roads. Why was this so important? (So people could quickly come and see Jesus)

Reviewing the Know Right:

Supplies:

- Jenga blocks
- Prop box with props from the lesson

Instructions:

1. Pull items from your prop box and ask questions about the lesson.
 - How many years did it take for God to finish the plan we talked about in our lesson today - 400 years or 2 years? (400 years) *Point to the prop box.*
 - Did the people speak one language or five languages? (One)
 - The Romans made something that people traveled on. What was it? (Roads)
 - Did all the people wait patiently for Jesus? (No)
 - Did Tracker have a big plan for his grandpa's birthday? (Yes)
 - Fill in the blank: "For God so loved the _____." (World)
 - Fill in the blank: John 3:___ (16)
2. Each correct answer will earn a block, which children will use to build a tall structure.

Think Right Activity while waiting for parents:

Supplies:

- Song "John 3:16"
- Props from the lesson

Instructions:

1. Play the song as children pass props from the lesson.
2. When the music stops, whoever is holding an item should shout, "God has a plan!"
3. Repeat many times as you encourage children to sing along.

Lesson 2

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

Know Right:	John the Baptist prepares the way.
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 be God’s helper.
Feel Right:	I can feel good when I’m God’s helper.

GET READY!

Each week, God uses His Word and YOU to prepare children to hear and receive Christ as their Savior! This is a special lesson as we help turn children's 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 children.

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 children as the Bible lesson is taught 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 be God’s helpers.

GET SET!

Lead Teacher’s Notes:

- Always have your Bible open as you teach. Be sure to teach using expression in your voice so the Bible comes to life for your children.
- Remember that your lesson is a tool, not a storybook. Know your lesson well enough so you can maintain eye contact with your children. Speak slowly and don't rush your lesson.
- Before you teach others, ask yourself, “What did I learn this week from this Bible lesson?”

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 helper today. As you come across key points, you can add props to John, such as a locust, a towel for baptizing, etc. By the end of the class, your children should be able to tell you that he was God’s helper who was very excited to tell people that Jesus was coming.
2. Use large props such as: a giant cricket, a jar of honey, u-turn sign (for repent), and a clear bowl of water.
3. You will need Wordless Book colored construction paper (one piece of each color) and a pair of scissors. *This idea is written into the lesson.*



GO!

Pre-Service Review Game

Worship Leaders will lead children in a review game. Game details are in the Resources Booklet.

Large Group Opening Time

Offering: We are going to worship God right now by giving our money. When we give our money to God, our church will use it to tell others about Jesus (*or insert a specific way your church will use the offering*).

Think Right verse: John 3:16

I know a verse that talks about how much God loves us. Do you remember where I can find this super long verse in our Bible? (John 3:16) Let’s stand up and whisper our verse with the hand motions. Now let’s shout the verse and use big strong actions. Next let’s squat down. For the last time, let’s say it quietly with small actions.

“For God (point up) so loved (hands over heart) the world (hands circled above head) that He gave His one (pointer finger) and only Son (point to the palm of each hand), that whoever believes (point to head) in Him (point up) shall not perish (shake finger and head) but have eternal life (thumbs up).” John 3:16

Transition: Knowing that God loves me fills me with joy! Let’s sing “Jump for Joy” together.

Song 1: “Jump for Joy”

Puppet Skit: The little helper

WL: Boys and girls, before Tracker comes, I have to tell you that I'm so excited! We are putting up and decorating our Christmas tree today...

(Tracker jumps up and interrupts WL)

T: Hey, _____! Did ya just say you're decoratin' your Christmas tree today?

WL: Well hello, Tracker! Yes, I did. Why do you ask?

T: Cuz at home we're gonna decorate our tree today, too!

WL: Wow! That's cool, Tracker!

T: Yeah, an' ya wanna know somethin' really super-de-duper cool, _____?

WL: Sure, Tracker. What is *really super-de-duper cool*?

T: I gets to help my dad put our tree up this year! Every year Dad gets the tree all ready outside an' then he an' Mom bring it in an' put it up. But Dad said this year I could help instead of Mom! I'm gettin' really big an' dad said I'd be a really good helper!

WL: You *are* getting big, Tracker, and you would be a great helper. Hey kids, are you good helpers at your house?

T: An' that's not all! Dad said I could help put the lights on, too. Nobody ever gets to help put the lights on, not even Mom!

WL: Wow, Tracker! You must be a very good helper!

T: Well, Dad said I've been bein' a good helper all week. I helped clean out the garage an' I helped move the furniture so the tree would fit.

WL: That's awesome! Did it feel good to help your parents out?

T: Yeah - an' that's kinda weird.

WL: Why is it weird?

T: Cuz it's work to help! An' I didn't think it would feel good to work, ya know.

WL: Yeah, I know it does seem that way. But when we help someone, it usually feels good.

T: It really does. Well, I guess I better get goin' so I'm all ready when Dad is!

WL: Good idea. Have fun putting your Christmas tree up!

T: I sure will! You have fun, too!

WL: Thanks, Tracker! Have a great week!

T: You too, _____! See ya later! *(Tracker goes down)*

WL: *(to the children)* Do you like to be a helper? We are going to learn about someone today who was one of God's helpers!

Transition: It is important that we are God's helpers by going to tell others about Jesus! We can tell people at the park, at the store, and we can tell people from a mountain top. Let's stand up and sing "Go Tell it on the Mountain!"

Song 2: "Go Tell it on the Mountain"

Pray

Bible Lesson Introduction

Pray: Allow one of your children 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.

Find It: Today we are going to study the book of Mark. Let's say the first two books of the New Testament: Matthew, Mark. *Have children repeat several times, possibly pointing to their first two fingers as they say the books.*

Timeline: There are two sections in our Bible. They are called the Old Testament and the New Testament. Can you point to the Old Testament on the timeline? Can you point to the New Testament on the timeline? We are studying the books of Mark and John today, which are both in the New Testament.

Introduction to the Bible Lesson:

Have you ever helped to get ready for a special guest at your house? Maybe the special guest was your grandparents or a special friend. How would you help get ready for your special guest? Maybe you would be a special helper and help make cookies, help clean the house, take a bath and put on special clothes, or even make a sign to put outside that says "Welcome Grandma and Grandpa!" When you do these things, you are being a special helper who is getting ready for them to come. God sent a very important person to help people get ready, or prepared, for Jesus. This person was one of God's important helpers. Let's open the Bible to find out who this person was and how he was a very special helper to God.

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

A helper prepares the way for Jesus

Paraphrase of Mark 1:1-4a:

Point to your timeline. In the book of Isaiah, way back in the OT, God told people that a special helper would come and help people get ready for Jesus. This special person was named John the Baptist. Can you say, "John the Baptist"? *Have children repeat after you.* John the Baptist would help people get ready for Jesus to come. He was God's helper! But how would John help people get ready for Jesus? Do you think he was going to build a crib for the baby or decorate for a party? *Allow children to guess.* Let's find out in the Bible.

John the Baptist is the helper who prepares the way for Jesus

Paraphrase of Mark 1:4b-8:

This is how John the Baptist helped people get ready for Jesus: he taught the people what sin was and that they needed a Savior, Jesus, to forgive them from their sin. Do you know what sin is? Sin is anything we think, say, or do that is against God. After people believed and admitted that they sinned and needed a Savior, they were so excited that they wanted everyone to know. So they went to the river, and John baptized (dunked) them under the water and quickly brought them back up. Being baptized was a way to show everyone that they were excited and ready for Jesus to come. But what kind of person was John the Baptist? Let's see what the Bible says.

Read Mark 1:6

Recap: What would a locust taste like? What would camel hair feel like? *Have children feel or touch items similar to what it would feel like.* John didn't even care that his clothes weren't nice or that his food wasn't yummy because he was too busy teaching people that Jesus was coming, and they needed Jesus to forgive them from their sin.

Let's do a quick review:

- What was the name of the man who was going to tell everyone the Good News that Jesus is coming? (John the Baptist)
- Was it a little bit important or VERY important that Jesus was coming? (VERY important) This was the most important thing ever!
- When the people realized they were sinful and they needed Jesus to forgive them, what would John the Baptist do? (Baptize them in the river so everyone would know)

John the Baptist was God's helper. Some of the people were excited to see and hear about Jesus but others were not.

People start to ask questions of John the Baptist

Paraphrase of John 1:19:

The Jewish priests, who were in charge of the church, thought they were very special and in charge. When they heard about John the Baptist and how people were listening to him and following him, they wanted to know who he was.

John tells people what he is doing

Paraphrase of John 1:20-27:

John the Baptist told the priests that he was not the most important person. Instead, he was helping people get ready for the most important person, Jesus. But they were still confused, and they didn't understand.

John was helping people get ready for the Savior, Jesus, the One who would rescue people from their sins. John told people he was not the Savior they were waiting for. He always told people about the Savior who was coming, Jesus. John was a good helper.

Conclusion

John the Baptist was God's helper. He obeyed God by helping people get ready to know and love Jesus. John knew that Jesus was (and still is) the most important person ever. Jesus is the only way for people to have their sin taken away and have eternal life. How can we be like John the Baptist? Should we wear camel's hair clothes and eat locusts (bugs)? No, we don't have to do that. But we can tell other people about Jesus! How can we do this? We can use the Wordless Book.

*Hold up a piece of **gold** paper and cut it into a heart.*

We can tell others about how much God loves them and how He has prepared a place in heaven for them. What verse tells us about heaven? (John 14:2) *Have children recite the verse with you.*

*Hold up a piece of **dark** paper and tear it into small pieces.*

Sin is like dirt - it makes God and us sad because it destroys good things. *Give examples of sin that children might struggle with.* John the Baptist told others that Jesus, who would never sin, would soon be coming.

*Hold up a piece of **red** paper and cut it into a cross.*

The cross reminds us that Jesus died on the cross for our sin. He was the Savior that John was talking about. The Bible teaches us in Hebrews 9:22b that Jesus died for our sins. When He died, He took all of the sin from the whole world on Himself.

*Hold up a piece of **clean white** paper. Smooth it out and highlight how perfect it is.*

When we ask Jesus to forgive our sin, He washes it all away. In Acts 16:31, God tells us to "Believe in
22

the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved - you and your household.” If we believe and choose to follow Jesus, we will be saved from our sin! *Hold up the clean white paper, then cover the ripped-up pieces of the dark paper, and then throw away the pieces of the dark paper.*

*Hold up a piece of **green** paper and cut it into a tree.*

If you are a Christian, you are clean, and you will want to continue to grow. Just like this tree, we can grow to be more like Jesus, so we can be good helpers for Him.

Do Right and Feel Right

Do you want to be a helper like John the Baptist? Are you ready to tell others about Jesus this Christmas season?

Review Questions: What did we discover today?

1. Did John the Baptist wear camel's hair clothes with a leather belt or jeans and a t-shirt? (He wore camel's hair clothes with a leather belt)
2. Did John the Baptist eat locusts and wild honey or candy bars? (He ate locusts and wild honey)
3. Did God send John the Baptist to play games or get people ready for Jesus? (Get people ready for Jesus)
4. Did John the Baptist do the job God wanted him to do? (Yes)
5. What can you use to tell others about Jesus this week? (The Wordless Book)

Discover Time

Transition to Discover Time: Who wants to be a helper? I have an important job for you, and I need you to be helpers in our Discover Time activity today. As we walk to Discover Time, let's pretend to be John the Baptist as we travel to tell others about Jesus. *Occasionally stop and pretend to catch and eat a locust.*

Do Right: I will be God's helper.

Goal: To give children a chance to be God's helpers.

Location A: Sand Station

Supplies:

- Sets of Wordless Book colored coins (one set for each child, plus extra - use plastic chips/tokens or wooden nickels spray painted Wordless Book colors)
- Snack-sized plastic zipper bags (one for each child)
- Instruction note (see appendix)

Setup instructions: Before children arrive, hide one set of coins per child in the sand (you may want to hide extra, in case some cannot be found).

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Tell children they have an important job - telling others about Jesus. In the sand, they will find Wordless Book coins. Their goal is to find a complete set (one of each color), and then help their friends if they haven't found all their coins.
2. Pass out snack-sized zipper bags and allow children to collect their coins. Remind them to take only one of each color.
3. When everyone is done, have children sit down and review the Wordless Book.
4. Attach the instruction note to the bags and allow children to take their coins home so they can share the Wordless Book to help others learn about Jesus.

Location B: Food Station

Option 1

Supplies:

- Small plates (one per child)
- Yellow cheese (one slice per child)
- Dark grapes (three per child)
- Strawberries (one per child)
- White milk (one-half cup per child in a clear cup) – *check for allergies*
- Green grapes (three per child)

Note: Fruits can be substituted with in-season fruit options as needed, but keep the colors the same (i.e., replace strawberries with red apples or tomatoes).

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. As you explain the Wordless Book, have children be good helpers and serve correctly colored items to the person sitting next to them. As they serve their friend, have the child tell their friend what each color means. (Options: Have children use a spoon or fork to retrieve items from a central bowl or plate, or pre-portion items into portion cups and have children place the portion cup onto their neighbor's plate)
2. As you ask questions and review the Wordless Book, allow children to eat each item.
3. Challenge children to look for these colors at home and be God's helper by telling their family about the Wordless Book.

Option 2

Supplies:

- Sugar cookies (two per child - one they will decorate and give away, and one they will eat at the end of DT, these can be pre-decorated or undecorated) – *check for allergies*
- Icing (be sure to use cookie icing that will dry, not cake frosting, so the cookies can be put in plastic bags; simple icing can be made with powdered sugar and a little milk)
- Plastic knives (for leaders)
- Wordless Book colored sprinkles
- Small plates (one per child)
- Plastic zipper bags (one per child; large enough to hold the cookie on the plate)
- Pens, pencils, or markers (to write children's names on plates)
- Instruction note (see appendix)
- Stapler or tape to attach the note to the plastic zipper bags

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Have children wash their hands or use hand sanitizer before passing out cookies.
2. Hold up the Wordless Book colored sprinkles and have children explain what each color means.
3. Remind children that these colors remind us of the Good News of Jesus.
4. Leaders will ice the cookies and have children be helpers as they decorate a special cookie with Wordless Book colored sprinkles to give to someone who needs to hear about Jesus.
5. Explain that they can be God's helpers by telling others about the Wordless Book. Use the word "helper" often as you work on the cookies.
6. As children are working, review the Wordless Book with them.
7. Leaders should write "From: _____ (child's name)" on the plastic zipper bag and then help children slide their finished cookie into the bag and seal it shut. Attach the instruction note to the bag.
8. Encourage children to share their cookies with someone at home or in their neighborhood. Role model for the children how they can use the Wordless Book colors on their cookie to **help** their friend learn about Jesus.
9. Give each child a small cookie and talk about how it feels to receive. As they eat the cookie, continue to talk about what they will say when it is their turn to give away the cookie they decorated.

Classroom Review Time

Lead Teachers ~ Connecting the DT to the Lesson: You were all great helpers today in Discover Time! Wow, you all worked really hard and now you each have something to take home with you so you can be helpers to tell others about Jesus. *(If Food Station Option 1 was used, use this text instead: Wow, you all worked really hard helping serve your friends. When you see cheese, grapes, milk, etc. at home, it can help you remember to tell others about Jesus!)* There is a verse we know that tells others about Jesus. I think you might know it. (John 3:16) *Have children recite the verse.* I am so very proud of you! How do you feel when you are a good helper? How do you feel knowing you are able to tell someone about Jesus?

Reviewing the Know Right:

Supplies:

- Wordless Book colored circles or carpet squares (one of each color; twelve inches or bigger; place together on the floor)
- Wordless Book Matching Game (two sets) (see appendix)

Say: John the Baptist loved to be God's helper by telling others about Jesus. Do you think you could tell others about Jesus? How can you do this? We can do this with the Wordless Book.

Instructions:

1. Have children form a large circle. Arrange the colored circles/carpet squares on the floor in the middle of the circle of children.
2. Hold up the stack of cards (mixed up).
3. Have a child choose a card.
4. After showing the card, have children tell you which circle/carpet square to place the card on. This game will involve lots of repetition due to multiple cards containing the same information.
5. Make the game fun by seeing how fast you can show the card and place it on the correct circle.

Optional ideas: Have children raise their hands if they know the answer. If they get it right, they can put the card on the circle or carpet square. Or have the child who chose the card answer the question and place it on the correct color.

Think Right Activity while waiting for parents:

Supplies:

- Wordless Book Matching Game (one for each table - see appendix)
- Soft Christmas music (see Resources Booklet for music suggestions)

Instructions:

1. Play the Wordless Book Matching Game at tables.
2. As you play, continually repeat key concepts. Repetition is key when helping children to remember important information.
3. As children match the correct colors and words, reinforce the key verse to match it.

Leader Tip: It's important that all leaders in the class know the verses for the Wordless Book.

Lesson 3

Matthew 1:18 – 2:12

Know Right:	Jesus is born.
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 God sent His Son, Jesus, to save me from my sin.
Feel Right:	I can feel peaceful when I believe Jesus can 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 children 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 children who will be sitting in your class this week that 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).
- Most preschool children can learn to sit up and focus during the lesson, participating when asked. Continue to set that expectation, and guide and redirect as needed. Be generous with praise when you see it happening!
- If you have ongoing behavior issues in your class, notify your children's ministry leader. They can provide you and the child with the needed support before the other children are distracted from learning and hearing the Gospel.
- A huge part of discipleship is showing children what it looks like to follow Jesus every day. Always bring your own Bible and teach from it. It's great if it has your notes and highlights in it so children can see that you use it during the week.

Creative Ideas for the Bible Lesson:

1. Attach costumes to a low-hanging pole or a clothesline. As you teach the lesson, have children step behind the costume and create facial expressions that represent the person being taught about in the lesson.

2. Use a toy Nativity set and move the pieces as you teach the lesson.
3. Use a flannel board with black lights.
4. Have different props (ideas: angel's wings, baby doll, crown, star) wrapped up like gifts and "unwrap" your lesson as you teach it. Note: these props will be used in the "Reviewing the Know Right" activity.

GO!

Pre-Service Review Game

Worship Leaders will lead children in a review game. Game details are in the Resources Booklet.

Large Group Opening Time

Offering: We are going to worship God right now by giving our money. When we give our money to God, our church will use it to tell others about Jesus (*or insert a specific way your church will use the offering*).

Think Right verse: John 3:16

Hold up a big gift wrapped in Wordless Book colors. What does this gift remind you of? I'll give you a hint: Look at all the colors. These are the Wordless Book colors, and that reminds us of the Good News of Jesus! Were you God's helpers this past week? Did you tell others about Jesus? When you tell others about Jesus, it is like giving them a very special gift. Who is the best gift during Christmas? (Jesus!) What is a great verse to share with a friend about Jesus? (John 3:16)

"For God (point up) so loved (hands over heart) the world (hands circled above head) that He gave His one (pointer finger) and only Son (point to the palm of each hand), that whoever believes (point to head) in Him (point up) shall not perish (shake finger and head) but have eternal life (thumbs up)." John 3:16

Let's see if we can boldly and confidently recite John 3:16. Is this verse true? (Yes!) Let's say it again even louder and with stronger actions.

Transition: I know a song that will help us remember this verse. Let's sing "John 3:16."

Song 1: "John 3:16"

Puppet Skit: Wordless Book

Prop for Worship Leader: large Wordless Book

Prop for Cami: Wordless Book colored balloons

(Cami comes out dancing to music)

WL: Well hi, Cami! I was kind of expecting Tracker! **(to the children)** Do you all know Cami? She's Tracker's sister.

Cami: Hi, everyone! I'm the mostest wonderful Cami who looooooves preschool! Tracker can't be here this week. He's gotta stay home an' be mom's helper. She fell and broke her clopper...not good at all! Tracker is such a gooooooooood helper!

WL: That reminds me of our Bible lesson last week. There was a man who was God's helper. Kids, what was his name? **(John the Baptist)**

Cami: **(sounding a bit sassy)** I bet he wasn't as good as Tracker. Why was he such a big helper?

WL: He told others about Jesus.

Cami: Oh...well I guess that IS pretty important.

WL: Kids, let's tell Cami about how we told others about Jesus this week. *(hold up the colors of the Wordless Book and review key words with a brief explanation)*

Cami: That is amazing! Wait...wait...I gotta show ya somethin' Tracker gave me this week. He gave me a present...hold on... *(have Cami bring up a bouquet of Wordless Book colored balloons)*

WL: Oh my, that is amazing!

Cami: Tracker has been tellin' people about these colors all week long.

WL: Oh my, that is beautiful!

Cami: These colors tell us about the gift of Jesus!

WL: We are going to talk more about this gift today in class!

Cami: That is super! I'm so excited! *(jumps up and down)* I can't wait!

WL: Neither can I, but before we have our Bible lesson, let's sing one more song.

Cami: Okay! I'll see ya later!

Transition: Jesus is God's gift to us! But He wasn't born in a beautiful castle or a big fancy house; Jesus was born where animals lived, and He had to sleep in a manger, which held food for animals.

Song 2: "Away in a Manger"

Pray

Bible Lesson Introduction

Pray: Have one child open your class in prayer. Have the child repeat after you if needed.

Find It: Today our lesson is in the book of Matthew. Is Matthew in the Old Testament or the New Testament? (NT)

Timeline: Can you find baby Jesus on our timeline? We can read about when He was born in the New Testament. *Point to the NT.*

Introduction to the Bible Lesson:

Have you ever received a very special gift? What was that gift? *Allow for a couple of quick answers.* Do gifts always last forever, or do they usually wear out or even break? Today we are going to discover the best gift you can ever receive. And this gift will last forever. It will never, ever wear out or break or get used up or get lost. Here is the greatest part: it is for everyone in this class! Let's celebrate by clapping! I'm going to open my Bible to the book of Matthew. Here we can learn about a very special gift God sent us. It all started long ago with a young woman named Mary.

Scripture Outline: Matthew 1:18 – 2:12

Mary, Joseph, and an angel

Paraphrase of Matthew 1:18-19:

Mary and Joseph loved each other, and they were going to get married. Before they were married, an angel from God told Joseph a special message while he was sleeping. Let's listen to what the angel said:

Read Matthew 1:21 *(verses 20, 22, 23 are included in the recap)*

Recap: The angel came to Joseph in a dream and told him to marry Mary. She was going to have a baby. Her baby would be God's Son, and His name would be Jesus, because He would save His people from their sins.

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. So, both Mary and Joseph did what God wanted them to do. Let's see what happened next!

The Savior is born in Bethlehem

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

Recap: Jesus was born! But where was He born? He was born in the city of Bethlehem.

Wise men from far countries come to worship and give gifts to Jesus

Read Matthew 2:1-2

Recap: After Jesus was born, wise men came from far away to find and worship Jesus. The wise men were very special men who were important and smart. They believed the Savior had been born when they saw His star in the sky.

Due to content, we will be skipping Matthew 2:3-8

Wise men worship

Paraphrase of Matthew 2:9-12:

The wise men 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 little boy, two or three years old, by the time they got there. They worshiped Jesus and gave Him very special, precious gifts of gold, incense, and myrrh because they knew that Jesus was the Savior of the world!

Conclusion

God promised to send His Son into the world to save us, and that's exactly what He did! 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! If you have not, you can ask Jesus today to forgive all of your sin and become the leader of your life. *Review the Wordless Book.*

Do Right and Feel Right

Christmas is a very special celebration for people who trust in Jesus and follow Him. We believe and know that God sent His one and only Son, Jesus, to save us from our sins, so we can feel the joy and excitement that comes from trusting in Him!

Review Questions: What did we discover today?

1. Who was Jesus' mother? (Mary)
2. Who was Jesus' earthly father? (Joseph)
3. Can you say John 3:16? ("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.")
4. Who is God's Son? (Jesus)
5. Where was Jesus born? (Bethlehem)
6. Why did God send Jesus as a gift to this earth? (To save us from our sins)
7. Why do you celebrate Christmas?

Discover Time

Transition to Discover Time: As we walk to Discover Time, let's pretend we are holding the newborn baby Jesus in our arms. Gently rock Him and be quiet, since newborn babies need to sleep.

Do Right: I will believe God sent His Son, Jesus, to save me from my sin.

Goal: To remember Jesus is a gift for us.

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

Location B: Sand Station

Supplies:

- Water (make sure sand is damp and will pack together)
- Buckets and shovels
- Clothespin baby Jesus dolls or cut outs of baby Jesus taped to craft sticks (see appendix)
- Small Christmas bows

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Demonstrate how to create a simple stable in the sand. Fill a bucket with damp sand, turn it over to create a sand mold, and then dig out the side of the sand mold to form a cave.
2. Have children create a simple stable in the sand, then place baby Jesus in the sand cave and gently place a bow on top of the stable.
3. As children work, remind them that Jesus was a gift to us from God!
4. Occasionally have children recite John 3:16 together as a group.

Optional: Take a picture of each child by their sand stable with baby Jesus. Print and give to parents or email to parents.

Classroom Review Time

Lead Teachers ~ Connecting the DT to the Lesson: Who is God's gift to us? (Jesus!)

Jesus is a gift to us, and He is a gift to the whole world. Let's clap and celebrate Jesus!

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

Reviewing the Know Right:

Supplies:

- Props from your lesson in a bag

Instructions:

1. Have children sit in a circle.
2. Say John 3:16 with the children as you tap a different child on the head for each word (similar to duck, duck, goose). When the last word is said, have that child run around the circle and pull something out of the bag to review the lesson.
3. Repeat until all props are reviewed.

Think Right activity while waiting for parents:

Supplies:

- One small gift box with an easy-to-open lid
- Wordless Book squares of paper (small enough to fit in the small gift box; put one color in the box before hiding it)

Instructions:

1. Have children sit at tables.
2. Have children place their heads down on the table while a leader hides the box. Note: If there are children who like to "peek" as you hide the box, remind them to keep their eyes closed. Have them put their face to the table and let them know that if you see them peeking, they cannot play the next game.
3. Once the box is hidden, have children play "I Spy" for the gift box.
4. When the box is found, have a select child (who didn't peek while hiding) open it. Act surprised as you find a page of the Wordless Book in the box. Have children quickly explain the color to you.
5. Have all children close their eyes as you re-hide the box. Insert different colors of the Wordless Book each time.
6. Repeat until all five colors are collected.

Optional: If you are still having problems with children peeking, gather all the leaders into a small huddle and only give one leader the gift. At the same time, have one leader hide the object and the other leaders pretend to be hiding the object. This will help ensure that the game will remain fun, and you won't have the "peeking" child always finding the object.

Lesson 4

Luke 5:1-11; Mark 3:13-19

Know Right:	Jesus chooses His helpers.
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 follow Jesus.
Feel Right:	I can feel happy when I follow Jesus.

GET READY!

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

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

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

Know Right: Jesus chooses His helpers

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:

- Do you recognize what an honor it is to teach children the Word of God? Take time to praise God for allowing you to serve Him this week.
- When prepping for this lesson, ask yourself, “How will I creatively make the Bible come alive for my children?”
- Please refer to the Children’s Ministry Resource Bible: page 1289 (Lesson: Fishers of Men); page 1548 (The Life of Peter).

Creative Ideas for the Bible Lesson:

1. Create a cardboard boat from a large box. Have children help act out each of the scenes with fish, nets, and more.
2. Create the outline of a boat on the floor using painter’s tape. Use a brown sheet for the land. Act out the lesson.
3. Use a flannel board.

4. As you read the Scripture passage, look for opportunities to incorporate sound, physical movement, and various voices into your lesson. This will help bring the Bible to life for your children.
5. Create the scene with a sand table – use action figures, fish crackers, and small nets.

GO!

Pre-Service Review Game

Worship Leaders will lead children in a review game. Game details are in the Resources Booklet.

Large Group Opening Time

Offering: We are going to worship God right now by giving our money. When we give our money to God, our church will use it to tell others about Jesus *(or insert a specific way your church will use the offering)*.

Think Right verse: John 3:16

Open your Bible and read the verse with great expression. Do you know where this verse is found in the Bible? (It is in the book of John) Do you think the book of John is in the Old Testament or the New Testament? (The New Testament) We've been working hard on this verse so we can always remember it and think about it wherever we are. Let's say it together. *Confidently lead the verse and actions.*

"For God (point up) **so loved** (hands over heart) **the world** (hands circled above head) **that He gave His one** (pointer finger) **and only Son** (point to the palm of each hand), **that whoever believes** (point to head) **in Him** (point up) **shall not perish** (shake finger and head) **but have eternal life** (thumbs up)." **John 3:16**

Transition: I love God so much...I want to do my best for Him.

Song 1: "I'll Do My Best"

Puppet Skit: Stop, drop, and follow

Prop: Small toy truck

WL: Hi there, Tracker. How are you doing today?

T: I'm doing super-de-duper good! *(laugh)* How 'bout you, _____?

WL: I'm doing good, too.

T: Ooo! Ooo! Let me show you my new toy truck. I gotted it yesterday!

WL: That's a pretty nice truck! Would you mind putting it aside so you can help me review the Wordless Book with the kids?

T: Ummmm...well, _____... I just got my new truck, and I want to play with it. *(begin to make truck noise and play with it)*

WL: Tracker, this is really important. Can you stop what you are doing, drop your toy, and follow my instructions?

T: *(pretend you are thinking...)* Okay. I will stop, drop, and follow.

WL: Good job, Tracker! After we review, you can play again.

T: *(to children)* Okay, kids, let's review our Wordless Book colors! I'll say what a color means and you can guess the colors. God loves us, and He made a place for us in heaven. (Gold) We all have sinned. (Dark) Jesus died for us. (Red) We can be clean from our sin. (Clean/white) We should grow to be more like Him. (Green)

WL: That was very good, Tracker and preschoolers! Now Tracker, you can keep playing as we sing our next song.

T: I'll see ya next week! Bye, friends!

Transition: Do you think you can stop, drop, and follow our big God? Hey, how big IS our God?

Song 2: "Bigger than Big"

Pray

Bible Lesson Introduction

Pray: *Before you begin your class, ask a child to open in prayer. Coach children in a simple prayer such as, "Dear Heavenly Father, help us to learn and obey what You teach us today. We love you. In Jesus' name, Amen." Encourage the other children to bow their heads, close their eyes, and fold their hands during the prayer out of respect towards God.*

Find It: Today I am going to open my Bible to the New Testament. I am going to look for the book of Luke. I will start to say all the books of the NT and when you hear me say Luke, I want you to jump up and clap! Luke is the third book in the New Testament. *Repeat several times.*

Timeline: *Point to pictures of Jesus in the NT as He walked and taught others.*

Introduction to the Bible Lesson:

A couple of weeks ago we learned about one helper named John the Baptist. Do you remember him? He wore camel's hair clothes and ate bugs. What was John the Baptist doing? (John the Baptist spent his time helping people get ready for Jesus) He told them that Jesus, the promised Savior, was coming. He told them to believe in Jesus, and he also talked about how Jesus would save people from their sin. Jesus did come, and He grew up to be a man. This week, we're going to learn about some men that Jesus chose to become His helpers. Let's open God's Word, the Bible, to learn more about these helpers.

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

Simon Peter is a helper/follower of Jesus

Read Luke 5:1-3

Recap: Jesus was near a lake, and He was teaching a whole crowd of people. They were getting very close to Him. He wanted to use a boat so he could sit in the boat and teach the crowd from the lake. He saw two boats. The fishermen were cleaning the boats, so that means that their work was all done for the day. They were probably tired from working hard and ready to go home. Simon Peter owned one of the boats. Jesus asked Simon Peter to take him out in his boat. Simon Peter did it! Could you imagine sharing your boat with Jesus?

Simon Peter follows Jesus when it doesn't make sense to him

Read Luke 5:4-5 (*use different voices as you read with great expression*)

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 very good fisherman. 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. Absolutely nothing!

Now Jesus, a carpenter - a man who makes things out of wood, was telling the fisherman how to catch fish. Even so, Simon Peter called Jesus "Master" and obeyed Jesus. He stopped what he was doing, dropped the nets into the water, and followed Jesus' instructions.

The catching of many fish

Read Luke 5:6-7 (*use different voices as you read with great expression*)

Recap: Simon Peter and his friends caught so many fish that their boats started to sink! Wow, how many fish do you think they caught? Jesus did a miracle! A miracle is something special that only God can do. *Have children clap.* Just think, if Simon Peter didn't obey Jesus, he and his friends would never have seen this awesome miracle.

Jesus loves Simon Peter, and He loves you, too!

Paraphrase of Luke 5:8-10a:

Simon Peter knew that he was just a regular guy - a person who is sinful and has troubles like every other person - but that Jesus is awesome and powerful. Simon Peter knew that he didn't deserve what Jesus had just done for him, but Jesus had done it anyway. Jesus loved Simon Peter, and He loves you, too. He loves _____ (*insert children's names*).

If we believe in Jesus, we need to become His helpers and follow Him wherever He wants us to go!

Paraphrase of Luke 5:10b-11:

Jesus wanted Simon Peter and the others to leave their jobs as fishermen and go with Him to help "catch" men and tell them about how to follow Jesus. Simon Peter stopped, dropped, and followed Jesus and started telling others about Him.

Jesus calls more to follow Him

Paraphrase of Mark 3:13-19:

Jesus chose a total of twelve helpers (disciples) and gave them a special job. Let's count to twelve. *Count to twelve together.* These men were going to follow Jesus, learn from Him, and help spread the Good News about Jesus to the whole world.

Conclusion

Simon Peter and his friends made the best choice ever. They really wanted to follow Jesus and be His helpers. They really wanted to tell people about how to get to heaven. Can you be a helper for Jesus even though you are a child? (Yes!)

Do Right and Feel Right

Are you willing to stop, drop whatever you are doing, and do what Jesus wants you to do? If you see a person who needs help, do you stop, drop what you are doing, and help them? If you see a person crying, do you stop what you are doing, go to that person, and ask how you can help or pray for them? If you hear about a person being sick, can you pray for them and color a picture for them?

People who trust in Jesus as their Savior love to be a helper for Jesus. But wait, what if you haven't trusted in Jesus? Let's all be helpers and review the Wordless Book so our friends can hear about Jesus. *Review the Wordless Book.*

Review Questions: What did we discover today?

1. Did Simon Peter share his lunch or his boat with Jesus? (His boat)
2. Did Jesus do a miracle by helping Simon Peter catch fish or frogs? (Fish)
3. Did Simon Peter obey Jesus? (Yes)
4. Did Simon Peter and his friends follow Jesus and become His helpers, or did they run away? (They followed Jesus and became His helpers)
5. Are you willing to be a helper and follow Jesus?

Discover Time

Transition to Discover Time: Let's walk to our Discover Time as we say, "We will follow Jesus!"

Do Right: I will follow Jesus.

Goal: To create a situation where children can be a helper/follower of Jesus.

Location A: Art Station

Supplies:

- Encouragement cards (on the front - pictures of happy items; on the inside - "God loves you and so do I!", John 3:16, and "From your friend, _____") (see appendix)
- Crayons
- Envelopes
- Stickers
- Pretend mailbox

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Have children make encouragement cards by coloring in the card, putting it in an envelope, adding stickers to the envelope and putting it in the mailbox.
2. Remind children that they are making the cards for some special people who need to be reminded of how much God loves them.
3. Have children sign their card with their first name and age (if possible). Leaders may need to help.
4. Thank children for being great helpers for Jesus.
5. After class, place the cards in a basket and drop off at a local nursing home.

Location B: Play-Doh® Station

Same activity as Location A

Classroom Review Time

Lead Teachers ~ Connecting the DT to the Lesson: You were all great helpers for Jesus! Let's pray for the people who will receive these cards. Let's pray that when they read John 3:16 they will be encouraged, and they will want to learn more about Jesus. *Stop and pray.* Can you be a helper for Jesus this week? Maybe you can call a friend and tell them about Jesus, or color another card for your neighbor. Being a helper for Jesus is an important, special job.

Reviewing the Know Right:

Supplies:

- Signs that say "No" (thumbs down) and "Yes" (thumbs up) (see appendix)

Instructions:

1. Place signs on different sides of the room.

2. As you review the lesson and ask the following questions, have children stand by the sign with the correct answer (yes/thumbs up or no/thumbs down). Add in additional questions as needed.
 - Jesus was teaching people the Word of God. (Thumbs up)
 - The boat belonged to a boy named George. (Thumbs down)
 - The boat belonged to Simon Peter. (Thumbs up)
 - Jesus told Simon Peter to stop catching fish and go home. (Thumbs down)
 - Jesus told Simon Peter to let out his nets to catch fish. (Thumbs up)
 - Simon Peter caught a bird in his net. (Thumbs down)
 - Simon Peter caught a lot of fish in his net. (Thumbs up)
 - Jesus asked Simon Peter and his friends to be His helpers. (Thumbs up)
 - Simon Peter and his friends stopped, dropped, and followed Jesus right away. (Thumbs up)

Optional: Have children stand up for “thumbs up” and sit down for “thumbs down.”

Think Right Activity while waiting for parents:

Supplies:

- Beanbags
- Bucket

Instructions:

1. Have children sit in a circle.
2. While you recite John 3:16 as a group, pass several beanbags.
3. When you finish reciting the full verse as a group, have children holding the beanbags, stand up, and recite the verse.
4. After children recite the verse, challenge them to toss the beanbags into the bucket.
5. Repeat the game until the last child is picked up.

Lesson 5

John 2:1-11

Know Right:	Jesus miraculously turns water into wine.
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 believe Jesus can do miracles.
Feel Right:	I can feel amazed when I think of 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. Today 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 children who will be sitting in your class this week. Pray that God will give you a clear understanding of Scripture and that the children 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:

- Definition of a sign: a powerful act of God.
- As always, you should have your own personal Bible open during the entire lesson, so children know that the account is coming from the Bible. Remember to read Scripture with great expression. This will encourage children to go home and tell their parents that they want to hear more.
- Remember when you teach, you are teaching the very Word of God to preschool children. It is a great honor and privilege!
- Please do not use actual wine for this lesson.

Creative Ideas for the Bible Lesson:

1. As the quarter advances, have a review prop box so you can quickly pull out items to remind children what we learned during the past weeks. Props ideas: a locust, a boat, wise men's treasures, etc.

2. Create a wedding atmosphere in your classroom. As you teach the lesson, act out this lesson with children focusing on how the people must have felt.
3. Use action figures or dolls to teach the lesson. If you don't have dolls or action figures, use lunch bags to create people. To make them look like they are from Bible times, use brown paper lunch bags. Use crayons, paper, or cloth to create their clothes. Stuff with paper, seal at the top, and then use twine to separate their heads from their bodies. Use crayons to draw on faces. To create the water to wine miracle, have a small amount of red Kool-Aid powder at the bottom of a clear container or jar. Pour in clear water and instantly watch the water turn red/purple.

GO!

Pre-Service Review Game

Worship Leaders will lead children in a review game. Game details are in the Resources Booklet.

Large Group Opening Time

Offering: We are going to worship God right now by giving our money. When we give our money to God, our church will use it to tell others about Jesus (*or insert a specific way your church will use the offering*).

Think Right verse: 2 Peter 3:18a

We have a new verse today! This verse talks to us about growing. Our bodies grow, the grass grows, and we can grow to be more like Jesus. Growing to be more like Jesus is called "growing spiritually." I'm going to read our new verse from the book of 2 Peter in the third chapter, verse 18. Listen carefully, some of you may already know this verse. *Read the verse.*

Let's stand up and learn the actions to this verse.

"But grow in the grace (raise up from a squatting position and raise hands up to sky) **and knowledge** (point to your head) **of our Lord** (point up) **and Savior** (other pointer finger up) **Jesus Christ** (point to the palm of each hand)." **2 Peter 3:18a**

Transition: The God that we learn about is big...bigger than big!

Song 1: "Bigger than Big"

Puppet Skit: Miracles

WL: Hi there, Tracker. How are you doing today?

T: I'm doin' good. Can ya guess what I saw last night?

WL: Um...a monkey?

T: Huh? Nooo...

WL: (*interrupts*) Um...a rocket ship?

T: What? Nooo...

WL: (*interrupts again*) Um...ok, ok...a purple rhinoceros riding a tiny bicycle?

T: _____! Let me just tell ya, ok?

WL: Well, you *did* ask me to guess!

T: I know, I know, but really, guess what I saw last night.

WL: Umm...

T: No! Don't guess! I'm gonna just tell ya! I saw the most amazing guy! He pulled a rabbit right outta a hat! An' then he sawed a woman right into two pieces! He was awesome and amazing!

WL: That sounds like a pretty neat magic act you saw, Tracker.

T: That was no act! He really did saw that woman into two pieces...and then he putted her right back together! He's like...like...like...a miracle worker!

WL: Whoa, Tracker. Those were not miracles you saw. Those were just tricks.

T: Whatcha' mean, _____?

WL: Magicians can't really saw someone in two and put them back together, Tracker.

T: Aw, shucks!

WL: If you want to know about someone who can do true miracles, we're going to learn about that today.

T: Really? Can you tell me about it later?

WL: I would love to, Tracker! We'll see you later, ok?

T: Ok! Bye, friends!

WL: Bye, Tracker. *(to children)* It's only through God's power that miracles happen. Who is God's Son? (Jesus) Jesus did many miracles while He was here on earth. Can you say the word "miracle"? *(have children repeat this word)* We are going to learn about one of them today!

Transition: Only our God can do miracles; that is why we fix our eyes on Him.

Song 2: "Fixin' My Eyes on You"

Pray

Bible Lesson Introduction

Pray: Be a role model and open your class with prayer. Remind the children who are sitting in class that when a child or leader prays, we should sit quietly, bow our heads, fold our hands, and close our eyes so we can pray along with the person leading in prayer.

Find It: Our lesson today comes from the New Testament in the book of John. Let's say the books of the New Testament up to John. *Have children repeat after you. Do this several times.*

Timeline: We are going to learn about something very amazing and exciting that happened while Jesus was here on earth. Can you find a picture of Jesus on the timeline?

Introduction to the Bible Lesson:

Do you remember what we learned about last week? Jesus was in a boat telling others about the one true God. He also called twelve people to follow Him. The men were His helpers, and they were called disciples. They followed Him, learned from Him, and helped Him. This last couple of weeks we've celebrated God's helpers like John the Baptist and Simon Peter and his friends. All of them were willing to stop, drop everything they were doing, and follow Him. Because they followed Him, His disciples saw the amazing things that Jesus did. They saw Jesus, God's only perfect Son, 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 another miracle. Remember, a miracle is something special only God can do.

Scripture Outline: John 2:1-11

Jesus and His disciples go to a wedding

Read John 2:1-2 with an adventurous voice

Recap: Where were Jesus, His mother, and His disciples going? (To a 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 (party) after the wedding. At the celebration, they serve special food like wedding cake, and they drink special drinks. But guess what happened at this party.

There is a problem!

Paraphrase of John 2:3a:

At this wedding, they drank wine, which is a drink made from grapes. While they were still celebrating, 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 special wedding, and they ran out of something to drink? You'd probably be disappointed or sad and ask why they didn't have any more. Everyone would be thirsty! *Have children act like they are thirsty and say, "I'm thirsty!"* That wouldn't be a very fun party, would it? Well, guess what? At this special wedding, someone came up with an idea. Let's keep reading.

Mary comes up with an idea

Read John 2:3

Recap: Do you remember Jesus' mother's name? (Mary) Did Mary know who Jesus was? (Yes, she did!) Remember how God's angel told Mary that she was going to have a baby who would be the Son of God? That would mean He was very powerful! 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 is God's all-powerful Son

Paraphrase of John 2:4-5:

Mary knew that Jesus was God, and she knew that He could take care of the problem of no more wine to drink. She told the servants to listen carefully to Jesus and do exactly what He told them to do.

Jesus prepares for the miracle

Paraphrase of John 2:6-7:

Jesus asked the servants to fill six stone jars with water. These jars were big and heavy. They could hold twenty to thirty gallons of water! That's a lot of water! The servants did what Jesus said. They filled the jars right to the very top. Jesus then used His power and turned the water into wine. He didn't even have to touch it!

The miracle

Read John 2:8

Recap: The servants brought the wine to the most important person at the wedding, and he tasted it. Do you think it was good? Let's find out.

Read John 2:9-11

Recap: Wow, this was the best wine ever! This was a miracle! Do you know what a miracle is? It's something only God can do! Just think, Jesus didn't show this miracle to everyone. He did show the servants, His disciples, and His mother what He had done. And now His disciples put their faith (trust) in Him!

Conclusion

Mary, Jesus' mother, knew Jesus was all-powerful; the servants followed every instruction Jesus gave; the disciples followed Jesus; and they all got to be part of this miracle. They were able to see and

celebrate God's power! That miracle was just the beginning. Jesus did many other miracles while on this earth so people would know He was the true Son of God.

Do Right and Feel Right

Does Jesus still do miracles today? (Yes) Has Jesus ever done a miracle in your life? If you are a Christian, which means you have asked Jesus to be the leader of your life, He has done a miracle...when you asked Jesus to forgive your sins and make 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 forgive your sins and give you eternal life. If He has done this for you, you can feel amazed and celebrate His power. 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?

Review Questions: What did we discover today?

1. Where did Jesus, His disciples, and His mother go? (They went to a wedding)
2. What was the problem at the wedding? (They ran out of wine at the celebration)
3. Who did Jesus' mother talk to about the problem? (Jesus)
4. Jesus told the servants to fill up the pots to the top with what - water or stones? (Water)
5. What did the people of the banquet say about the wine - was it good or bad? (Good)
6. When Jesus turned the water into wine, it was a miracle. Has Jesus done any miracles in your life? What?

Discover Time

Transition to Discover Time: On the way to Discover Time, periodically shout "Jesus is powerful!" and have children make strong muscle arms.

Do Right: I will believe Jesus can do miracles.

Goal: To help children understand that Jesus is all-powerful.

Location A: Chalk Wall or Blackboard

Setup instructions: In advance, make outlines of waves and clouds with chalk or painter's tape.

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Have children stand by the chalk wall.
2. Ask the following:
 - a. How powerful is Jesus? (Have children yell back "Jesus is **powerful!**")
 - b. Can you color in the waves? (Children could also draw in extra waves)
 - c. Who can calm the waves in the ocean? (Jesus!)
 - d. Is Jesus powerful? (Have children yell back "Jesus is **powerful!**")
 - e. Can you color in the big clouds above the water? (Children could also draw in extra clouds)
 - f. Can you make rain come from the clouds? (Show children how to make rain, then have them draw rain)
 - g. Who can make the storms go away? (Jesus!)
 - h. Is our Jesus powerful? (Have children yell back "Jesus is **powerful!**")
 - i. Can you make a cross? (Draw the outline of a cross or several crosses; or show children how to make a cross, then have them color in the cross)
 - j. Did God send His Son, Jesus, as a baby so He could save us from our sin? (Yes)
 - k. Is our Jesus powerful? (Have children yell back "My Jesus is **powerful!**")

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

Classroom Review Time

Lead Teachers ~ Connecting the DT to the Lesson: During our Discover Time, we were reminded that Jesus is powerful. Our all-powerful Jesus can do miracles whenever He wants. This reminds me of a story of a little girl who was very sick in Peru. All the children and leaders prayed, and she was no longer sick. That is a miracle.

I also know of a man who had no food to feed his family. The whole family sat by the dinner table and prayed. After they prayed, a person came and dropped off food by their door. This is a miracle! God does many miracles even today; we need to remember to look for them and then celebrate when we see them.

Hold up the Wordless Book. Every time a person prays and asks Jesus to forgive their sins, it is a miracle, because their sins are forgiven forever!

Note: If your DT was in the Mission Station, please highlight how it connects to the Bible lesson.

Reviewing the Know Right:

Instructions:

1. Have children squat down.
2. When you ask a review question, the children who know the answer should pop up. The answer will be “yes” or “no”. See how many children can pop up at the same time.
3. Repeat questions several times so children are confident with the answers.
 - Jesus went to a wedding. (Yes)
 - Jesus was with His mother. (Yes)
 - At the wedding, they ran out of cake. (No)
 - At the wedding, they ran out of chairs. (No)
 - At the wedding, they ran out of wine. (Yes)
 - Jesus asked the servants to bring only one jar. (No)
 - Jesus asked the servants to bring six jars. (Yes)
 - Jesus asked the servants to fill the jars with juice. (No)
 - Jesus asked the servants to fill the jars with water. (Yes)
 - Jesus turned the water into wine. (Yes)
 - This is called a miracle! (Yes)

Optional: Add in additional questions based on the lesson.

Think Right Activity while waiting for parents:

Instructions:

Play a game with the children called “Repeat after me”. You will mention situations that happen throughout a preschooler’s day when they could think about their new verse, and then they will repeat 2 Peter 3:18a.

1. Have children pretend they are sleeping. Recite 2 Peter 3:18a quietly to the children and then have them whisper the verse back to you.
2. Have children pretend they just woke up. Say the verse and have children repeat it while they are stretching.
3. Have children pretend they are eating breakfast. Say the verse and have children repeat it while they pretend to eat breakfast.
4. Repeat through all the activities of the day (going to the grocery store, running at a park, brushing the dog, watching TV, etc.) until you pretend to return back to bed at night.

Lesson 6

John 3:1-21

Know Right:	Jesus talks to Nicodemus about heaven.
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 know Jesus is the only way to heaven.
Feel Right:	I can feel happy when I think about heaven.

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 to serve, pray specifically that the Gospel will be clearly presented, and that God will open their ears and hearts to the truth. Pray that this week your class will be full of regularly attending children and visitors.

Read: John 3:1-21

Know Right: Jesus talks to Nicodemus about heaven

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 - Jesus is the only way to heaven.

GET SET!

Lead Teacher's Notes:

- This is a short lesson for preschool children and will be paraphrased for the majority of the lesson. Use one or more of the suggested optional “creative ideas” for the lesson. Do not read this lesson to your children, but instead teach the lesson with excitement and great expression.
- Pronunciation of Nicodemus: (nick-oh-DEE-mus)
- 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).
- It is important to use the Wordless Book and its specific colors during this lesson, so you do not confuse the children on the salvation message. If you are not confident with the Wordless Book material, reach out to your children's ministry leader for assistance.

Creative Ideas for the Bible Lesson:

1. Teach the lesson first and then review it by using Wordless Book colors on different walls in your classroom (large poster boards or plastic tablecloths). As you review the lesson, have children stand under the color you are referring to.
2. Have a parent or leader come to class dressed as Nicodemus and teach the Bible lesson from a first-person perspective. Dim the lights and put stars in the sky to create an evening discussion.
3. Use props as you teach the lesson, including: a scroll, water to wine (use a clear bottle of water and then drop in food coloring), and large pages of the Wordless Book. *This idea is written into the lesson.*

GO!

Pre-Service Review Game

Worship Leaders will lead children in a review game. Game details are in the Resources Booklet.

Large Group Opening Time

Offering: We are going to worship God right now by giving our money. When we give our money to God, our church will use it to tell others about Jesus (*or insert a specific way your church will use the offering*).

Think Right verse: 2 Peter 3:18a

I'm thinking of a verse about growing. The address for the verse that talks about growing in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ is 2 Peter 3:18a. Can you say the address "2 Peter 3:18a" while jumping up and down? *Have children say the reference, 2 Peter 3:18a, not the entire verse.* With your hand on your head? Can you say it while standing on one leg? Can you say it facing backwards? *Turn around.* Can you say it with your finger in your ears? Great job reciting the reference. Now, let's try saying the whole verse with hand motions.

"But grow in the grace (raise up from a squatting position and raise hands up to sky) **and knowledge** (point to your head) **of our Lord** (point up) **and Savior** (other pointer finger up) **Jesus Christ** (point to the palm of each hand)." **2 Peter 3:18a**

Transition: We should grow by reading our Bible and doing what it says. This helps us fix our eyes on Jesus.

Song 1: "Fixin' My Eyes on You"

Puppet Skit: Heaven is a happy place

Prop: Wordless Book

WL: Let's see if Tracker is here today. (*call Tracker with the children*)

(*Tracker comes up, looking super happy*)

WL: Hi, Tracker!

T: Oh, hi ya', _____.

WL: Tracker, what's up? You look happy about something.

T: I'm super-de-duper happy!

WL: Why are you so happy?

T: Well, my grammy just told me a bunch of cool things that are gonna be in heaven! Golden shiny streets, no PJ's cause there is no nighttime, no medicine, no itchy eyes because of my allergies, and guess what? Here is the best thing about heaven - we will be able to see Jesus!

WL: Whoa, Tracker! That sounds so awesome!

T: Yeah, Grammy says that everyone who believes in Jesus can go there someday. The more I'm learnin' from my Bible, like 2 Peter 3:18a says, the more I learn about heaven!

WL: Do you know 2 Peter 3:18a?

T: I sure do! Hey kids, let's say it together: 2 Peter 3:18a, "But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

WL: Excellent job everybody! The Bible tells me that we need to believe in Jesus to be forgiven of our sin. *(hold up the Wordless Book and highlight the dark, red, and clean pages)* When we are forgiven we can go to heaven someday! *(gold page)*

T: I always thoughted the park was fun, but now I can't wait to go to heaven someday! *(jump up and down)*

WL: The Bible tells us that heaven is real, and it is a very happy place! Today in our Bible lesson we are going to learn more about heaven and how to get there.

T: See ya, friends. I think I hear Grammy callin' me!

Transition: How do we get to heaven? We believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. Do you remember John 3:16? This also tells us that we must believe in Jesus to be saved.

Song 2: "John 3:16"

Pray

Bible Lesson Introduction

Pray: Ask children if God hears them when they pray. Have children close their eyes and think about God as you open your class in prayer.

Find It: Today we will be learning about a man named Nicodemus. Do we read about Nicodemus in the OT or the NT? (NT) Let's say the books of the New Testament up to the book of John. Have children count the books on their fingers up to the book of John. Repeat several times.

Timeline: Nicodemus lived a very long time ago. He lived at the same time that Jesus was on the earth. Can you find a picture of Jesus on the timeline?

Introduction to the Bible Lesson:

In last week's lesson, we learned about a special miracle that Jesus did. Do you remember what a miracle is? It's something only God can do. After Jesus turned the water into wine at the wedding party, He did more miracles and more people believed in Him. One man, who heard Jesus teaching and saw His miracles, wanted to know more about Jesus. His name was Nicodemus. Can you say Nicodemus?

Scripture Outline: John 3:1-21

Nicodemus comes to Jesus

Paraphrase of John 3:1-2:

The Bible tells us that Nicodemus was a man who studied the Bible. *Show a scroll and explain that the Bible was written on scrolls. Pretend to study it.* He was very smart and even knew of Jesus' great miracles. *Show "water to wine" prop.*

But even though Nicodemus knew the Bible and knew something about Jesus, there was something missing. He didn't know how to really believe (trust) in Jesus as the One who saves us from sin. *Hold up the dark page of the Wordless Book.* He didn't know how he could get to heaven someday. *Hold up the gold page away from the dark page.* So, one night Nicodemus went to talk to Jesus. What do you think they talked about?

Jesus tells Nicodemus how to go to heaven

Paraphrase of John 3:3:

They talked about heaven. Jesus told Nicodemus that people must be "born again," which means they are changed on the inside. People need to be washed clean of their sins to be able to go to heaven someday when they die. *Show dark page and then cover with clean page.* Children, do you remember what the dark page and the clean page remind us of? (Sin and clean from sin) Nicodemus was confused and didn't really understand what Jesus was talking about. *Scratch your head and look confused.* Jesus loved Nicodemus, and He wanted him to understand how to get to heaven. *Hold up gold page.* Jesus also loves you very much, and He wants you to know how to get to heaven.

Jesus explains what it means to be born again

Paraphrase of John 3:4-9:

Jesus continued to talk to Nicodemus and told him more about how he could go to heaven. Heaven is where Jesus lives and where there is no sin. Heaven is a happy place. In heaven, there is no sickness, no fighting, no loneliness, no being sad or mad. Isn't heaven a great place?

But there is one thing that separates us from heaven (*show gold page*), and that is called sin. *Show dark page.* There is no sin in heaven. When we choose to do things our way instead of God's way, we sin. We learn from the Bible that we have all sinned. Let's stand up and say Romans 3:23, "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Let's say it again with a very sad face. Sin is being sassy to your parents or leaders, not sharing, telling a lie, hitting, or fighting. *Show dark page.* All these sins deserve a big punishment. What is this big punishment? (Not going to heaven) *Have children make a very sad face.*

But wait! God loves us so much He gave us a chance to be forgiven, or clean from our sins so we can go to heaven. *Have children clap as you hold up the clean page of Wordless Book.* Nicodemus was still having a hard time understanding and believing it. Let's find out what Jesus told him next.

Jesus confirms that He is the only way to heaven

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 that Jesus was the Savior. Jesus was trying to explain this to him, but Nicodemus had a hard time believing it. Do you believe Jesus when He says that He is the only way to have eternal life in heaven?

Jesus tells Nicodemus the Good News again

Paraphrase of John 3:16-18:

Wait, this reminds me of a verse we learned! Let's all stand up and say John 3:16. *Have children stand*

up and say John 3:16. This verse says, “Whoever believes in Him” - that’s Jesus. Jesus is the only way to heaven.

This is exactly what Jesus told Nicodemus. *Point to the verse in your Bible.* Even though we disobey God, He loves us, and He sent Jesus to take the punishment for our sins. If a person believes in Jesus and asks Him to be the leader of their life, they can become part of God’s family and have eternal life (which means they will live forever and ever) 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 family. They don’t get eternal life with God, and they will be separated from Him forever in a very terrible place.

Hold on, does this mean if you ask Jesus to take away your sins today, you will go to heaven today? No, Jesus wants you to stay with your mom and dad as long as possible so you can tell others about Him. But at the right time, when you die, you don’t have to worry or cry, because you can go to heaven. This is great news! 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

Paraphrase of John 3:19-21:

Many people don’t believe in Jesus because they don’t want to change and obey God. They want to do things their own way. They don’t want to follow Jesus and do things His way. They want their own way. This is sad. Let’s pray right now and ask God to help us want to follow and love Jesus and do things His way. *Say a short prayer for the children in your class.*

Conclusion

What ever happened to our friend Nicodemus? He heard how to go to heaven, but did he believe? The Bible never tells us exactly what happened. I wish we could say he believed, but we will not know until the day we get to heaven.

Do Right and Feel Right

Do you believe Jesus is the only way to heaven? Have you asked Him to forgive your sins and be the leader of your life? If you have, you can feel happy that you are part of God’s family and that you have a special place ready for you when you get to heaven.

Review Questions: What did we discover today?

1. Did Nicodemus study the Bible? (Yes)
2. Did Nicodemus go to talk with Jesus during the day or at night? (At night)
3. Did Nicodemus know how to get to heaven? (No)
4. Is there one way or two ways to heaven? (One)
5. What verse teaches us God sent Jesus so we can be saved from our sins? (John 3:16)
6. Do some people choose to do things their own way instead of following Jesus? (Yes)
7. Have you asked Jesus to forgive your sins and be the leader of your life?

Discover Time

Transition to Discover Time: Heaven is going to be a wonderful place. Let’s think about things that will be in heaven: Jesus, happy people, music, animals, food, mansions, friends who love Jesus, etc.

Do Right: I will know Jesus is the only way to heaven.

Goal: To reinforce that Jesus is the only way to heaven.

Location A: Food Station

Supplies:

- Plates (one per child)
- Snacks in Wordless Book colors such as: banana slices (yellow), raisins (dark), strawberries (red), string cheese (white), grapes (green)

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Say: Nicodemus learned there was only one way to heaven. As we eat our Wordless Book snack, let's review how we can go to heaven.
2. Give items out as you review the Wordless Book. As children answer questions about the Wordless Book, they can eat the snack that matches the questions.
3. Remind children that Nicodemus had to make a choice to believe it...or not.

Location B: Water Station

Supplies:

- Dessert-sized plastic plates in Wordless Book colors (one set for each team; set on team line)
- Plastic cups in Wordless Book colors (one set per team; should be floating in the water)
- Cone and line for each team
- Optional: nets



Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Divide children into teams of five.
2. Each team should have the Wordless Book colored plates on their team line.
3. Team members should relay to the water one at a time to pick up a Wordless Book colored cup.
4. When children pick up their cup, they should match it to the correct colored plate.
5. Each team should end up with a complete set of Wordless Book cups matching their Wordless Book plates.
6. Remind children that this is the Good News Jesus told Nicodemus.

Alternate Discover Time Activity: Open Area

Follow the instructions for Location B (Water Station), but use existing materials for the Wordless Book matching activity (i.e. Wordless Book cards, colorful paper, bean bags in Wordless Book colors, etc.)

Classroom Review Time

Lead Teachers ~ Connecting the DT to the Lesson: Today we learned in our Bible lesson about a man named Nicodemus. When he asked about how to get to heaven, what did Jesus tell him? *Review the Wordless Book with the children and invite them to make a decision to receive Jesus as their Savior. Can you tell others about the one and only way to heaven?*

Reviewing the Know Right:

Supplies:

- Beanbag or glow ball

- Fun praise music (see Resources Booklet for suggestions)

Instructions:

1. Have children sit in a large circle.
2. Pass the beanbag or glow ball around as the music plays.
3. When the music stops, whoever is holding the beanbag answers the question.

Sample Questions:

- What was the name of the man Jesus was talking to? (Nicodemus)
- Did Nicodemus study the Bible? (Yes)
- Did he understand how to get to heaven? (No)
- Who explained how to get to heaven? (Jesus)
- What is sin? (Anything we think, say, or do that is against God)
- Did Nicodemus sin? (Yes)
- Do we sin? (Yes)
- What must we do to be saved from our sins? (Believe in Jesus)
- What happens when we believe? (We change)
- What is heaven like? (Perfect, happy)
- What is not in heaven? (Sin)

Think Right Activity while waiting for parents:

Option 1

Supplies:

- Tracker Jr.

Instructions:

1. Use the Tracker Jr. take-home paper to review the lesson with children at the tables.
2. Show children how to do the activities and read some of the information to them.
3. Encourage them to ask their parents to do the Tracker Jr. with them at home.

Option 2

Instructions:

1. Have children squat down.
2. Ask questions based on the Think Right verse. Questions can be fill-in-the-blank for the verse or specific questions about the verse.
3. If they answer a question correctly, have them grow a little and freeze.
4. Continue with additional questions until children have stretched to the sky.
5. If time permits, include questions about the lesson and the Wordless Book.
6. Repeat as time permits.

Leader Tip: *The average parent only sees the first two minutes of the class (drop off) and the last two minutes of class (pick up). Doing an organized review game or activity demonstrates to parents the value we place on total time teaching.*

Lesson 7

John 10:14-30

Know Right:	Jesus teaches about the Good Shepherd.
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 know that Jesus loves me.
Feel Right:	I can feel peaceful when I know that Jesus loves me.

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 children 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 children 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 to follow Him, no matter what. For this reason, I will believe that Jesus, the Good Shepherd, loves me.

GET SET!

Lead Teacher's Notes:

- Before you begin to prepare your lesson, pray specifically for the children in your class, just like a good shepherd.
- The better prepared you are, the more you can invite children to interact with the lesson. The more you apply the lesson to your own life in advance, the more passionate you will be about teaching the lesson.
- This lesson will be different from our usual lessons. Instead of going through a passage of Scripture, we will do more of a topical study of the role of the sheep and the shepherd.
- Take time to pray for the children who did not attend your class last week. Pray for perfect attendance this week!

Creative Ideas for the Bible Lesson:

1. Have a stuffed sheep sit on your lap during the lesson. Continually pet the sheep and act like you are a good shepherd to the sheep. Don't have a sheep? Use a sock with cotton balls attached to it or a white balloon with paper feet attached. *This idea is written into the lesson.*
2. Use props such as grass, bandages, a shepherd's hook, etc. to bring your lesson to life.
3. Give all children their own little sheep (a cotton ball with two wiggle eyes). Have them pretend 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. At the end of class, have them take their sheep home; challenge them to be a good shepherd to the sheep all week.
4. Use a flannel board to teach the lesson.

GO!

Pre-Service Review Game

Worship Leaders will lead children in a review game. Game details are in the Resources Booklet.

Large Group Opening Time

Offering: We are going to worship God right now by giving our money. When we give our money to God, our church will use it to tell others about Jesus (*or insert a specific way your church will use the offering*).

Think Right verse: 2 Peter 3:18a

I'm looking for a verse in the Bible that teaches me that I need to grow. *Start looking in your Bible while looking confused.* I think it's in 2 Peter. Does anyone know what verse I'm talking about? (2 Peter 3:18a) *Leaders can give hints to the children if necessary.* What verse? (2 Peter 3:18a) *Children should yell it out.* You are right! *Read the verse from your Bible.* This verse teaches us that we need to keep learning more and more about Jesus. Let's all stand up and put our hands on our head as we say the verse. Let's say it quietly and do the actions. Let's do it loudly with the actions.

"But grow in the grace (raise up from a squatting position and raise hands up to sky) **and knowledge** (point to your head) **of our Lord** (point up) **and Savior** (other pointer finger up) **Jesus Christ** (point to the palm of each hand)." **2 Peter 3:18a**

Transition: Today is the day we will worship God!

Song 1: "Today is the Day"

Puppet Skit: The Good Shepherd!

Props: *sheep sounds from behind stage (on a CD or on an electronic device); the Worship Leader needs a phone*

Scene: *A herd of sheep just invaded Tracker's house. Children will never see the sheep, but they will hear the sheep. Tracker should be looking down at the sheep occasionally throughout the skit. The sheep sounds can continually repeat throughout the skit.*

WL: Hey, kids! Wait...do you hear that? Listen! I think I hear sheep! *(sheep sounds should be coming from behind the stage)*
 T: *(Tracker pops up looking very concerned)* Oh my! Oh my! Oh my! There are sheep back here!

WL: Take it easy, Tracker! Where did they come from?
 T: I'm not sure, _____, but they are eatin' all my candy bars and Cheerios!!! Ahhhh! This is awful!

WL: Tracker, do you see a *shepherd* nearby?
(Tracker should disappear, like he is looking, and slowly reappear)
 T: Yes! No! Wait.... I don't know! What's a shepherd?????

WL: A person who should be watching and caring for the sheep.
(Tracker should disappear, like he is looking, and reappear)
 T: Nope...NO shepherd! And now they are eatin' my shoes. Ahhhh!

WL: Take a deep breath...we will call a shepherd on my phone.
 T: Hurry...I think one is getting' sick! Too many candy bars! Make sure you get a really good shepherd who can help these sheep!

WL: *(act like you are talking on the phone)* Hello, we need a good shepherd right away in here! What? You only have "okay" shepherds? We've got lots of sheep here, and they're a bit out of control. We need a GOOD shepherd! These sheep need love and someone to care for them.
 T: Hey, _____, they are startin' to eat Cami's doll!!!! This is really bad!

WL: *(hangs up the phone)* A good shepherd is coming over right now.
 T: Thank you!!!! I've gotta run and shut my back door; they are starting to invite more friends to come in.

WL: I sure hope the good shepherd comes soon to take care of those sheep! Today we are going to learn from our Bible lesson about the BEST Shepherd ever. This Shepherd takes care of us!

Transition: Once we know the Good Shepherd, it is important that we always fix our eyes on Him.

Song 2: "Fixin' My Eyes on You"

Pray

Bible Lesson Introduction

Pray: Remind children that we fold our hands, bow our heads, and close our eyes so we can think only about God as we pray. Role model to the children how to pray as you open the class in prayer.

Find It: Ask the class if the book of John is in the Old Testament or New Testament. Have the children repeat after you while saying the books of the New Testament up to John. Repeat, and this time have children repeat the books of the Bible while pointing to their fingers. Throughout the lesson, ask the children to recite the first four books of the New Testament.

Timeline: Can you find a picture of Jesus on our timeline? We learn about Jesus in the New Testament.

Introduction to the Bible Lesson:

Last week we learned about Nicodemus. He was a man who wanted to know how to get to heaven. How do we get to heaven? *Review the Wordless Book by using only the dark, clean, and red pages; highlight that Jesus is the only one who can take away our sin.* When we trust in Jesus to save us from our sin, we are forgiven, and we can know for sure we will always be a part of God's family forever!

This reminds me of our Bible lesson today. It's from the book of John. Let's say the books of the New Testament up to John. *Point to your fingers as you recite the first four books of the New Testament.*

In the book of John, Jesus is going to talk about sheep! I brought my special sheep with me today. *Pull him out of a bag or box; have the stuffed animal or puppet sit on your lap; pet the sheep as you teach the lesson.*

What sounds do sheep make? *Have children make sheep sounds.* I'm not sure what you know about sheep, but I'll tell you a little about this sheep. This sheep's name is Fluffy. *Allow the children to pet the sheep.*

Did you know that Fluffy the sheep needs lots of care? He needs someone to show him where to get grass to eat. He needs someone to stop him from doing things that will hurt him, like getting too close to the edge of a cliff. He needs someone to protect him from animals like coyotes, mountain lions, and wolves. He also needs someone to go find him if he gets lost. Sheep need lots of help! The "someone" who does all that for their herd of sheep is called a shepherd. I guess you could say I'm Fluffy's shepherd.

Let me tell you what happened to Fluffy one day. I was in the field watching little Fluffy on a bright and sunny day. Then guess what happened. I saw him sniffing some flowers, and he started to wander off. He then began to run down a path that was going to lead to a dangerous river. So, I jumped up and ran super-fast after him and rescued him and brought him back to his safe bed. As he was lying in bed, I saw a small cut on his tiny hoof. He was hurt. I washed it and put a special medicine on it to help it heal. I really love Fluffy, and I want to keep him safe always. Do you think I'm a good shepherd for Fluffy?

In the Bible, Jesus talks about being the very best shepherd. He is not a shepherd to sheep but to us. We are like sheep, and He is like a shepherd.

Scripture Outline: John 10:14-30

Jesus is our Shepherd

Read John 10:14a

Recap: Who is our Shepherd? (Jesus is our Shepherd!)

The Good Shepherd knows His sheep

Paraphrase of John 10:14b:

Jesus knows His sheep! Wow, just like I know Fluffy, God knows you! He knows your hair color, your eye color, how tall you are, how high you can jump, and He even knows your favorite toy. God knows everything about you!

The Good Shepherd loves you

Paraphrase of John 10:15:

God loves you very much. *Hug your sheep.* He would do anything for you to keep you safe. Even though you can't see Him, He watches you, protects you, and if you have any problems, He wants you

to pray and talk with Him.

Due to content, we will be skipping John 10:16-26.

The sheep listen and follow the Good Shepherd

Read John 10:27

Recap: Did you hear that? The sheep listen to the Good Shepherd, and they follow Him. If God is our Good Shepherd, should we always do what He says? (Yes!)

The Good Shepherd never leaves His sheep

Paraphrase of John 10:28-29:

Fluffy is my favorite sheep, but usually I just leave him at home. I'm just an okay shepherd. But Jesus is the best Shepherd. He never leaves us, and He loves us! For those who believe in Him, He will always be with you, both now and even when you go to heaven. There is nothing that can separate you from Him. He will be with us forever and ever and ever. If you believe in Jesus, He is your Good Shepherd!

Conclusion

Jesus, the Good Shepherd, loves us more than we could ever imagine. Let's pray and thank Jesus for being the Good Shepherd. *If time permits, have several children stand up, pray, and thank Jesus for being the Good Shepherd.*

Do Right and Feel Right

We can feel peaceful knowing Jesus is the Good Shepherd, that He loves us, and will be with us forever!

Review Questions: What did we discover today?

1. Who is the Good Shepherd? (Jesus)
2. Who are the Good Shepherd's sheep? (People who believe in Jesus to save them from their sins)
3. Does the Good Shepherd actually know us? (Yes)
4. Does the Good Shepherd protect us? (Yes)
5. Will Jesus always be the Good Shepherd? (Yes)
6. Will Jesus, our Good Shepherd, ever leave us? (No)

Discover Time

Transition to Discover Time: As we walk to Discover Time, let's pretend we are sheep and our DT Leader is the shepherd.

Do Right: I will know that Jesus loves me.

Goal: To help children visualize the roles of a sheep and shepherd.

Location A: Play-Doh Station

Supplies:

- Cotton ball sheep with wiggle eyes attached (one per child)
- Large craft sticks, cut in half (four pieces per child)

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Give each child a cotton ball sheep.
2. Have children, the "shepherds", name their sheep.
3. Have the shepherds use the craft sticks and Play-Doh to make a pen/house for their sheep.
4. As the shepherds work, walk around and ask each of them what they named their sheep and how this house/pen will protect their sheep.



- Throughout the activity, remind children to be good shepherds to their sheep.
- Have children put away the Play-Doh and then carefully and safely carry their sheep back to class.

Location B: LEGO Station

Supplies:

- Green LEGO boards (one per child)
- LEGO bricks
- Cotton ball sheep with wiggle eyes attached (one per child)

Advanced planning: Build a base for a pen/house on each LEGO board, so children can just add to the foundation.

Instructions for the DT Leader:

- Give each child a cotton ball sheep.
- Have children, the “shepherds”, name their sheep.
- Have the shepherds make a pen/house for their sheep with LEGO bricks.
- As the shepherds work, walk around and ask each of them what they named their sheep and how this house/pen will protect their sheep.
- Throughout the activity, remind children to be good shepherds to their sheep.
- Have children clean up the LEGO Station and then carefully and safely carry their sheep back to class.

Classroom Review Time

Lead Teachers ~ Connecting the DT to the Lesson: What do you have in your hand? What is your sheep’s name? *Admire how all the children are caring for and loving their sheep, just like Jesus cares for and loves us both now and forever. Tell the children they can take their sheep home and play with it and care for it there.*

Reviewing the Know Right:

Supplies:

- Small white boxes or boxes wrapped in white paper (boxes should not have a top)
- Crayons
- Easter grass

Instructions:

- Allow children to color a house for their sheep.
- Place grass in each box to make a bed.
- Remind children that, as a good shepherd, they should watch and protect their sheep.
- Ask the following:
 - Who is our shepherd? (Jesus)
 - Does Jesus love you? (Yes)
 - Should you listen to Him? (Yes)
 - Should you obey Him? (Yes)

Think Right Activity while waiting for parents:

Supplies:

- The Good Shepherd board game (see appendix)
- Spinner (or die) for each table
- Cotton ball sheep (each child should have one from DT)

Instructions:

- Have children sit at tables.
- Each child will receive a board game and should place their sheep at the start of the path.
- The table leader will have all children recite 2 Peter 3:18a together and then select a child who said the verse to spin the spinner or roll the die. Whatever the number, have all children at the table move their sheep.
- Repeat until the sheep have completed their walk on the path.

Optional: Say the verse and leave out a keyword. A child who knows the word could spin the wheel.

Lesson 8

John 4:1-42

Know Right:	Jesus teaches the Samaritan woman about living water.
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 tell others about Jesus.
Feel Right:	I can feel courageous when I choose to tell my friends about Jesus.

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 children 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 children.

Pray: Pray that the children in your class 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 Jesus.

GET SET!

Lead Teacher's Notes:

- The better prepared you are, the more you can invite children to interact with the lesson. The more you apply the lesson to your own life in advance, the more passionate you will be about teaching the lesson.
- Before you prepare this week, pray Proverbs 2:1-11 for your children.

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. To make a well, use shoe boxes or cardboard blocks as "bricks"; or put chairs in a circle and cover them with brown sheets to represent the well with a blue blanket in the center to represent water; or use a large round cooler wrapped in brown paper.
2. Create a well and have a surprise guest - a woman sitting at the well - when you arrive at the classroom. (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. Or, throughout the lesson, ask how she felt, what happened, what she was doing, etc.

GO!

Pre-Service Review Game

Worship Leaders will lead children in a review game. Game details are in the Resources Booklet.

Large Group Opening Time

Offering: We are going to worship God right now by giving our money. When we give our money to God, our church will use it to tell others about Jesus (*or insert a specific way your church will use the offering*).

Think Right verse: 2 Peter 3:18a

What color of the Wordless Book reminds us of growing? (Green) How can we grow to know Jesus more? *Have children give answers such as going to church, praying, listening to others teach us the Bible, memorizing verses and thinking about them, etc.* Let's say our verse, 2 Peter 3:18a.

"But grow in the grace (raise up from a squatting position and raise hands up to sky) **and knowledge** (point to your head) **of our Lord** (point up) **and Savior** (other pointer finger up) **Jesus Christ** (point to the palm of each hand)." **2 Peter 3:18a**

Transition: Because we can grow, let's celebrate!

Song 1: "Today is the Day"

Puppet Skit: Tracker shares the Wordless Book

Prop: Wordless Book

(Tracker comes up looking excited)

WL: Hey, Tracker! What's new with you?

T: Oooh oooh oooh! I'm so excited, _____! You're just never gonna believe what I did yesterday!

WL: What did you do yesterday, Tracker?

T: You know how we've been talkin' about tellin' people about Jesus using the Wordless Book?

WL: I sure do!

T: Well, my neighbor lady, Mrs. Fraggie, was over at our house yesterday an' she saw my Wordless Book sittin' on the counter an' she asked me what it was.

WL: What did you tell her, Tracker? *(WL should hold up the colors as Tracker talks)*

T: I told her all about it! I started with the gold page an' how much God loves us and how awesome heaven is an' how it's perfect because God is there. Then I told her that there's nothin' bad there an' so there's no sin. Then I turned to the dark page and told her that's bad news for us cuz we all sin an' the punishment for sin is to be away from God forever. But then I showed her the red page an' told her the Good News - that Jesus took the punishment we deserve when He died on the cross. Then I showed her the clean page. I told her that when we ask Jesus to save us from our sins, then He makes us clean, and God doesn't see our sins anymore. He sees that we trusted Jesus, and we are clean. Then I showed her the green page. I told her that God

loves us so much an' that He wants us to grow by prayin', readin' the Bible, an' by tellin' people about Jesus. I told her that she can pray an' ask Jesus to save her!

WL: Wow, Tracker! It's great that God gave you the chance to share that with your neighbor! What did she say?

T: She said she'd never hearded that before and that she needed to think about it. She said "thank you" for tellin' her about it.

WL: Do you know what you should do now, Tracker?

T: What?

WL: You should pray for her. Pray that God will use what you told her to help her ask Jesus to save her from her sin.

T: I never even thoughted about that.

WL: That's the most important part. Talking to God about people is the best thing we can do for them.

T: I'm gonna go pray for Mrs. Fraggie right now!

WL: Good idea! We'll see you later.

T: Ok, bye!

WL: Bye, Tracker! (*Tracker leaves; to children*) We can tell people about Jesus, too!

Transition: God loves every person in the entire world. That means He loves you and me! Let's sing "Jesus Loves Me."

Song 2: "Jesus Loves Me"

Pray

Bible Lesson Introduction

Pray: Each week, encourage a child to pray. Remind children that we fold our hands, bow our heads, and close our eyes out of respect to God as we pray. Remind children to remain focused on God, the One we are talking to while we pray.

Find It: Ask the class if they can say the first four books of the New Testament. Use your fingers to count the first four books with your children. Repeat several times.

Timeline: Point to people on your Bible timeline that you've studied in the NT so far this quarter.

Introduction to the Bible Lesson:

Do you have a friend who needs to learn about Jesus? Maybe they are in your preschool class, on your soccer team, or just a friend who lives next door to you. God has given you special friends so you can tell them about Jesus. But what about people you don't really know? Or what about people who may not even like you? Should those people learn about Jesus? Let's open the Bible to see what happened to Jesus and someone He met while He was taking a long walk.

Scripture Outline: John 4:1-42

The Samaritans

Paraphrase of John 4:1-3:

One day, while Jesus was on His way to Galilee, He stopped in the town of Samaria. *Optional: Have a bench and a city sign that says "Samaria" near the well.* The people who lived there were called the

Samaritans. Can you say “Samaritans”? Some people did not like the Samaritans because they were different from God’s special people, and they worshiped God in a different way.

The well

Read John 4:4-6

Recap: Jesus stopped at a well in Samaria to rest. This well belonged to Jacob and Joseph. Hmm, do you remember our lessons in the past about Joseph? He had a beautiful coat of many colors. *Point to the timeline.* This was his well, and even though he died many, many years ago, the well was still filled with water.

The woman at the well

Read John 4:7-9

Recap: As Jesus was resting at the well, a woman came to draw water from the well. She was probably thirsty and also needed to fill her jar with water for her family. *Optional: Have a girl from the class sit on the bench; put a clothing item on her to represent the Samaritan woman and provide her with a jar.* Jesus asked her for a drink of water.

The woman was surprised that He would ask her for a drink. *Have the girl and all the children and leaders in the room looked surprised.* She was surprised that Jesus would talk to her at all. Jesus’ family was from a different group of people than her family, and those groups of people didn’t like each other very much.

So, she thought that Jesus would want to stay away from her. But she didn’t understand that she was talking to Jesus, and He loves all people. Do you know that Jesus loves you? He loves _____! *Insert children’s names.* Because Jesus loved the Samaritan woman, He took time to tell her how to get to heaven.

Do you have friends, grandparents, or cousins whom you love very much that need to hear about Jesus? How can you tell them about Jesus? *Have children help you review the Wordless Book; use the correct verses that match the colors.* Jesus told the lady at the well about how to know and love the one true God.

Jesus tells the woman about living water

Paraphrase of John 4:10-26:

Have you ever played outside on a really hot sunny day? Your mouth gets really dry and you just need a cup of water to refresh you. You feel that, if you don’t get water, you will just die! Now imagine your mom coming out to where you were playing with a cup of cold water with big chunks of ice in it. How does that make you feel?

When Jesus talked to the woman, He said He was like living water. This means He is better than the water you can get in a cup. He will fill you up with joy, love, and peace, like nothing on this earth.

After you drink the water your mom gives you, it’s gone, right? But living water is different. Jesus will never run out; He will always be there. We learn in the Bible that Jesus told her He was the only way she could live forever. He is like “living water.” The woman wanted this living water; she wanted to believe in Him. But first Jesus needed to talk to her about her sin. This woman sinned in many ways.

Jesus explained how He was the one way to heaven. *Use the Wordless Book focusing on the dark, red, and clean pages.* After the woman believed in Jesus, she ran to town to tell others about how Jesus loved her and saved her from her sin. How fast do you think she ran? *Have children stand up and run in place as fast as they can.* That was really fast! *Have children sit down as quickly as they can to hear what happened.* Do you know what happened?

The Samaritan woman tells others about Jesus

Paraphrase of John 4:27-42:

She went and told others about Jesus, and they believed in Him, too! She truly believed that Jesus is

the Savior of the world.

Conclusion

Jesus is the Savior of the world. He loves us, He has done and will do miracles, and most importantly He wants us to be part of His family.

Do Right and Feel Right

Jesus loved the Samaritan woman. He loves each of us, too. We can believe in Jesus and then tell our friends and relatives about how awesome He is. Can you think of one person you can tell this week? *Allow children to share.* Let's ask Jesus to help us be bold and courageous in telling people about Him.

Review Questions: What did we discover today?

1. Did Jesus stop at a well or a park to rest? (He stopped at a well)
2. What was in the well? (Water)
3. Who came to the well when Jesus was there? (A woman)
4. Did Jesus love the Samaritan woman? (Yes)
5. After the woman believed in Jesus, what did she do? (She went to tell others about Jesus)
6. Can you tell others about Jesus?

Discover Time

Transition to Discover Time: Let's look for people on the way to our Discover Time. Whenever we pass someone, let's tell them, "Jesus loves you!"

Do Right: I will tell others about Jesus.

Goal: To help children see that telling others about Jesus is fun!

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

Location B: Sand Station

Supplies:

- Water (make sure the sand is damp)
- Tissue and/or cereal boxes made into buildings (see "Advance Planning" for tips)
- Toy cars and trucks (one for each child)
- Squares of Wordless Book-colored paper (one of each color per child, plus extra)

Advance Planning: To create buildings from tissue and/or cereal boxes, cut off the bottom of the box and then cover them with paper and draw on them to look like buildings (for example: a house, a zoo, a restaurant, a library, a school, a store, a gas station, etc.). Create a slot, approximately 4" wide, in the top of each box; also the top of each box should have a specific Wordless Book color so children can drop off a page of the Wordless Book that matches the top of the building. Note: Cutting off the bottom of the boxes will allow you to stick the buildings down into the sand and will make it easier to retrieve the Wordless Book squares by just lifting the box.

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. When children arrive at the Sand Station, talk about the places they like to go. Point to each building in the sand and ask if people need to hear about Jesus at these places.
2. Give each child a car and a set of Wordless Book-colored squares, and have them "drive" to different locations in the sand to tell others about Jesus.
3. When they arrive at a location, they can drop off a Wordless Book-colored square that matches the color highlighted on the top of the building. When they drop their card, they should say "God loves you."
4. As they are "driving", remind children that wherever they go, they can tell their friends about Jesus.
5. If children run out of Wordless Book colored cards, have them return to a central location, like a gas

station, to fill up with gas and get more Wordless Books to deliver.

Classroom Review Time

Lead Teachers ~ Connecting the DT to the Lesson: You did a great job of delivering Wordless Books to different locations where people need to hear about Jesus. Who needs to hear about Jesus? (Everyone!) Does Jesus love everyone? (Yes!) This reminds me of a verse about God's love for the world. Does anyone remember a verse about how God loves the world? (John 3:16) Let's stand up and say it together.

Note: If your DT was in the Mission Station, please highlight how it connects to the Bible lesson.

Reviewing the Know Right:

Supplies:

- Cooler filled with water
- Small cups
- Tray

Instructions:

1. Have children sit around the cooler of water.
2. Briefly review the Bible lesson and then begin to ask review questions.
3. If a child answers correctly, they can take a cup and fill it half full with water and place it on a tray.
4. When the tray is filled, the class can have a drink.
5. Repeat.

Think Right Activity while waiting for parents:

Option 1: Who has the button?

Supplies:

- Five green caps or buttons
- Fun praise music (see Resources Booklet for suggestions)

Instructions:

1. Have children sit in a tight circle.
2. Have one child sit in the middle of the circle and close their eyes.
3. Give five children the green caps or buttons.
4. Instruct the children to pass the buttons while the music is playing.
5. When the music stops, have all the children put their hands behind their backs.
6. The person in the middle can guess who has a button or cap.
7. The guesser only gets five chances to find the caps.
8. If they guess a person correctly, the child holding the button needs to share what the color means and the class will recite 2 Peter 3:18a together.
9. If they don't guess all five button holders, have all children open up their hands to show the guesser.
10. Have children switch spots and repeat.

Option 2

Supplies:

- Tracker Jr.

Instructions:

1. Use the Tracker Jr. take-home paper to review the lesson with children at the tables.
2. Challenge children to take the papers home and "teach" their parents the Good News about Jesus.

Lesson 9

John 9:1-38

Know Right:	Jesus heals a blind man.
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 believe God has a plan for me.
Feel Right:	I can feel excited 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 children in your class this week. Some children are going through difficult situations, and some are living great lives, but no matter the circumstances, they need the reassurance that God has a plan for each of them.

Read: John 9:1-38

Know Right: Jesus heals a 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).
- Here is a good article about exactly what the Pool of Siloam was, with a picture of the actual archaeological site: <https://www.biblicalarchaeology.org/daily/biblical-sites-places/biblical-archaeology-sites/the-siloam-pool-where-jesus-healed-the-blind-man/>
- 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.
- 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).

Creative Ideas for the Bible Lesson:

1. Create a timeline of props. Timeline props could include a baby with his eyes closed, beggars' clothing, mud in a jar (as you teach about the miracle, actually spit in the jar and create mud), and a

Wordless Book.

2. Create two stations in your classroom to go to with props representing different portions of the Bible lesson. See lesson for prop ideas. *This idea is written in the lesson.*

GO!

Pre-Service Review Game

Worship Leaders will lead children in a review game. Game details are in the Resources Booklet.

Large Group Opening Time

Offering: We are going to worship God right now by giving our money. When we give our money to God, our church will use it to tell others about Jesus (*or insert a specific way your church will use the offering*).

Think Right verse: 2 Peter 3:18a

Let's all say our verse! This verse is important because it reminds every one of us - even the leaders - that we should always grow to know God better so we can better understand God's plan for us.

"But grow in the grace (raise up from a squatting position and raise hands up to sky) **and knowledge** (point to your head) **of our Lord** (point up) **and Savior** (other pointer finger up) **Jesus Christ** (point to the palm of each hand)." **2 Peter 3:18a**

Review the verse by reviewing the actions several times. Who needs to hear this verse? (Parents, friends, neighbors, etc.) Let's say our verse one more time so when we see these people, we can say our verse.

Transition: When we say God's Word, we should do our best. This reminds me of a song.

Song 1: "I'll Do My Best"

Puppet Skit: Bibleman

Prop: Tracker should wear a cape to look like a superhero.

(Tracker comes up looking excited)

WL: Hey, Tracker! What's new with you?

T: Well, I gots another verse memorized, _____!

WL: Really? That's awesome! You have lots of verses memorized now, don't you?

T: I sure do! I'm like Bibleman! I know all of 2 Peter 3:18a. Do you guys?

WL: Let's say it all together: 2 Peter 3:18a, "But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." Very good! Tracker, what's another verse you've memorized?

T: Bibleman even knows a verse from last summer! Joshua 1:9. Kids, do you remember this verse?

WL: Let's say it together: Joshua 1:9, "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

T: Super-de-duper awesome! Hey, Bibleman knows another verse! John 3:16. *(to the children)* Do you guys know that verse?

WL: We sure do, don't we kids? Tracker, can you tell us what it says?

T: *Can the kids help me again?*

WL: Sure! Let's say it together. John 3:16, "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."

WL: That's so awesome, Tracker! You are Bibleman!

T: *That's right, I sure am! Time for me to fly outta here! (acts like he flies away)*

Transition: Our God is big! When we do what He teaches us in our verses, we are following God's perfect plan for our lives.

Song 2: "Bigger than Big"

Pray

Bible Lesson Introduction

Pray: *Each week encourage a child to pray. Remind children that we fold our hands, bow our heads, and close our eyes out of respect to God as we pray. When a child prays, encourage them to ask God to help the teacher teach the lesson today.*

Find It: *Ask the class if they can recite the books of the NT up to John with you. Point to your fingers as you say: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John. Repeat.*

Timeline: *The purpose of the timeline is to challenge children to see the Bible as a big picture rather than individual lessons that do not connect. If possible, point to the timeline and review previous lessons.*

Introduction to the Bible Lesson:

God had a plan for many people we've learned about, like His disciples, Nicodemus, the woman at the well in Samaria, and the people at the wedding. Today, Jesus is going to teach us the truth about God's plan for us through a person who could not see. This man was blind.

Scripture Outline: John 9:1-38

Jesus sees the blind man

Have children walk to Station 1: A picture of a baby and a picture of a man with their eyes closed should be hanging on your wall.

Paraphrase of John 9:1-2:

As Jesus was walking along, He saw a man who had been born blind. This means his eyes didn't work. He could not see when he was a tiny baby, and he still couldn't see as he grew up to be a man. The man had never seen anything his entire life! Can you imagine that? *Have children cover their eyes.* He never saw his mom and dad or his brother or sister. To make things worse, many people thought he was born blind because he had sinned or because his parents sinned. Even Jesus' helpers thought that! Do you think they were right? (No!)

The man is born blind so people can see God at work

Paraphrase of John 9:3-5:

Jesus told His disciples that the man was not born blind because of his or his parents' sin. He was born blind so God could do something very special in his life. The next time you see someone who is blind or

has a disability, always remember that God loves everyone very much and has a very special plan for everyone. He has a special plan for your life, too! Let's see what Jesus did next.

Have children walk to Station 2: Have a male action figure, water or spit, a cup of dirt, jar, and a pool of water at the station.

Jesus heals the blind man

Read John 9:6-7 *Act out what happened with the props.*

Recap: Because Jesus loved the blind man, He took dirt and made 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! *Have children clap.* Was there something magical or powerful about the mud? (No!) The power to heal belonged to Jesus!

The people have a hard time believing the miracle

Read John 9:8-12

Recap: The people were so surprised that the blind man could now see, some of them wouldn't believe it was the same man. Jesus did a big miracle!

The unbelieving Pharisees get involved

Paraphrase of John 9:13-34:

But guess what happened? You would think everyone would have celebrated, but some people didn't. They were called the Pharisees, and they were men who thought they were better than everyone else – even Jesus! We will hear a lot about these people over the next couple of weeks.

The people took the healed blind man to the Pharisees. The Pharisees didn't love or believe in Jesus. They even doubted that Jesus healed the blind man for a long time. When they finally believed that Jesus healed him, they still weren't happy about the miracle. When the man kept telling them that Jesus was from God, and He had done a miracle, they kicked the man out of the synagogue - a place where they worshiped God. That's like someone telling you that you can't go to church anymore because you believe in Jesus! But guess what happened to the man next?

The healed man is saved and worships Jesus

Paraphrase of John 9:35-38:

When Jesus heard that the man had been kicked out of the synagogue, He found the man and asked him if he believed in Him. The man believed and worshiped Jesus. Jesus wants all to believe in Him, that is why He came into this world.

Conclusion

The man was born blind, but Jesus healed him, and then the man worshiped God! God knew since this man was a tiny baby what was going to happen to him. 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!

Do Right and Feel Right

Sometimes we have hard things happen in our lives, like the blind man did. Even when those hard things happen, God loves us, and He has a special plan for us. Most of all, He wants us to be saved from our sin so we can live forever someday in heaven with Him - then there will be no more hard things! Isn't that exciting?

Review Questions: What did we discover today?

1. Was the man in our lesson able to see? (No, he was blind)
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 believe in Jesus and go to the pool to wash the mud off)
4. Were the Pharisees happy that Jesus healed the blind man? (No)
5. Did the man believe in Jesus? (Yes)
6. Does God have a special plan for your life? (Yes)

Discover Time

Transition to Discover Time: God has a plan for all of us. I have a plan right now, and that is for us to go to our Discover Time.

Do Right: I will believe God has a plan for me.

Goal: To challenge children to remember the Bible lesson.

Location A: Water Station

Supplies:

- Blindfolds (one per child)
- Fishing poles
- Magnetic fish
- Buckets

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Have children sit down.
2. Say: We're going to see what it might feel like to be blind. This means we cannot see, just like the man in our lesson today.
3. Put blindfolds on children (they should remain sitting).
4. Say: Is it dark with your blindfolds on? When a person is blind, they cannot see anything. Today we are going to go fishing.
5. Give each child a fishing pole to hold.
6. Say: When you fish, would you like to see? This is how the man in our Bible lesson felt. He wanted to see. Let's take off our blindfolds. Are you happy you can see? This is how the man felt after Jesus did a miracle.
7. Allow children to stand up and fish, filling the buckets with fish.

Location B: Art Station

Supplies:

- Cardstock activity sheet with "God has a plan for me" and an outline of a child (see appendix)
- Brown, black, yellow, and orange yarn (in advance cut into pieces for hair)
- Glue sticks
- Crayons and/or washable markers

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Say: Did God have a plan for the blind man in our lesson today? (Yes!) God has a perfect plan for you, too. He made you very special. Let's make a picture of ourselves to remind us that God has a plan for each of us.
2. Have children glue on yarn hair (to match their hair color).
3. Using crayons or markers, have children draw their face and then color in their eyes and their clothes on their picture.

4. Throughout the activity, remind children that God has a plan for them. Maybe they will be missionary, a doctor, a mom, a dad, a schoolteacher, an airplane pilot, an electrician, etc.
5. Hang the pictures outside your classroom so you can remind children often during the upcoming weeks that God has a plan for them.

Classroom Review Time

Lead Teachers ~ Connecting the DT to the Lesson:

Water Station DT: What was it like to have a blindfold on your eyes? Were you happy to have the blindfold off when you were fishing? In our Bible lesson, was the blind man excited to see? (Yes) Who healed him? (Jesus)

Art Station DT: You did a great job creating pictures of yourselves! They are a great reminder that God has a plan for each of you, just like He had a plan for the blind man.

Reviewing the Know Right:

Supplies:

- Thirty-six stacking cups

Instructions:

1. Have children sit in a circle.
2. For each correct answer, a child will place a cup on the pyramid. Start with eight cups on the bottom and build up.
3. Sample questions:
 - Was the man in our lesson blind since he was a baby? (Yes)
 - Jesus used spit and something else to put on the man's eyes. What did he mix with the spit? (Dirt)
 - Where did the man wash off the mud? (In the pool)
 - Was everyone happy that Jesus healed the blind man? (No, at first some people didn't believe)
 - Did the man who was healed believe in Jesus? (Yes, and he worshiped Him)
 - Does God have a special plan for your life?
4. Repeat several times so all children can answer confidently.

Think Right Activity while waiting for parents:

Supplies:

- Wordless Book Matching Game (one for each table - see appendix)

Instructions:

1. Play the Wordless Book Matching Game at tables.
2. As you play, continually repeat key concepts. Repetition is key when helping children to remember important information.
3. As children match the correct colors and words, reinforce the key verse to match it.

Lesson 10

Mark 1:35; Matthew 6:5-13

Know Right:	Jesus prays and teaches how to pray.
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 talk to God through prayer.
Feel Right:	I can feel cared for when I talk to God.

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 children and present our requests to God.

Pray: Pray over the names of the children in your class. Ask God to protect them spiritually, physically, and emotionally this week and into the 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 Notes:

- Please refer to the Children's Ministry Resource Bible: page 1304 (The Disciples Learn to Pray), page 1498 (Talking with God), page 1499 (The Prayer Hand), page 1528 (Teaching Children to Have a Quiet Time).
- You may think it is obvious when we say, "Prayer is talking to God." But for many children this is a very new truth that will transform their life.

Creative Ideas for the Bible Lesson:

1. Create a big clock in your room and use it to talk about different times you can pray. *This idea is written into the lesson.*
2. Create a slightly dark location (to represent early in the morning) and have children actually walk to this quiet place for the lesson.

GO!

Pre-Service Review Game

Worship Leaders will lead children in a review game. Game details are in the Resources Booklet.

Large Group Opening Time

Offering: We are going to worship God right now by giving our money. When we give our money to God, our church will use it to tell others about Jesus (*or insert a specific way your church will use the offering*).

Think Right verse: 2 Peter 3:18a

I'm going to say a verse, and you tell me the address. *Recite 2 Peter 3:18a by memory to your children.* Where can we find this verse in the Bible? (2 Peter 3:18a) *After a child states the address, have all the children say it together with the actions. Have all the leaders clap and cheer for the children!*

"But grow in the grace (raise up from a squatting position and raise hands up to sky) **and knowledge** (point to your head) **of our Lord** (point up) **and Savior** (other pointer finger up) **Jesus Christ** (point to the palm of each hand)." **2 Peter 3:18a**

Transition: Memorizing God's Word is fun! We want to learn more about Him because we love Him and because He loves us!

Song 1: "Jesus Loves Me"

Puppet Skit: Tracker prays

T: (*Tracker comes up looking excited*) You guys will never, ever, ever, ever, EVER guess what you can do, any time you want to!

WL: Whoa, Tracker! You sound pretty excited about this!

T: I sound excited? (*loudly*) That's because I am super-de-duper excited!

WL: Ok, ok! What are you so excited about, Tracker?

T: I'm super-de-duper excited because I get to talk to God any time I want!

WL: You sure can. I'm glad you're excited to talk to God!

T: It is so awesome, isn't it, _____?

WL: I completely agree, Tracker. It is so awesome that we get to talk to the God who created the whole world, and He listens to us. Do you know what it's called when we talk to God?

T: (*acts like he can't believe WL is asking this question*) Um, wouldn't talkin' to God be called "talkin' to God"?

WL: It's called prayer, Tracker! And it's a very important part of life. If you have asked Jesus to forgive your sin and lead your life, then God is your Heavenly Father. Part of being His child is that you can talk to Him anytime and anywhere!

T: Hmm, I didn't even think about that. I just thought it was so cool that I could talk right to the God who made the mountains, ocean, birds...! But it's even cooler that He is my Heavenly Father!

WL: Yep! And you can talk to Him anytime. But it's really important to start your day with prayer.

T: That makes lots of sense, _____! You know what?

WL: What, Tracker?

T: I think I'm gonna go pray to God right now! See ya later!

WL: Bye, Tracker! (*to preschoolers*) How about you, kids? Do you talk to God? Today we're going to find out what Jesus had to say about prayer!

Transition: You can talk to God anytime, anywhere you want, because He is so big!

Song 2: "Bigger than Big"

Pray

Bible Lesson Introduction

Pray: What can we pray about today? Should we thank God for something? Can we ask God for something? *Allow children to answer. Role model prayer by thanking and asking God for something that the children mentioned.*

Find It: *Recite the first four books of the NT as a class. Tell children that today we will be looking into the book of Matthew and Mark. Open your Bible as if you are opening a treasure box. Show them the book of Mark.*

Timeline: We learn about Jesus in the NT. *Point to the timeline.*

Introduction to the Bible Lesson:

How many of you pray every day? Do you know that Jesus teaches us how to pray? Let's look in the Bible and find out what He said about it.

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

Jesus prays

Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up. What do you think He did? Let's find out. *Hold up your clock and point to the morning hours.*

Read Mark 1:35

Recap: Jesus went to a quiet place to pray. Who did He pray to? (His Father in heaven) This is the first thing we should do each day. We should begin our day praying, just like Jesus did.

Do you know how to talk to God? Jesus taught us how. But you may wonder, "How do I know that God will listen to me when I talk to Him?" *Optional: Hold up a phone.* Can people hear you when you talk on the phone, even though you can't see them? When we talk to God, we can't see Him, but He can hear us.

When we trust in Jesus to save us from our sin, we become part of God's family, and He becomes our Heavenly Father. He will always be with us and hear us when we pray. *Use your clock to talk about different times when you can pray: breakfast, lunch, before nap time, dinner, bedtime, etc.*

Jesus also taught us what to do and what not to do when we talk with God.

Jesus teaches us how to pray

Paraphrase of Matthew 6:5-8:

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, like we would talk to a good friend. 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. How do we ask Him?

God is great!

Paraphrase of Matthew 6:9-10:

Jesus tells us that, too. We call it the Lord's Prayer. What are a few things Jesus teaches us in the Lord's Prayer? We should tell God why He is so great and how much we love Him! Why is God so great? (He made the mountains, He made me, He is super strong, He loves me, etc.) Let's stand, pray, and tell God how great He is!

Pray for our needs

Read Matthew 6:11

Recap: God can give us what we need. That's why we should always pray for what we need. What are some of our needs? (Food, a safe place to sleep, love, a place to worship Jesus, etc.) We should also thank God for who He is, everything He gives us, and everything He does for us.

We should not just pray for ourselves, we should pray for other people, too. Who are other people you can pray for? (Grandparents, friends, missionaries, etc.) Everyone needs God's help, and we should pray for them. How will God answer our prayers? It might be yes, it might be no, and it might be wait, but He will always do what's best. If you ask for a new car, what do you think God might say to you? Yes, no, or wait. Why? Because God knows what is best for you. If you ask for food, what do you think God will say? He might ask us to "wait," but then He will say "yes" at just the right time.

Due to time, we will be skipping Matthew 6:12

Pray for help avoiding sin

Read Matthew 6:13

Recap: Evil means bad things. Sometimes it's hard to do the right thing and not sin, so we should ask God to help us do what He wants us to do. This is why we should pray each day. We need God's help to do what is right!

Conclusion

Jesus taught us the importance of praying. No matter if you are old or young, you can pray. Remember, when we pray, we should tell God how great He is, ask Him for our needs, pray for others, and ask God to help us to not sin.

Do Right and Feel Right

Can you find a quiet place in your house to pray? Maybe you can make a special tent, or pray in your bed, or pray under your covers in your bed. He always hears you when you pray because He cares very much for you.

Review Questions: What did we discover today?

1. In our lesson, when did Jesus pray? (In the morning)
2. Can God hear us when we pray? (Yes)
3. When should we pray? (All the time - in the morning, during the day, and at night)
4. Who should we pray for? (For others and for our needs)
5. How does God answer our prayers? (Yes, no, or wait)
6. Will you talk with God in the morning when you wake up?

Discover Time

Transition to Discover Time: As we quietly walk to Discover Time, let's search for quiet places along the way that we could use for prayer.

Do Right: I will talk to God through prayer.

Goal: To help children understand where and when they can talk to God.

Location A: LEGO Station

Supplies:

- Multiple poster boards, each with an outline of a place or time where children can pray (examples: house, bed, park, pool, bike, store, car, storm, church, lunch, etc.)

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Briefly talk about the pictures of places where children can pray.
2. Divide children into groups.
3. Have children outline the place where they can talk to God on their poster board with LEGO bricks.
4. It is important that leaders are talking with children as they create their object.

Alternate Idea: Print the “Places to pray” printable resource (see appendix) and give each child their own 8.5x11 poster to outline, rather than working in groups on poster boards.

Location B: Box Station**Supplies:**

- Three sets of pictures of places and times children can pray (at home, in bed, at the park, at the pool, while riding a bike, while grocery shopping, in the car, during a storm, at church, before lunch; print on different colored paper so each team has a different color; tape to boxes) (see appendix)

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Divide children into three teams.
2. Each team should have a leader to assist.
3. Have the children try to stack the boxes in a tall tower.
4. Once completed, have the children sit down and ask, “Where can you pray?”
5. Talk to children about each picture as you unstack the boxes and restack into a new tower.



Classroom Review Time

Lead Teachers ~ Connecting the DT to the Lesson: In our Discover Time, we learned about places we can pray. Where are a few places we can pray? *Allow children to answer.* What are some things we can pray for? *Allow children to answer.* Remember, when we ask God for something, He always answers: yes, no, or wait.

Reviewing the Know Right:**Supplies:**

- Clock (from the Bible lesson)
- Two dice

Instructions:

1. Refer to the clock and emphasize that we can pray anytime, anywhere.
2. Have a child roll the two dice.
3. Whatever number comes up, point to that time on the clock, and discuss what children might be doing at that time of the day.
4. Ask: What can we pray for at that time?
5. Keep rolling the dice and repeating.
6. The goal is to help children understand that prayer isn't just for mealtime and bedtime.

Think Right Activity while waiting for parents:**Supplies:**

- Pit balls (variety of colors)
- Fun praise music (see Resources Booklet for suggestions)

Instructions:

1. Children will sit in a circle and pass pit balls in a variety of colors.
2. When the music stops, select a color and those children with the matching ball should stand up and recite 2 Peter 3:18a with your help.
3. Repeat until all children are picked up.

Note: Why is it important to keep teaching while parents are picking up children? This is the only time most parents actually see their child learning in the classroom.

Lesson 11

Review Day – Part 1

Know Right:	True wisdom comes from God's Word.
Think Right:	John 3:16 and 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 children 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: Pray that God will help your children focus during the lesson so they can remember and apply what they have learned.

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 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:

- What did you learn this past quarter? Has God been speaking to you? If yes, stop and thank God for molding and shaping you spiritually.
- If you saw God at work in your classroom, share that testimony with your children's ministry leader. We want to celebrate and be encouraged with you!
- This is a review week; prepare to have fun while reviewing previous lessons.
- Review Day – Part 1 focuses on lessons 2, 3, and 4. Next week, Part 2 will focus on lessons 7, 9, and 10. We recommend you look back at the complete lesson plans to gain more insight if needed.

Creative Ideas for the Bible Lesson:

1. Fill three treasure chests with props that review the selected Bible lessons of the quarter (detailed instructions can be found in the lesson). Place the treasure chests throughout your children's ministry area. Create a map to help lead you to each treasure chest. You will also need footprints taped to the floor between the second and third treasure chests. You should spend about eight minutes at each station with two minutes to move between stations. Note: If you have multiple classes, you may need to have more than one set of these three treasure chests, otherwise classes may get congested or have to wait. *This idea is written into the lesson.*
2. Optional: Purchase kids' adventure/safari hats (amazon.com \$17.99 for 24 hats).
3. Optional: Purchase toy binoculars (amazon.com \$19.99 for 12 binoculars) or make toy binoculars using toilet paper tubes.

GO!

Pre-Service Review Game

Worship Leaders will lead children in a review game. Game details are in the Resources Booklet.

Large Group Opening Time

Offering: We are going to worship God right now by giving our money. When we give our money to God, our church will use it to tell others about Jesus (*or insert a specific way your church will use the offering*).

Think Right verses: John 3:16 and 2 Peter 3:18a

Today is going to be a very special day. We are going to celebrate as we remember some of the verses we have learned. Do you think Tracker would like to celebrate with us? Let's call up Tracker and see if he can say our verses with us. *Call up Tracker.*

I'm going to say a verse and let's see if everyone can tell me the address (where we can find it in the Bible).

Recite John 3:16. After a child states the address, have all the children stand up and say the verse together with the actions.

"For God (point up) so loved (hands over heart) the world (hands circled above head) that He gave His one (pointer finger) and only Son (point to the palm of each hand), that whoever believes (point to head) in Him (point up) shall not perish (shake finger and head) but have eternal life (thumbs up)." John 3:16

All leaders, children, and Tracker should clap and cheer for each other!

Let's do this again! I'm going to say an address and you tell me the verse. *Recite 2 Peter 3:18a. After a child states the address, have all the preschoolers say the verse together with the actions.*

"But grow in the grace (raise up from a squatting position and raise hands up to sky) and knowledge (point to your head) of our Lord (point up) and Savior (other pointer finger up) Jesus Christ (point to the palm of each hand)." 2 Peter 3:18a

All leaders, children, and Tracker should clap and cheer for each other!

Optional: Have a few leaders shoot off small confetti poppers over Tracker who should be clapping and cheering.

Transition: Let's do this again next week! Memorizing God's Word is so much fun, and you all did your very best reciting these verses! I could tell you have worked very hard. We should always do our best for God.

Song 1: "I'll Do my Best"

Puppet Skit: Cami worships Jesus!

An additional puppeteer will be needed for the role of Cami. The Tracker puppeteer can become the guest puppet.

WL: Thanks for helping us, Tracker! We'll see you later! (*Tracker leaves*) Let's see if Cami is here today, too! (*call Cami with the children*)

(Cami comes up)

WL: Hi, Cami! It's so fun to see both you and Tracker on the same day. Do you want to worship our great and powerful God with us today?

Cami: I sure do, _____. Can I bring one of my friends?

WL: Wow! Someone else is here, too? Sure, they can join us. Who is your friend?

Cami: The most famous Cubbie Bear! *(if you do not use the Awana Cubbie program, pick any guest)*

WL: Welcome, Cubbie Bear! We are so glad you came today! Do you want to sing with us?

Cubbie Bear: Yes! I love to sing songs to our great God!

Cami: When I sing, I like to think about all the things He made and has done. Do you remember how Jesus healed the blind man AND changed the water into wine AND made all the fishies come to Peter's boat so he could catch 'em? Wow! Our God is really super great!

WL: Let's all stand up and worship our God! *(continue in worship set)*

Transition: I love having friends who love God, just like Cubbie Bear and Cami. I'm so glad they came to church today, just like you! God has given us an amazing day.

Song 2: "Today is the Day"

WL: You were all awesome worshipping our great God today!

Cami: Aw shucks! Thanks, _____! I'm gonna to keep worshipping God all week long by singing to Him! Bye, kids!

WL: Bye, Cami and Cubbie Bear! Have a great week!

Pray

Bible Lesson Introduction

Pray: We have learned many wonderful things in our class. One thing we learned was how to pray. Let's stop and thank God for loving us so much.

Find It: Ask the children what the first four books of the NT are. Have the children recite the books of the NT up to John as you clap your hands – one clap per book. Practice again by slowing down the clap or speeding it up. Repeat several times. Remind children these are the first four books of the New Testament. If you have time, have children repeat the rest of the books of the NT with you.

Timeline: Point to all the lessons you learned this past quarter on the timeline. Ask the children which lesson they liked the best.

Introduction to the Review Lesson:

Look what I found. Show the map. Do you want to go on an adventure to find all the hidden treasure chests? If using adventure/safari hats, have children put them on. If using binoculars, pass them out. Let's follow our map. Show the children the special map and highlight where you will be going. Instruct children to walk in a straight line as you begin your search for the hidden treasures.

Review of Previous Bible Lessons

Lesson 2: John the Baptist prepares the way

Props: a locust; camel's hair clothing; a container of water with an action figure; Wordless Books (one per child; in a basket off to the side)

As you arrive at the treasure chest, have the children gather around it. Slowly and with suspense open it and be surprised by what you see inside.

Show locust. What is this? (A bug called a locust)

Show camel's hair clothing. What is this? (Camel's hair clothing)

Who ate bugs and wore camel's hair clothing? Wait, there is another clue.

Show water with an action figure. What could a person do in the water? (Get baptized)

Oh, everything in this treasure reminds us of John the Baptist. He was God's helper by getting people ready for Jesus! He told others about Jesus, and then those who believed in Him would be baptized. How can we be like John the Baptist? Should we wear camel's hair clothes and eat locusts (bugs)? No, we don't have to do that. But we can tell other people about Jesus! Before we move to our next treasure chest, let's look around and see how we can be God's helper and tell other people about Jesus. *Look around and discover a basket of Wordless Books.* I have an idea; we can be God's helper by handing out Wordless Books as we continue on our journey! *Give each child a Wordless Book. Have children look for people to hand out Wordless Books to; or have a designated location for children to drop off their Wordless Books.*

Lesson 3: Jesus is born

Props: *a box wrapped as a gift with a removable cover, inside should be small figures of baby Jesus, Mary, and Joseph; a roll paper banner or a couple of large poster boards with a giant cross and the words "Thank You, Jesus!"; washable red dot stampers (one per child)*

Look, another treasure chest! *Have the children gather around the treasure and have one child slowly open the treasure chest.* Look, a gift! When I open the gift, I see a baby. *Pull out baby Jesus.* God sent His Son, Jesus, as a gift for us. That is very special. Who were His parents? (Mary and Joseph) *Pull out Mary and Joseph.* Why did God send His Son, Jesus, to us as a baby? (So He could save people from their sin) Do you believe Jesus can save you from your sin? Let's stop and thank God for sending Jesus to us. *Pray.*

I want everyone to know Jesus can save us from our sin. I have an idea. Let's make a sign so everyone will know that Jesus can save people from their sin. *Roll out the banner and have children dot the cross with red dots. Hang on the wall nearest to you.*

Look, there are footprints that we should follow to our next station. Do you think we should follow them to see where they go? *Follow the footprints to the next station.*

Lesson 4: Jesus chooses His helpers

Props: *fishing net; plastic or paper fish; bookmarks (one per child; see appendix); crayons*

Look, another treasure chest! *Have children gather around the treasure and have one child slowly open it up.* What is this? *Hold up the net.* This looks like a huge fishing net that was left behind. And look, fish...left just sitting here. Why would someone leave this behind? Hmmm...I think I remember a person who left his fishing nets to follow Jesus. What was his name? (Simon Peter)

Jesus called Simon Peter and his friends to follow Him. When Jesus called, they left right away to follow Him. This was like you...you left our last treasure chest to follow the footprints to this treasure chest. How can we follow Jesus this week? Jesus tells us to honor our parents. This means we need to tell them we love them and treat them very nicely. Do you think we could make them a Bible bookmark? They can put it in their Bibles so they can read and study the Bible just like you! Let's honor our parents by coloring bookmarks.

Conclusion

Wow, our time is up. We must return back to our class! We have remembered so much today from God's Word, and we have put it into action. Great job, kids! You can feel happy when you remember God's Word.

Discover Time

Note: Due to the review activity, we will not have Discover Time this week.

Classroom Review Time

Reviewing the Know Right:

(if time permits)

Supplies:

- Play-Doh

Instructions:

1. Have children sit on the floor and share about their favorite Bible lesson. As they share, use Play-Doh to shape items that remind them of the Bible lessons that we've learned (for example: a man, a locust, baby Jesus in a manger, a star, a boat, a fishing pole, etc.).
2. If time permits, have children sit at tables and use Play-Doh to make objects from the Bible lessons similar to what you just made for the class.

Leader Tip: Preschool children will generally not be able to come up with objects on their own that represent past lessons. The table leaders should suggest an object for them to create and connect it to the lesson.

Think Right Activity while waiting for parents:

Supplies:

- Popsicle sticks (10+ per child)
- Painters' tape (outline a large manger or shepherd's hook on the floor)

Instructions:

1. Have children sit on the floor.
2. Recite 2 Peter 3:18a as a class.
3. Give children one minute to cover the shape with popsicle sticks.
4. Repeat activity multiple times as parents pick up children.

Lesson 12

Review Day – Part 2

Know Right:	True wisdom comes from God's Word.
Think Right:	John 3:16 and 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!

As we come to the end of another quarter, it's exciting to look back and think about all that God has taught our children through the study of His Word. 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 that the children will remember what they have learned about God and themselves during the good times and challenging times of their 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:

- Last week's review focused on Lessons 2, 3, and 4. Today, in Part 2, we will focus on Lessons 7, 9, and 10. We recommend you look back at the complete lesson plans to gain more insight as needed.
- What did you learn this past quarter? Has God been speaking to you? If yes, stop and thank God for molding and shaping you spiritually.
- If you saw God at work in your classroom, share that testimony with your children's ministry leader. We want to celebrate and be encouraged with you!

Creative Ideas for the Bible Lesson:

1. Fill three treasure chests with props that review the selected Bible lessons of the quarter (detailed instructions can be found in the lesson). Place the treasure chests throughout your children's ministry area. Create a map to help lead you to each treasure chest. You will also need footprints taped to the floor between the second and third treasure chests. You should spend about eight minutes at each station with two minutes to move between stations. Note: If you have multiple classes, you may need to have more than one set of these three treasure chests, otherwise classes may get congested or have to wait. *This idea is written into the lesson.*
2. Optional: Purchase kids adventure/safari hats (amazon.com \$17.99 for 24 hats).
3. Optional: Purchase toy binoculars (amazon.com \$19.99 for 12 binoculars) or make toy binoculars using toilet paper tubes.

GO!

Pre-Service Review Game

Worship Leaders will lead children in a review game. Game details are in the Resources Booklet.

Large Group Opening Time

Offering: We are going to worship God right now by giving our money. When we give our money to God, our church will use it to tell others about Jesus (*or insert a specific way your church will use the offering*).

Think Right verses: John 3:16 and 2 Peter 3:18a

Today is going to be another special day. We are going to celebrate as we remember some of the verses we have learned. Do you think Tracker would like to celebrate with us again? Let's call up Tracker and see if he can say our verses with us. *Call up Tracker.*

I'm going to say a verse and let's see if everyone can tell me the address (where we can find it in the Bible).

Recite John 3:16. After a child states the address, have all the children stand up and say the verse together with the actions.

"For God (point up) so loved (hands over heart) the world (hands circled above head) that He gave His one (pointer finger) and only Son (point to the palm of each hand), that whoever believes (point to head) in Him (point up) shall not perish (shake finger and head) but have eternal life (thumbs up)." John 3:16

All leaders, children, and Tracker should clap and cheer for each other!

Let's do this again! I'm going to say an address and you tell me the verse. *Recite 2 Peter 3:18a. After a child states the address, have all the preschoolers say the verse together with the actions.*

"But grow in the grace (raise up from a squatting position and raise hands up to sky) and knowledge (point to your head) of our Lord (point up) and Savior (other pointer finger up) Jesus Christ (point to the palm of each hand)." 2 Peter 3:18a

All leaders, children, and Tracker should clap and cheer for each other!

Optional: Have a few leaders shoot off small confetti poppers over Tracker who should be clapping and cheering.

Transition: Memorizing God's Word is so much fun! One of these verses reminds me of one of our favorite songs.

Song 1: "John 3:16"

Puppet Skit: Tracker is ready for an adventure!

Tracker should go backstage immediately after the song. This will be time for the puppeteer to rest their arm before being called back up.

WL: Hey, Tracker. Tracker? Where did you go? Tracker! Let's call him and see if he'll come back. (***call Tracker with the children***)

(Tracker comes up with an adventure hat on)

WL: Oh, there you are, Tracker! Ah, I see what you were doing. You were putting on your hat. It looks like you are ready to go on an adventure.

T: I sure am, _____. I love ad-ven-tures! Last week it was so much fun findin' treasure chests. Can we do that again? I have a map, my hat, and my shoes on. I'm ready!

WL: Kids, are you ready for another adventure today?

T: Yessssssss!!!! Me...me...I wanna go!!!!

WL: Okay, Tracker, we know that YOU are ready! Before we go on that adventure, let's worship God. Tracker, why do we worship God?

T: Because He is awesome! An' He made everything! An' He's perfect-o!

WL: Great! Let's all stand up and worship God! **(continue in the worship set with Tracker singing along.)**

Song 2: "Today is the Day"

WL: You were all awesome worshipping our great God today!

T: Aw shucks! Thanks, _____! I think I need ta go now. See ya later!

WL: Bye, Tracker!

Pray

Bible Lesson Introduction

Pray: We have learned many great things in our class. One thing we learned was how to pray. Let's stop and thank God for loving us so much.

Find It: Ask the children what the first four books of the NT are. Have the children recite the books of the NT up to John as you clap your hands – one clap per book. Practice again by slowing down the clap or speeding it up. Repeat several times. Remind children these are the first four books of the New Testament. If you have time, have children repeat the rest of the books of the NT with you.

Timeline: Point to all the lessons you learned this past quarter on the timeline. Ask the children which lesson they liked the best.

Introduction to the Review Lesson:

Look what I found. Show the map. Do you want to go on an adventure to find all the hidden treasure chests? If using adventure/safari hats, have children put them on. If using binoculars, pass them out. Let's follow our map. Show the children the special map and highlight where you will be going. Instruct children to walk in a straight line as you begin your search for the hidden treasures.

Review of Previous Bible Lessons

Lesson 7: Jesus teaches about the Good Shepherd

Props: stuffed sheep; brush; food and water for the sheep; blanket; cut out hearts; large stickers with a heart and "Jesus loves _____" (one per child; see appendix; note: labels are name badge size 2 1/3" x 3 3/8", eight per page); markers or crayons for writing names on stickers

As you arrive at the treasure chest, have the children gather around it. Slowly and with suspense open it and be surprised by what you see inside.

What is this? Show sheep. It's a sheep. This little guy looks really loved. Pull each item out of the chest

as you mention it. He has a brush for his wool, food, water, and a soft blanket to sleep on. The good shepherd must be nearby watching him. Our Bible tells us that Jesus is our Good Shepherd; He loves us very much and takes good care of us. Let's all say, "Jesus loves _____." (insert names)

This reminds me of a verse we learned. Let's all say John 3:16 together. This verse tells us that God loves us all very much.

In our treasure chest, there are heart stickers. This sticker says, "Jesus loves _____." I think we can write our names on the sticker and take them home with us so we will always remember that Jesus, the Good Shepherd, loves us very much. *Leaders should write names and children can place the heart stickers on their shirts. As you write the name, make each child feel special by having all children say, "Jesus loves _____" together for all the children.*

Let's gather around our map to find our next hidden treasure. *Have children look at the map and then continue their journey.*

Lesson 9: Jesus heals the blind man

Props: *mud in a jar; beggar's clothing; rolled up note that says, "I can see!"; a roll paper banner or a couple of large poster boards with "God has a plan for me"; confetti squares; glue sticks*

Open the treasure chest to find mud in a jar. How can this be a treasure? It's mud and old clothes. Wait, there is a piece of paper. It says, "I can see!" What do these things remind us of? (Yes, this reminds us of the blind man who can now see)

Did you know Jesus had a very special plan for this man from the day he was born blind? Jesus was going to do an incredible miracle by making him see. He did this by putting mud on his eyes and when it was washed away, he could see! It was a miracle. No longer did he need to beg for food, he could now go find food, jump, run, and praise God!

Do you know God has a plan for your life? He knows everything about you. Every day of your life He has a plan for you. Let's celebrate that God has a plan for you! Let's decorate this banner with confetti pieces and hang it up so everyone can see. *Allow children to glue confetti to the banner.*

Let's follow our map to our next location. Are you ready? Let's go!

Lesson 10: Jesus teaches how to pray

Props: *two stuffed gloves with fingers folded together (like they are praying); food and water; a Bible; picture of your church*

I can't wait to see what is inside of this treasure chest. What is this? *Pull out two gloves stuffed with fingers folded together.* These hands look kind of silly. What do you think they are doing? They are folded together. I think they are reminding us to pray! Who do we talk to when we pray? (God!) God hears us when we pray. What should we pray about? *Pull out items as you talk about them.* We can thank God for our food and water, God's Word - the Bible, our church family, and so much more. Jesus got up early in the morning to pray. We can pray in the morning, at lunchtime, at night, or whenever we want to. God wants you to talk with Him.

Let's stop and pray right now. Can you repeat after me? "Dear Heavenly Father, Thank You for the food we eat, for the Bible we read, and for the water we drink. Thank You that we can come to church. In Jesus' name, Amen."

Conclusion

Wow, our time is up. We must return back to our class! We have remembered so much today from God's Word, and we have put it into action. Great job, kids! You can feel happy when you remember God's Word.

Discover Time

Note: Due to the review activity, we will not have Discover Time this week.

Classroom Review Time

Reviewing the Know Right:

(if time permits)

Supplies:

- Play-Doh

Instructions:

1. Have children sit on the floor and share about their favorite Bible lesson. As they share, use Play-Doh to shape items that remind them of the Bible lessons that we've learned (for example a sheep, a heart for God's love, a man, praying hands or a handprint to represent prayer, food and water, etc.).
2. If time permits, have children sit at tables and use Play-Doh to make objects from the Bible lessons similar to what you just made for the class.

Leader Tip: Preschool children will generally not be able to come up with objects on their own that represent past lessons. The table leaders should suggest an object for them to create and connect it to the lesson.

Think Right Activity while waiting for parents:

Supplies:

- Popsicle sticks (10+ per child)

Instructions:

1. Have children sit on the floor in different locations around the classroom.
2. Recite 2 Peter 3:18a as a class.
3. Each time you say the verse, give each child a popsicle stick.
4. Have children place the popsicle sticks end-to-end to create an object from the review lesson, such as a shepherd's staff. (Leaders should give direction, helping children lay them down in the correct shape.)

Get on Track Lesson

Celebrate Jesus!

Know Right:	Celebrate Jesus!
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
Do Right:	I will celebrate Jesus.
Feel Right:	I can feel joyful when I celebrate 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 preschool children 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 worship and celebrate Jesus with you this week.

Read: Matthew 1:18 – 2:12

Know Right: Celebrate Jesus!

GET SET!

Lead Teacher's Note:

- This may be the first time some of the children in your class will hear the Gospel and the true meaning of Christmas. Show them the love of Jesus and bring excitement and passion to the lesson; Jesus is the best news ever!

Creative Ideas for the Bible Lesson:

1. Fill in the blanks of your lesson with props or key words as you teach the lesson. Please do not get caught up in the exact script by reading it word for word. Instead, bring the Bible to life while you cover the main points surrounding each prop. (Note: The props and key words are from the Discover Time Christmas Scavenger Hunt. You will also need a Wordless Book.) As you begin your lesson, have all the props lying on a table for children to see. As you teach the lesson, have children guess what object would “fill in the blanks” of your lesson. *This idea is written into the lesson.*
2. Instead of using props, draw out pictures on separate pieces of paper and cover each with a sheet of colorful paper. When you get to a blank, lift the correct flap of paper to show the picture.

GO!

Pre-Service Review Game

Worship Leaders will lead children in a review game. Game details are in the Resources Booklet.

Large Group Opening Time

Note: *Worship will be extended to 20 minutes.*

Offering: We are going to worship and celebrate God today as we give our money. When we give our money, more people can learn about Jesus. Let's pray and thank God for the money He has given us.

Think Right verse: *We recommend reviewing the current Bible verse, rather than memorizing the Think Right verse from this lesson.*

Read the verse from the Bible and then demonstrate the actions. Repeat the verse several times while saying it in a loud voice, a quiet voice, and while jumping up and down.

Transition: *You will need to develop a transition based on song choice.*

Song 1: *Song of your choice*

Puppet Skit: Let's celebrate!

Props: *Confetti and balloons*

WL: Hey kids, I am so excited! Christmas is almost here. Are you ready to celebrate Jesus?

Tracker: Did you say 'celebrate'? *(pop up quickly)* I love ta celebrate! Yipee! *(toss confetti in the air and bring out the balloons)*

WL: Wow, Tracker! You surprised me, and the confetti was so great! You are ready to celebrate!

Tracker: You bet! I really love parties lots, and I love ta celebrate!

WL: Do you know why we are celebrating today?

Tracker: Hmmmm...let me think about that for a minute. Is it my Uncle Edward's birthday?

WL: Umm...I don't think so.

Tracker: Is it my cousin Vinny's birthday?

WL: Nope. Kids, why are we celebrating today? *(children should shout "Jesus' birthday!")*

Tracker: It's Jesus' birthday! Oh, yeah! Awesome; I love Jesus! I wanna celebrate that with you!

WL: How should we celebrate?

Tracker: Oh, I gots ideas about that. Cotton candy, birthday cake, apple slices with sprinkles on 'em, raisins on celery sticks, and one big giant candy bar!

WL: Tracker, I think you are hungry. Let's start off by singing to Him.

Tracker: OK. That's a great idea. Let's sing "Happy Birthday" to Jesus.

WL: Sounds like a great plan. *(have everyone sing "Happy Birthday" to Jesus!)*

Tracker: I love Jesus! Let's keep celebratin' Him all day long.

WL: Great idea!

Tracker: I need to go find more confetti! Bye, friends!

Transition: Let's sing another song to Jesus to celebrate Him. *You will need to develop a transition based on song choice.*

Song 2: *Song of your choice*

Pray

Special Interactive Christmas Lesson

Christmas is all about Jesus!

In the Bible, we learn why we celebrate Christmas. Do you have a Bible at home?

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

Read Matthew 1:21

Recap: This baby would do something amazing and save people from their _____ (sin; dark page of the Wordless Book), and His name would be Jesus.

Jesus is born in Bethlehem

When it was time for Jesus to be born, Mary and Joseph were in a town called _____ (Bethlehem). There was no room for them at the inn, which is like a hotel, so baby Jesus was born where the animals lived. Mary and Joseph placed _____ (baby Jesus) in a manger to sleep. A manger holds food for animals. After Jesus was born, some very important people, called wise men, came to visit Him. You might wonder, how did people know where Jesus was going to be born? The people could see a large, bright _____ (star) over Bethlehem. This is what showed the wise men where to go. There were no airplanes then, so it took the wise men a long time to get to Jesus. Jesus probably wasn't even a baby anymore when they got there.

Read Matthew 2:1-2

Recap: The Magi, or wise men, went and worshiped Jesus, bringing Him _____ (gifts).

Conclusion

Christmas is not about the presents under the Christmas tree...it's about celebrating Jesus! Do you remember a verse we learned, John 3:16? *Have children recite it or read it from your Bible.* Do you know that Jesus, the baby we talk about at Christmas, is God's one and only Son? Jesus grew up, just like you and me, but unlike us, He never sinned. Jesus is perfect!

Because He is perfect, He is the only One who can take away our sins by dying on the cross (*red page of Wordless Book / cross*). But Jesus didn't stay dead; He rose again. If we believe in Him and He is the leader of our life, we can celebrate because we know our sins have been forgiven (*white page*), and we can be part of God's family. Have you ever asked Jesus to be the leader of your life and to forgive your sins? If you would like to do this, you can talk to one of the leaders in the hallway, and they can tell you more.

This Christmas let's celebrate Jesus! We can do this by singing to Him, praying to Him, having a party for Him, or telling others about Him.

Review Questions: What did we discover today?

1. Who was Jesus' mother? (Mary)
2. Who told Mary that she would have a baby? (An angel)
3. Were Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem when the baby was born? (Yes)
4. Who came to see Jesus? (Wise men)
5. What verse talks about God's only perfect Son? (John 3:16)

Discover Time: Celebrate Jesus! Scavenger Hunt

Transition to Discover Time: As we walk to Discover Time today, we are going to pretend that we are the wise men. Point to the star we are following in the sky as we try to find Jesus.

Do Right: I will celebrate Jesus.

Goal: To review the Bible lesson.

Supplies:

- Scavenger hunt worksheet (see appendix)
- Props (should be hidden; see list below)
- Crayons (to circle items found)
- Christmas treat (in the classroom after they finish the scavenger hunt)
- Christmas music
- Optional: binoculars or magnifying glasses for each child (to search for the items)
- Optional: safety rope for children to hold during the scavenger hunt

Scavenger Hunt props:

- Bible
- Angel
- Mary (doll in Biblical clothing)
- A wooden sign that says "Bethlehem"
- Beautiful gift box wrapped with baby Jesus inside
- Star
- Treasure chest (to represent the wise men's gifts)
- Cross

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Children should be divided into small groups with a leader assisting each group.
2. Each group will need to find all the pictured items on the scavenger hunt worksheet while Christmas music is playing (teams can work with one worksheet).
3. When children complete the scavenger hunt, they should return to the classroom for a small Christmas treat.

Classroom Review Time

Lead Teachers ~ Connecting the DT to the Lesson: How many of you found a baby? Treasures from the wise men? A star? A sign that said "Bethlehem"? What did this remind you of? It reminds me of Christmas. At Christmas, we celebrate Jesus!

Reviewing the Know Right**Supplies:**

- Nativity set

Instructions:

1. Review the Bible lesson with a Nativity set.
2. Have children name each figure and explain their role in Jesus' birth. You may need to assist in explaining each figure's role.

Think Right Activity while waiting for parents**Option 1****Supplies:**

- Chairs
- Christmas music

Instructions:

1. Children will celebrate by playing a game of musical chairs with Christmas music.
2. When the music stops, ask, "Who do we celebrate at Christmas?" Have the children answer, "Jesus!"
3. As chairs are removed, begin to build a second circle of fun. The children who get "out" while playing musical chairs in the original circle will join the second circle.
4. Play this game until all children are picked up.

Option 2**Supplies:**

- Nativity set
- Christmas music

Instructions:

1. Put the Nativity set in the middle of the circle.
2. Play Christmas music as you pass around one or two figures from the Nativity set.
3. When the music stops, ask, "Who do we celebrate at Christmas?" Have the children answer, "Jesus!"
4. The child/children holding the figures should add them to the Nativity set.
5. Keep playing until all figures are in the Nativity set.
6. Repeat until all children are picked up.

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!

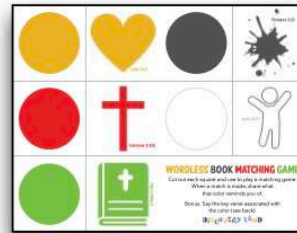
1. The Savior would be betrayed by a friend. That friend turned out to be Judas, didn't it? (Psalm 41:9; John 13:18, 21)
2. The Savior would be sold for thirty pieces of silver. Thirty pieces of silver was what the chief priests paid Judas. (Zechariah 11:12-13; Matthew 26:15)
3. The Savior would be deserted 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)

Preschool Printable Resources

Year 3 - Quarter 2 (Africa version)



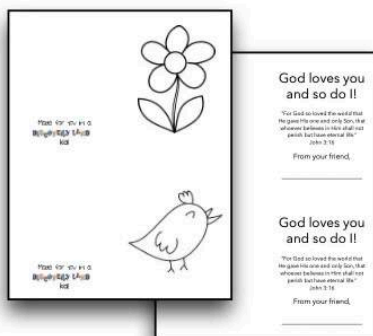
**Lesson 2 Sand & Food
Wordless Book
instruction note**



**Lessons 2 and 9
Classroom Review
Wordless Book
Matching Game**



**Lesson 3 Sand
Baby Jesus**



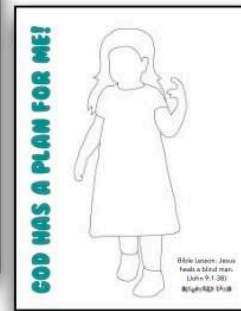
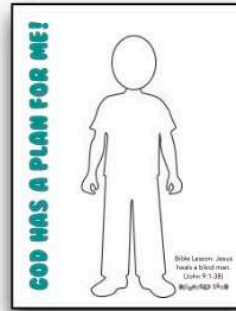
**Lesson 4 Art & Play-Doh
Encouragement cards**



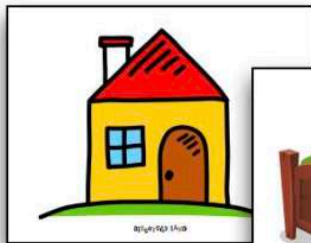
**Lesson 4 Classroom Review
Yes / No signs
(8.5x11 or 11.17)**



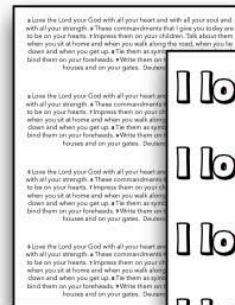
Lesson 7 Classroom Review
The Good Shepherd
board game



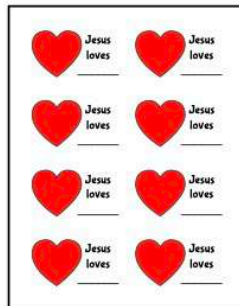
Lesson 9 Art
God has a plan for me!
(with outline of child)



Lesson 10 LEGO & Box
Places to pray



Lesson 11
I Love You bookmark



Lesson 12
Heart sticker
(Print on name badge-sized
stickers - 2 1/3" x 3 3/8";
eight per sheet)



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 2:23* 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," tell the child to continue to think about it through the week and talk 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.)

Adapted from CEF salvation training.


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.





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

Sincere thanks to Shawn Thornton, pastor of Calvary Community Church in Westlake Village, CA for the use of the Think, Do, and Feel Right concept. This idea, with the addition of Know Right, became the structure of each Bible-centered Discovery Land lesson. We greatly appreciate that he has allowed this idea to land and remain in this curriculum, so others can be equipped to teach children to Know, Think, Do, and Feel Right.

We are grateful for the invaluable partnership we have with Awana International and for granting us permission to reference Awana® within the Discovery Land curriculum and training materials. We have seen God use the relationship between this Sunday curriculum and mid-week Awana® ministries to create a strong and lasting impact on students around the world.

Awana is a registered trademark of Awana Clubs International. Used with permission. Appleton Alliance Association, Inc. operates independently from Awana Clubs International and is solely responsible for the contents of this curriculum.

Scripture taken from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®. NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide.

LEGO® is a trademark of the LEGO Group. All rights reserved.

Play-Doh® is a trademark of Hasbro, Inc. All rights reserved.



DISCOVERY

LAND GLOBAL

In cooperation with



Awana Africa
90-3rd Street/CNR Chinamano,
Harare, Zimbabwe