

DISCOVERY LAND

Year 3 – Quarter 2

Runners Curriculum

Adapted for use in Africa



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A Note About Curriculum Adaptations

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



A Message from Kris Smoll

Dear Leaders,

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

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

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Understanding the Curriculum

Overview

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

The curriculum was developed to teach 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).

Runners 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 Runners group typically has several rotational Classroom Helpers and a weekly Lead Teacher.

Lead Teacher: Responsible for teaching an effective 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.

Classroom Helper: Responsible for welcoming and caring for children, meeting their needs, and helping them to stay focused on the teaching and activities.

Runners Program Overview

The program for Runners children is made up of seven components:

1. Coming In Time
2. Clean Up
3. Large Group Opening Time (includes worship)
4. Bible Lesson (includes puppets)
5. Craft or Activity
6. Snack and Lesson Review
7. Review Activity

These pieces provide a developmentally appropriate balance of free play and activities that engage children 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	Coming In Time
:20	Clean Up
:25	Large Group Time
:35	Bible Lesson
:45	Craft or Activity
:55	Snack & Lesson Review
:60	Review Activity
:65	Parents pick up children

Coming In Time

The purpose of Coming In Time is to help children become comfortable with the volunteers and being separated from their parents. To make the most of Coming In Time, we suggest playing age-appropriate praise music and providing Bible-based books, puzzles, etc.

Clean Up

Clean Up time helps children transition from play to Large Group Opening Time. Children are encouraged to join leaders in helping to put toys and books back in their proper places. A song, such as "Let's Clean Up" that is played consistently during Clean Up time is a very helpful cue for children to begin cleaning up.

Large Group Time

Large Group Time is designed to:

- Give children an opportunity to sing and worship together
- Review Bible Basics
- Introduce and teach the Top 12 Verses

LEADER TIPS

Have the children listen carefully as you read the verse from your Bible with expression. We want them to know that the verse comes directly from the Bible, God's Word.

When a child can say the verse with little or no help, celebrate! Allow them to pick out a sticker or other small prize.

Bible Lesson

The Bible lesson for Runners brings the Bible to life at a very basic level. The curriculum includes an age-appropriate paraphrase of the same Bible lesson that preschool and elementary-aged children are learning. The Bible lesson also includes reviewing the verse and a puppet script that reinforces the lesson.

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. 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 curriculum.
4. Plan your lesson.
5. Make your lesson come alive with props, pictures, or actions, utilizing the creative ideas in the curriculum.
6. Practice the lesson so you can "Bring the Bible to Life" with excitement in your voice and good eye contact with your children.
7. 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.

Craft or Activity

Following the Bible lesson, children engage in a craft or activity that reinforces what they've learned. They will often have a completed project to show their parents or take home with them.

LEADER TIPS

Keep supplies in front of children and assist them as needed to help them remain focused on the project.

While kids are working, reinforce the Know, Think, Do and Feel Right points from the lesson.

Snack and Lesson Review

LEADER TIPS

Check for allergies before offering food to a child!

Make sure hands and tables are clean and ready prior to passing out snacks.

Turn the review questions into very simple multiple choice or yes/no questions as needed.

During this time, the verse is reviewed in an interactive way. A leader then models prayer and asks simple review questions, while the children are eating a simple snack.

Review Activity

An engaging review game is played as children are being picked up. This activity reinforces the main points of the lesson, and it also demonstrates to the parents that their children are actively learning each week.

Runners 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 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 God will bless the children in your class with a pure heart and a desire to seek Him throughout their lives.

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!

Teacher’s Note: This curriculum is a family-based curriculum. While the older children will be studying the 400 years of silence that connects the OT and the NT, our Runners this week will focus on the fact that God’s plan is a good plan.

Creative Teaching Supplies:

Use props or pictures to represent the following: sun, birds, moon and stars, Bible, churches, children of different ages and ethnicities.

GO!

Coming In Time

Joyfully greet children as they enter your class. Make sure they feel safe, special, and loved the moment they see your smiling face. Immediately engage them with toys or activities. Fun praise music is encouraged; recommended music options are in the Resources Booklet.

Clean Up

Clean up together while listening to a song such as “Let’s Clean Up.”

Large Group Opening Time

Worship Time: *All volunteers should assist children to the designated learning area for worship.*

1. “The B-I-B-L-E”
2. “My God is so Big”
3. “God is Good” **Bible Basics:** *As children sit in the designated learning area, remind and reinforce basic sitting guidelines. (Refer to the “Let’s Get Ready to Learn!” poster).*

Hold up the Bible. What is this? (The Bible)

Let’s make a Bible with our hands. *Have children make a Bible with their two hands.*

Is everything in the Bible true? (Yes, everything in the Bible is true!)

When we pray, we talk to God. *Have children fold their hands to pray.*

When we read the Bible, this is how God talks to us. I have a special marker in my Bible marking a very important verse. *Show your fun, bright bookmark and point to the correct verse.*

Think Right Verse: *Have children listen carefully as you read the verse from your Bible. We want them to know that the verse comes directly from the Bible, God’s Word! Read the entire verse.*

Let’s stand up and say our verse with 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, 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

Repeat several times. At pickup time, remind parents to help children practice their verse at home.

When a child can say the verse with little or no help, celebrate and allow them to pick a prize from the basket.

Bible Lesson

Is God good? Yes, God is good all the time. Does God have a big plan for the world? Yes, our God has a big plan for the world. Is God’s plan a good plan? Yes, God’s plan is a good plan.

Let’s say it together, “God’s plan is a good plan.” *Give a thumbs up.* It makes me feel excited knowing that God has a big plan, and it is good.

God has a plan for every day.

God placed the sun in the sky and created the birds to sing beautiful songs for us to listen to. Let’s make the sound of birds.

Let’s stretch and pretend we are waking up. God gives us a new day every day. Now let’s say “God’s plan is a good plan.” *Give a thumbs up.*

God also made the moon and stars to shine at night while we're sleeping. Let's pretend we are sleeping. *Put your palms together and rest your head on your hands and shut your eyes.* God knows we need our rest. Let's say it together, "God's plan is a good plan." *Give a thumbs up.*

God has a plan for us to learn about Him...He gives us the Bible.

God loves to talk with us. He gave us the Bible, so we can learn about Him. God gave us a family who can read the Bible to us, and He made churches so we can come and learn from the Bible. No matter if we have a good day or a bad day, God's Word, the Bible, will bring us the Good News that can make us happy. Let's say it together, "God's plan is a good plan." *Give a thumbs up.*

God has a plan for people to help each other...He gives us friends.

God made many people in our world. Some people are tall, and some are short. Some people have black hair, and some have blond, brown, or red hair. Some people have blue eyes, and some have brown or green eyes. God made each person very special. Each person can be our friend. God knew that we would need friends to talk to, play with, and to go to church with. Let's say it together, "God's plan is a good plan." *Give a thumbs up.*

God had a big plan to help us...He gave us Jesus.

Our God is so good...He even gave us Jesus. Our Bible verse, John 3:16, tells us that if we believe in Him, we can have eternal life, which means we can go to heaven some day. God is very good...all the time. This makes me happy! Let's say it together, "God's plan is a good plan." *Give a thumbs up.*

Verse Review Time

Let's stand up and practice our verse, John 3:16, with 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, 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

Tracker Skit

Note: Tracker should have the voice of a 4-year-old boy.

Tracker: Good morning, friends!

Teacher: Good morning, Tracker!

Tracker: Yesterday morning I woke up with a very bad cold. I was sneezing, coughing, and super tired. I didn't feel good at all.

Teacher: That's horrible!

Tracker: Well, I thought so too, until my mom came in with a warm fuzzy blanket and some orange juice, and she snuggled me up. Then she prayed that I would get better really fast. It feels so good knowing that my mom loves me so much.

Teacher: I'm so glad that God had a plan to give you someone to take care of you and someone who loves you so much!

Tracker: I know! God's plan IS good all the time. Today I feel much better. God answered our prayers!

Teacher: God's plan is always good. Kids, can you say, "God's plan is a good plan"?

Tracker: Kids, can you remember to tell your parents this when you get home?

Teacher: We can practice saying this for the rest of the morning, so we don't forget.

Tracker: Bye, kids!

Craft or Activity

Supplies:

- Activity sheet with "God's plan is a good plan!" in the center of the page (see appendix)
- Happy face stickers
- Colorful confetti (1-inch tissue paper squares) or small pieces of paper
- Glue sticks

Instructions:

Children will fill their activity sheet with stickers and confetti reminding them that God's plan is a good plan.

Snack and Lesson Review

Verse Activity: Our Bible verse can be found in John, chapter 3, verse 16. Let's all clap three times when I say "John" and then put our hands in our lap. John! *Children clap three times and then put their hands in their laps. After hands are in laps, say John 3:16.*

Pray: *Take time to thank God for the snack and for being a good God. Encourage children to fold their hands, bow their heads, and close their eyes. Remind them that praying is talking to God. Open prayer with, "Dear Heavenly Father" and close with, "...in Jesus' name, Amen."*

Review questions to ask during snack:

1. Does God have a plan? (Yes)
2. Is God's plan good? (Yes)
3. Did God plan to give us the Bible? (Yes)
4. Did God have a plan to give us friends and family? (Yes)
5. Did God have a big plan to save us? (Yes - Jesus)

Review Activities

Supplies:

- Song "My God is so Big"
- Parachute
- Soft objects that remind us that God's plan is a good plan: bird or stuffed animal, a small blanket or pillow, a picture of friends etc.

Instructions:

1. Have children shake the parachute with an object on it while the music plays.
2. When the music stops, hold up the item and say, "God's plan is a good plan...He gives us _____."
3. Repeat many times.

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!

Teacher’s Note: You should always have your Bible open as you teach. Also, remember that your lesson is a tool, not a storybook. Know your lesson well enough so you can keep constant eye contact with your children. Speak slowly and don't rush your lesson.

Creative Teaching Supplies:

Use the following props: a plastic cricket (or pictures of crickets or grasshoppers), a jar of honey, a whiteboard, and dry-erase markers in Wordless Book colors (yellow, black, red, green).

GO!

Coming In Time

Joyfully greet children as they enter your class. Make sure they feel safe, special, and loved the moment they see your smiling face. Immediately engage them with toys or activities. Fun praise music is encouraged; recommended music options are in the Resources Booklet.

Clean Up

Clean up together while listening to a song such as “Let’s Clean Up.”

Large Group Opening Time

Worship Time: *All volunteers should assist children to the designated learning area for worship.*

1. “The B-I-B-L-E”
2. “Bigger than Big”
3. “Jesus Loves Me”

Bible Basics: *As children sit in the designated learning area, remind and reinforce basic sitting guidelines. (Refer to the “Let’s Get Ready to Learn!” poster).*

Hold up the Bible. What is this? (The Bible)

Let’s make a Bible with our hands. *Have children make a Bible with their two hands.*

Is everything in the Bible true? (Yes, everything in the Bible is true!)

When we pray, we talk to God. *Have children fold their hands to pray.*

When we read the Bible, this is how God talks to us. I have a special marker in my Bible marking a very important verse. *Show your fun, bright bookmark and point to the correct verse.*

Think Right Verse: *Have children listen carefully as you read the verse from your Bible. We want them to know that the verse comes directly from the Bible, God’s Word! Read the entire verse.*

Let’s stand up and say our verse about God loving the whole world.

“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, 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

Repeat several times. At pickup time, remind parents to help children practice their verse at home. When a child can say the verse with little or no help, celebrate and allow them to pick a prize from the basket.

Bible Lesson

Today, we are going to learn about a very important helper. How many of you like to be helpers? *Let a few children say what they help with.* I like to be a helper, too. I like to help with _____.

Open the Bible. In the Bible, God tells us about a man named John the Baptist. John lived in the desert. Is the desert hot and sandy, or cold and snowy? (A desert is hot and sandy) Well, John the Baptist lived in the hot and sandy desert and guess what he ate? He ate big bugs (*show bug*) and honey (*show honey*). How many of you had bugs for breakfast this morning?

God sent John the Baptist to help people get ready for Jesus. John told many people about Jesus! John was God’s helper. John even baptized people in water so everyone could see that they believed in Jesus. We can be God’s helper, too, by telling others about Jesus. Do you want to be God’s helper? One way we can tell others about Jesus is by using the Wordless Book.

Wordless Book Review

Use excitement in your voice to keep the children engaged.

Gold page: This page reminds us of how God loves us, and about heaven. *Draw a heart and a big house with streets of gold.* But there is one thing that is not in heaven, and that is sin.

Dark page: Sin is anything we think, say, or do that is against God, like yelling at people, disobeying, or telling lies. *Draw a sad mouth.* God cannot be near sin because He is perfect. But God loves us so much He sent His one and only Son, named Jesus, to take the punishment for our sins.

Red page: Jesus died on the cross for our sins. *Draw a red cross.* But did Jesus stay dead? No! He rose again! Our Jesus is alive!

Clean page: If you ask Jesus to be the leader of your life, He takes away all your sins and makes you clean. *Draw a person with a big smiley face.*

Green page: When you ask Jesus to be the leader of your life, your life will be changed. You will grow, like green grass, to know Him more by reading your Bible and talking with God. Draw a Bible and green grass.

Do you want to be God's helper? Great, then tell someone today about Jesus!

Verse Review Time

Let's stand up and practice our verse, John 3:16, with 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, 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

Tracker Skit

Note: Tracker should have the voice of a 4-year-old boy.

Prop: Tracker should be wearing a scarf and hat

Tracker: Hi, friends! Brrrr, it's cold outside. I was just helping my dad pick up toys outside.

Teacher: You were being a helper. We were just talking about John the Baptist, one of God's helpers.

Tracker: Yes, John the Baptist told people that Jesus was coming! Wow... that sounds super fun.

Teacher: Yes, I'm sure John loved telling others this Good News.

Tracker: I want to be a helper like John the Baptist and tell others the real meaning of Christmas! It is not about presents! Christmas is about celebrating Jesus!

Teacher: Yes, you are right! God sent Jesus to save us from our sins!

Tracker: Let's all be helpers and tell others about Jesus! (cheer) Bye, boys and girls! Tell your friends and family about Jesus!

Craft or Activity

Supplies:

- Wordless Book activity sheet with key words and symbols (see appendix)
- Wordless Book colored dot stickers

Instructions:

1. Say: Today you are going to make a Wordless Book page that you can give to a friend to tell them about Jesus!

2. Have children match the dot stickers to the correct key word and symbol.

Snack and Lesson Review

Verse Activity: Our Bible verse can be found in John, chapter 3, verse 16. Let's all clap three times when I say "John" and then put our hands in our lap. John! *Children clap three times and then put their hands in their laps. After hands are in laps, say John 3:16.*

Pray: *Take time to thank God for the snack and for being a good God. Encourage children to fold their hands, bow their heads, and close their eyes. Remind them that praying is talking to God. Open prayer with, "Dear Heavenly Father" and close with, "...in Jesus' name, Amen."*

Review questions to ask during snack:

1. Did John the Baptist tell others about Jesus? (Yes)
2. Was John the Baptist a helper? (Yes)
3. Who does the red page in our Wordless Book remind us of? (Jesus)
4. Did John the Baptist eat bananas or bugs? (Bugs)

Review Activities

Supplies:

- Wordless Book colored paper cut into miscellaneous shapes and sizes
- Glue sticks
- Large roll paper or poster board that has the word "Jesus" written in bubble letters

Instructions:

1. Children will glue Wordless Book colored shapes to the roll paper or poster board to create a Wordless Book banner.
2. As children work, review the colors, key words, and verses.
3. Hang the banner in the hallway when completed.

Optional idea: Continue to work on this project for several weeks, if desired.

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 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 that they will always remember 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!

Teacher's Note: To keep the children's attention, come prepared. Do not read the lesson to them. Know it so you can bring the Bible to life! Use a colorful bookmark and/or sticky notes to help find the verses. Be patient and excited! Use visuals and engage the children. Feel free to bring extra props to enhance the lesson.

Creative Teaching Supplies:

Supplies in a special Christmas gift box: Nativity set (pull out pieces as you teach the lesson) and a Wordless Book.

GO!

Coming In Time

Joyfully greet children as they enter your class. Make sure they feel safe, special, and loved the moment they see your smiling face. Immediately engage them with toys or activities. Fun praise music is encouraged; recommended music options are in the Resources Booklet.

Clean Up

Clean up together while listening to a song such as "Let's Clean Up."

Large Group Opening Time

Worship Time: *All volunteers should assist children to the designated learning area for worship.*

1. "The B-I-B-L-E"
2. "My God is so Big"
3. "God is Good"

Bible Basics: *As children sit in the designated learning area, remind and reinforce basic sitting guidelines. (Refer to the "Let's Get Ready to Learn!" poster).*

Hold up the Bible. What is this? (The Bible)

Let's make a Bible with our hands. *Have children make a Bible with their two hands.*

Is everything in the Bible true? (Yes, everything in the Bible is true!)

When we pray, we talk to God. *Have children fold their hands to pray.*

When we read the Bible, this is how God talks to us. I have a special marker in my Bible marking a very important verse. *Show your fun, bright bookmark and point to the correct verse.*

Think Right Verse: *Have children listen carefully as you read the verse from your Bible. We want them to know that the verse comes directly from the Bible, God's Word! Read the entire verse.*

Our verse tells us that God loves the world so much! Let's stand and say our verse with 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, 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

Repeat several times. At pickup time, remind parents to help children practice their verse at home.

When a child can say the verse with little or no help, celebrate and allow them to pick a prize from the basket.

Bible Lesson

Have you ever received a very special gift? Maybe it was a toy or a special treat. *Allow for a couple of quick answers.* Today we are going to discover the best gift you can ever receive. I'm going to open my Bible to the book of Matthew. Matthew is in the New Testament. Here we can learn about a very special gift God sent us. It all started long ago with a lady named Mary.

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

The angel came to Joseph in a dream and told him to marry Mary. She was going to have a baby, and His name would be Jesus. When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel told him to do. They got married, and Joseph brought Mary home to live with him. So, both Mary and Joseph did what God wanted them to do.

When it was time, Jesus was born! But where was He born? He was born in the city of Bethlehem.

After Jesus was born, wise men came from far away to find and worship Jesus. The wise men followed a star in the sky for a very long time until they reached Mary and Joseph's house in Bethlehem. They worshiped Jesus and gave Him very special and precious gifts.

Jesus was a special gift to Mary and Joseph. He is also a very special gift to me and you. Jesus loves us very much – so much that He died on the cross to save us from our sins. This reminds me of a great verse, John 3:16.

Verse Review Time

Let's stand up and practice our verse, John 3:16, with 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, 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

Tracker Skit

Note: Tracker should have the voice of a 4-year-old boy.

Tracker: Hi, friends! Do you want to play a game?

Teacher: (look at the children while nodding your head, then respond) Sure!

Tracker: Good. I am going to ask you kids a question about our Bible lesson and you can raise your hand and give me the answer!

Teacher: Wow, that sounds like fun! Ready, boys and girls? Let's listen to the questions.

Tracker: Who told Mary she would have a baby – an angel or a bunny? (have children answer)

Tracker: Yes, an angel! (have Tracker act silly and celebrate) Here's the next question: Who was Jesus' mother – Mary or Sally? (have children answer)

Tracker: You're right, Mary! (have Tracker act silly and celebrate) What did Mary name her baby?

(have children answer)

Tracker: Yes, Jesus! (have Tracker act silly and celebrate) Wow, you guys are super smart!

Teacher: That was a fun game, Tracker! I'm so glad that we can always know that Jesus is God's one and only perfect Son, and that He can save us from our sins.

Tracker: Bye friends...and Merry Christmas!

Teacher: Bye, Tracker! Merry Christmas to you, too!

Craft or Activity

Supplies:

- Christmas trees cut from craft foam, construction paper, or cardstock (punch a hole on top; names will go on the back)
- School glue on small plates
- Q-tips (to put glue on trees)
- Wordless Book colored pom-poms
- Ribbon, yarn, or string

Instructions:

1. Say: Today you are going to make a Wordless Book Christmas ornament. You will be using pom-poms that are the Wordless Book colors. When someone comes over to your house during Christmas, you can show them the ornament and tell them about Jesus!
2. Leaders will need to assist children to make sure they get one of each color on their ornament.
3. As children work on this activity, review what each color means.

Snack and Lesson Review

Verse Activity: Our Bible verse can be found in John, chapter 3, verse 16. Let's all clap three times when I say "John" and then put our hands in our lap. John! *Children clap three times and then put their hands in their laps. After hands are in laps, say John 3:16.*

Pray: *Take time to thank God for the snack and for being a good God. Encourage children to fold their hands, bow their heads, and close their eyes. Remind them that praying is talking to God. Open prayer with, "Dear Heavenly Father" and close with, "...in Jesus' name, Amen."*

Review questions to ask during snack:

1. What was the name of the baby in our lesson? (Jesus)
2. What was Jesus' mother's name? (Mary)
3. Was Jesus sent to save people from their sins? (Yes)

Review Activities

Supplies:

- Nativity set (one for each table of children)

Instructions:

1. Review the lesson at each table using a nativity set. Give each child one piece and have them take turns placing the figures in the stable.
2. Switch pieces and repeat several times.

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 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!

Creative Teaching Supplies:

- Use a whiteboard and dry erase markers to draw pictures as you teach the lesson.
- Optional: Draw pictures in advance and cover with paper. As you teach the lesson, reveal pictures.

GO!

Coming In Time

Joyfully greet children as they enter your class. Make sure they feel safe, special, and loved the moment they see your smiling face. Immediately engage them with toys or activities. Fun praise music is encouraged; recommended music options are in the Resources Booklet.

Clean Up

Clean up together while listening to a song such as “Let’s Clean Up.”

Large Group Opening Time

Worship Time: *All volunteers should assist children to the designated learning area for worship.*

1. "My God is so Big"
2. "The B-I-B-L-E"
3. "Thank You Lord for Making Me"

Bible Basics: *As children sit in the designated learning area, remind and reinforce basic sitting guidelines. (Refer to the "Let's Get Ready to Learn!" poster).*

Hold up the Bible. What is this? (The Bible)

Let's make a Bible with our hands. Have children make a Bible with their two hands.

Is everything in the Bible true? (Yes, everything in the Bible is true!)

When we pray, we talk to God. Have children fold their hands to pray.

When we read the Bible, this is how God talks to us. I have a special marker in my Bible marking a very important verse. Show your fun, bright bookmark and point to the correct verse.

Think Right Verse: *Have children listen carefully as you read the verse from your Bible. We want them to know that the verse comes directly from the Bible, God's Word! Read the entire verse.*

Let's all stand and say our verse about God loving the world. Now let's say it in a quiet voice.

"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, 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

Repeat several times. At pickup time, remind parents to help children practice their verse at home.

When a child can say the verse with little or no help, celebrate and allow them to pick a prize from the basket.

Bible Lesson

A couple of weeks ago, we learned about a helper named John the Baptist. What did John the Baptist do? He was one of God's helpers. He told people that Jesus was coming. He also told people that Jesus was sent by God to save us from our sins! Well, this week we are going to learn about more men that Jesus chose to be His helpers. Let's look in the Bible to find out more!

God tells us in the Bible that Jesus chose twelve men to be His helpers. Let's count to twelve. *Count to twelve with the children.*

Simon Peter was a fisherman. *Draw a boat.* How many of you like to go fishing? What do you like to catch when you go fishing? Fish, right? Well, Simon Peter fished all night and guess what, he didn't catch any fish, not even one! *Make a sad face.*

Jesus saw Simon Peter and told him to go back into the water and let his nets down. *Draw a net.* Do you think Simon Peter was tired from being up all night, and do you think he just wanted to go home and go to bed? Probably, but Simon Peter followed Jesus' instructions and put his nets down in the water. Guess what. When Simon Peter pulled up his nets, there were so many fish! *Draw fish; children can help.* There were so many fish his nets started to rip! Jesus did a miracle! Jesus wanted Simon Peter to leave the fish and come follow Him. Simon Peter left his boat and fish and followed Jesus!

Jesus chose twelve (*count to twelve while drawing twelve stick men*) helpers (disciples) and gave them all a special job – to tell the world about Him, Jesus! Do you want to be one of Jesus' helpers? Can you tell others about Jesus, and show others the love of Jesus? You can do this by being kind (*draw a smiley face*), loving others (*draw a heart*), and sharing the Wordless Book with people. Stand up if you want to follow Jesus and be one of His helpers.

Verse Review Time

Let's stand up and practice our verse, John 3:16, with 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, 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

Tracker Skit

Note: Tracker should have the voice of a 4-year-old boy.

Tracker: Hi, friends! Guess what I did yesterday. I walked all the way over to my grandpapa's house and helped him clean his garage. I love my grandpapa, so I made sure I worked really, really hard.

Teacher: I am sure your grandpa was happy you were his helper!

Tracker: Yes, he said I did a super job as his helper. I'm a "Super Helper"! (*say like a superhero*)

Teacher: Today, we heard about some of Jesus' helpers in the Bible. Boys and girls, tell Tracker what Simon Peter was doing. (*allow children to answer*)

Tracker: Hey, I remember my mom telling me about Simon Peter. He left everything and followed Jesus to be His helper. That is so cool!

Teacher: We should all follow Jesus and be His helpers!

Tracker: Yes, we should. I want to be Jesus' helper today! I'm going to go pick up my toys so my mom can have more time to read her Bible.

Teacher: That sounds like a great idea, Tracker! Have fun helping your mom. We'll see you next week!

Craft or Activity

Supplies:

- Activity sheet with two fish and "Jesus chooses His helpers" (see appendix)
- Glue sticks
- Multiple colors of tissue paper squares
- Blue tissue paper squares

Instructions:

Have children add colorful tissue paper squares to their fish and blue tissue paper squares to the water on their activity sheet.

Snack and Lesson Review

Verse Activity: Our Bible verse can be found in John, chapter 3, verse 16. Let's all clap three times when I say "John" and then put our hands in our lap. John! *Children clap three times and then put their hands in their laps. After hands are in laps, say John 3:16.*

Pray: *Take time to thank God for the snack and for being a good God. Encourage children to fold their hands, bow their heads, and close their eyes. Remind them that praying is talking to God. Open prayer with, "Dear Heavenly Father" and close with, "...in Jesus' name, Amen."*

Review questions to ask during snack:

1. What were they catching in nets from the boat? (Fish)
2. How many helpers followed Jesus in today's lesson – twelve or three? (Twelve)
3. Should we follow Jesus by being good helpers? (Yes)

Review Activities

Supplies:

- Plastic fish (enough for each child to find at least one fish) or you can use dry sardines.
- Bucket or bin with water

Instructions:

1. Hide fish in your classroom and have children search for the fish.
2. As each fish is found, have the child place it in the bucket of water.
3. Once all the fish have been found, have children sit around the bucket and help you count the fish.
4. Repeat activity as time permits (have children close their eyes as you re-hide the fish).

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!

Teacher’s Note: To keep the children’s attention, you must come prepared, knowing the lesson and loving Jesus. Suspense is key when using the “prop box.” Allow gaps of time as you slowly pull items from the box. Use visuals to engage the children. Feel free to bring extra props to enhance the lesson.

Creative Teaching Supplies:

Supplies in special prop box or treasure chest: picture of a wedding, picture of a wedding cake, a special cup, a water bottle, and red food coloring.

GO!

Coming In Time

Joyfully greet children as they enter your class. Make sure they feel safe, special, and loved the moment they see your smiling face. Immediately engage them with toys or activities. Fun praise music is encouraged; recommended music options are in the Resources Booklet.

Clean Up

Clean up together while listening to a song such as “Let’s Clean Up.”

Large Group Opening Time

Worship Time: *All volunteers should assist children to the designated learning area for worship.*

1. “Bigger than Big”
2. “My God is so Big”
3. “Jesus Loves Me”

Bible Basics: *As children sit in the designated learning area, remind and reinforce basic sitting guidelines. (Refer to the “Let’s Get Ready to Learn!” poster).*

Hold up the Bible. What is this? (The Bible)

Let’s make a Bible with our hands. *Have children make a Bible with their two hands.*

Is everything in the Bible true? (Yes, everything in the Bible is true!)

When we pray, we talk to God. *Have children fold their hands to pray.*

When we read the Bible, this is how God talks to us. I have a special marker in my Bible marking a very important verse. *Show your fun, bright bookmark and point to the correct verse.*

Think Right Verse: We have a new verse this week. Are you ready to hear it?

Have children listen carefully as you read the verse from your Bible. We want them to know that the verse comes directly from the Bible, God’s Word! Read the entire verse, then have children stand up as you teach the verse 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**

Repeat several times. At pickup time, remind parents to help children practice their verse at home.

When a child can say the verse with little or no help, celebrate and allow them to pick a prize from the basket.

Bible Lesson

Today we are going to hear about something special that happened. God tells us in the Bible that one day Jesus and His helpers, the disciples, and his mother, Mary, were going to a special celebration. Who can guess where they were going? *Pull the wedding picture from the prop box.* Yes, to a wedding. How many of you have been to a wedding? A wedding is a very special celebration when a man and a woman get married! *Point to the man and woman in the wedding picture.* After they get married, they usually have a celebration, a special party! What do you eat at a party? Usually there is cake. *Show*

picture of a wedding cake; rub your stomach and say, "Yum!" And they have something special to drink. Show a special cup.

Well, at this wedding celebration, there were a lot of people. They served wine, a drink made from grapes. Mary, Jesus' mother, saw there was a problem. They ran out of this special drink.

Mary knew that Jesus is God, and she knew that He could take care of the problem of no more wine. Jesus did a miracle and turned water into wine! *Take a water bottle and, without the children seeing, add a drop of red food coloring; shake when you say, "turned water into wine".* Jesus did a miracle! A miracle is something special that only God can do. *Cheer!* Just think, Jesus still does miracles today! *Cheer!*

Ok, boys and girls, I am going to see how smart you are. Are you ready for some questions?

- Where were Jesus, Mary, and His helpers going – to a wedding or a birthday party? (A wedding)
- What was the problem at the wedding – did they run out of chairs or a special drink? (They ran out of wine, a special drink)
- Did Jesus turn water into fish? (No, He turned water into wine)

Verse Review Time

Let's stand up and practice our new verse, 2 Peter 3:18a, with 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**

Tracker Skit

Note: Tracker should have the voice of a 4-year-old boy.

Tracker: Hi, friends! Guess what. I was really sad yesterday.

Teacher: Oh, I am sorry, Tracker. Why were you sad?

Tracker: My grandma was very sick. My mom said we should pray and ask God to make my grandma better. I stopped and prayed for a real long time.

Teacher: That was a good idea; praying is always a good choice! So what happened?

Tracker: Well, last night I got a phone call from my grandma, and she said she was all better!!!! Yay...God did a miracle!

Teacher: I am so happy your grandma is better. And yes, God does do miracles!

Tracker: Yes, He does. Remember to pray and ask God for miracles! Bye, friends!

Teacher: Bye, Tracker! See you next week!

Craft or Activity

Supplies:

- Activity sheet with a large "M" and "...is for miracles that only God can do!" (see appendix)
- Washable dot stampers in multiple colors (one per child)

Instructions:

1. Say: Today you are going to add dots to the letter M. The M reminds us of miracles.
2. As children work on their activity sheet, ask them, "What does the letter M remind us of?"

Optional: Sing the alphabet song as children work on their projects. When they sing the letter "M", ask them what "M" reminds them of. (Miracles)

Snack and Lesson Review

Verse Activity: Our new Bible verse can be found in 2 Peter, chapter 3. Let's all clap three times when I say "Peter" and then put our hands in our lap. Peter! *Children clap three times and then put their hands in their laps. After hands are in laps, say 2 Peter 3:18a.*

Pray: *Take time to thank God for the snack and for doing miracles. Encourage children to fold their hands, bow their heads, and close their eyes. Remind them that praying is talking to God. Open prayer with, "Dear Heavenly Father" and close with, "...in Jesus' name, Amen."*

Review questions to ask during snack:

1. Where did Jesus go – to the park or to a wedding? (To a wedding)
2. Did Jesus do a miracle in our Bible lesson? (Yes)
3. What did Jesus do with the water? (He turned it into wine)

Review Activities

Supplies:

- Carpet squares (one per child; create a circle with the carpet squares)
- Bucket
- Ball

Instructions:

1. Have children sit on carpet squares in a circle. Have them pass a ball as you say 2 Peter 3:18a together.
2. When the verse ends, have the child with the ball toss it into a bucket in the center of the circle.
3. Repeat activity as time permits.

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: Ask God to open the children's ears and hearts to truth as you teach or assist with the lesson. Pray that this week your class will be full of regularly attending children and guests.

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!

Teacher's Note: Are you ready? Remember to know your lesson so well that you only need to quickly refer to pre-marked highlighted portions of the lesson. Be patient with new children. For many this is their first time in a structured environment.

Creative Teaching Supplies:

Supplies in special prop box or treasure chest: a Wordless Book and a Nicodemus costume/dress-up clothes (for a child or an adult actor to wear).

Alternate idea: Instead of a costume, provide pictures of Nicodemus talking to Jesus, or have a child act as Nicodemus and an adult as Jesus.

GO!

Coming In Time

Joyfully greet children as they enter your class. Make sure they feel safe, special, and loved the moment they see your smiling face. Immediately engage them with toys or activities. Fun praise music is encouraged; recommended music options are in the Resources Booklet.

Clean Up

Clean up together while listening to a song such as “Let’s Clean Up.”

Large Group Opening Time

Worship Time: *All volunteers should assist children to the designated learning area for worship.*

1. “The B-I-B-L-E”
2. “Thank You Lord for Making Me”
3. “Jesus Loves Me”

Bible Basics: *As children sit in the designated learning area, remind and reinforce basic sitting guidelines. (Refer to the “Let’s Get Ready to Learn!” poster).*

Hold up the Bible. What is this? (The Bible)

Let’s make a Bible with our hands. Have children make a Bible with their two hands.

Is everything in the Bible true? (Yes, everything in the Bible is true!)

When we pray, we talk to God. Have children fold their hands to pray.

When we read the Bible, this is how God talks to us. I have a special marker in my Bible marking a very important verse. Show your fun, bright bookmark and point to the correct verse.

Think Right Verse: *Have children listen carefully as you read the verse from your Bible. We want them to know that the verse comes directly from the Bible, God’s Word! Read the entire verse with an expressive voice, then have children stand and say the verse with 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**

Repeat several times. At pickup time, remind parents to help children practice their verse at home. When a child can say the verse with little or no help, celebrate and allow them to pick a prize from the basket.

Bible Lesson

The Bible tells us about a man who saw Jesus teaching. He even saw Him do miracles and wanted to know more about Jesus! The man’s name was Nicodemus. Can you say, Nick-oh-DEE-mus? *Have a volunteer or a child dress up as Nicodemus.*

Nicodemus was very smart. But even though Nicodemus was smart and knew many things from the Bible, there was something missing. He didn’t know Jesus was sent from God to save people from their sins. *Have everyone make a sad face and give a thumbs down.*

One night, Nicodemus went to talk to Jesus. Jesus talked to Nicodemus and told him about how to go to heaven. Nicodemus listened carefully as Jesus told him that God loved him very much. Do you know what verse Jesus told Nicodemus? John 3:16. Let’s stand up and say John 3:16. If you believe in Jesus, you can go to heaven someday. Heaven is a very happy place, and most importantly we will see Jesus!

Verse Review Time

From our Bible, we can learn more about Jesus. Let’s stand up and practice our verse, 2 Peter 3:18a, with 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**

Tracker Skit

Note: Tracker should have the voice of a 4-year-old boy.

Tracker: Hi, friends! Guess what. My grandma just told me a bunch of cool things about heaven!

Teacher: The Bible tells us heaven is an awesome place. What did your grandma tell you?

Tracker: Grandma told me the Bible says that heaven has shiny gold streets! Can you imagine streets made of gold? And everyone is happy there: no crying, no medicines, no bedtimes, and no sin!!!! And best of all, Jesus is in heaven!

Teacher: That is so exciting! And Jesus is the only way to heaven!

Tracker: Oh my...I can't wait to see Jesus in heaven! I love Him so much!

Teacher: Kids, do you love Jesus? I have a game that will help us learn more about how to get to heaven.

Tracker: Bye, friends!

Teacher: Bye, Tracker!

Craft or Activity

Supplies:

- Wordless Book-colored pit balls (enough for each child to find one of each color)
- Wordless Book-colored buckets

Instructions:

1. Have children stand against the wall.
2. Say: Today we are going to play a game. We are going to spread balls around the room. When I say a color, everyone can go get one ball of the correct color and put it in the correct color bucket.
3. After each specific color is picked up, have children line up against the wall and repeat. As each color is picked up, talk about the meaning of the color (yellow/gold = heaven; dark = sin; red = Jesus; white = clean; green = grow).

Snack and Lesson Review

Verse Activity: Our Bible verse can be found in 2 Peter, chapter 3, verse 8a. Let's all clap three times when I say "Peter" and then put our hands in our lap. Peter! *Children clap three times and then put their hands in their laps. After hands are in laps, say 2 Peter 3:18a.*

Pray: *Take time to thank God for the snack and for making heaven. Encourage children to fold their hands, bow their heads, and close their eyes. Remind them that praying is talking to God. Open prayer with, "Dear Heavenly Father" and close with, "...in Jesus' name, Amen."*

Review questions to ask during snack:

1. What was the name of the man we learned about today – Nicodemus or Joe? (Nicodemus)
2. Is heaven a sad or happy place? (It's a happy place)
3. Are the streets in heaven made of sand or gold? (Gold)
4. Who is the only way to heaven? (Jesus!)

Review Activities

Repeat the Wordless Book game from above as children finish their snack.

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!

Teacher's Note: The more you know the lesson, the better the children will interact with the lesson. The more you apply the lesson to your life in advance, the more passionate you will become about teaching the lesson. Ask yourself, "Am I a good shepherd to the children you teach? How can I become a better shepherd for my children?"

Creative Teaching Supplies:

Supplies in special prop box or treasure chest: stuffed animal sheep or puppet, grass, water bottle, and shepherd costume including staff.

GO!

Coming In Time

Joyfully greet children as they enter your class. Make sure they feel safe, special, and loved the moment they see your smiling face. Immediately engage them with toys or activities. Fun praise music is encouraged; recommended music options are in the Resources Booklet.

Clean Up

Clean up together while listening to a song such as “Let’s Clean Up.”

Large Group Opening Time

Worship Time: *All volunteers should assist children to the designated learning area for worship.*

1. “The B-I-B-L-E”
2. “God is Good”
3. “Jesus Loves Me”

Bible Basics: *As children sit in the designated learning area, remind and reinforce basic sitting guidelines. (Refer to the “Let’s Get Ready to Learn!” poster).*

Hold up the Bible. What is this? (The Bible)

Let’s make a Bible with our hands. *Have children make a Bible with their two hands.*

Is everything in the Bible true? (Yes, everything in the Bible is true!)

When we pray, we talk to God. *Have children fold their hands to pray.*

When we read the Bible, this is how God talks to us. I have a special marker in my Bible marking a very important verse. *Show your fun, bright bookmark and point to the correct verse.*

Think Right Verse: *Have children listen carefully as you read the verse from your Bible. We want them to know that the verse comes directly from the Bible, God’s Word! Read the entire verse.*

I love this verse about growing! Let’s stand up and say our verse with 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**

Repeat several times. At pickup time, remind parents to help children practice their verse at home.

When a child can say the verse with little or no help, celebrate and allow them to pick a prize from the basket.

Bible Lesson

Today, we are going to learn about the Good Shepherd. A shepherd is someone who takes care of sheep.

God tells us in the Bible that Jesus talked about sheep. What does a sheep say? *Have children make sheep sounds.* I’m not sure if you know a lot about sheep, but I’ll tell you a little about this little sheep. *Hold up stuffed animal/puppet.* This sheep’s name is Fluffy. Can you say “Hi!” to Fluffy? Did you know my sheep, Fluffy, needs lots of care?

Yes, he does. Fluffy likes to eat. Do you think he eats tacos? No, he eats grass. He needs someone to show him where to find grass to eat. *Hold up grass.* Does he drink juice? No, he drinks water. *Show the water bottle.*

He needs someone to stop him from doing things that would hurt him, like getting too close to a high cliff and falling off. He needs someone to protect him from other big animals that want to eat him! He often gets lost, and he needs someone to find him.

The “someone” who does all of this is called a shepherd. Can you say that with me? Shepherd. *Put on the costume and hold the staff.* Let me tell you a story about Fluffy.

Have stuffed animal/puppet in your hand and have Fluffy talk sometimes by saying “Baaa”.

A couple of days ago I was in the field watching little Fluffy on a bright sunny day. I saw him sniffing some flowers and the next time I looked, he was gone! I ran to look for him, and I saw him running down a path leading to a dangerous river! Oh, no! So, I ran super-fast after him! I saved him from the dangerous river and brought him back to his safe little bed! As he was laying in his bed, I saw a cut on his leg. What do you do when you have a cut? Well, I washed it and put special medicine on it. I really love Fluffy, and I always want to keep him safe because I am Fluffy’s good shepherd.

Open the Bible. In the Bible, Jesus talks about being the very best shepherd - not to sheep, but to us! We are like sheep, and He is our Good Shepherd. Just like a shepherd knows his sheep, Jesus knows everything about you and loves you very much! He knows your name and where you live. He watches you when you sleep and when you wake up. Jesus is always with us and will never leave us. Jesus is our Good Shepherd.

Verse Review Time

Let’s stand up and practice our verse, 2 Peter 3:18a, with 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**

Tracker Skit

Note: Tracker should have the voice of a 4-year-old boy.

Tracker: Hi, friends! Guess what? Our family got a new puppy! We named him Buddy. He is white with big paws. I just love him so much.

Teacher: That’s so exciting, Tracker! Puppies are fun, but a lot of work.

Tracker: I know, I give him fresh water every morning and walk him after dinner.

Teacher: Great, it sounds like you are taking good care of him.

Tracker: Yes, I love him very much and want to take care of him.

Teacher: That reminds me of our lesson! Jesus wants to take care of us.

Tracker: Yes, Jesus loves us very much and watches over us, just like I watch my puppy. Jesus is our Good Shepherd. Bye, boys and girls! I am going to go take Buddy for his walk!

Craft or Activity

Supplies:

- Activity sheet with a sheep and “Jesus is the Good Shepherd!” (see appendix)
- Cotton balls
- Glue

Instructions:

1. Say: Today, we are going to glue cotton balls on a picture of a sheep. This will remind you of the lesson so you can share it with your family.
2. Leaders should help children pull apart the cotton balls.
3. Leaders should then put glue on the sheep on their activity sheet, so children can place the cotton balls on the sheep.

Snack and Lesson Review

Verse Activity: Our Bible verse can be found in 2 Peter, chapter 3, verse 8a. Let’s all clap three times when I say “Peter” and then put our hands in our lap. Peter! *Children clap three times and then put their hands in their laps. After hands are in laps, say 2 Peter 3:18a.*

Pray: *Take time to thank God for the snack and for making heaven. Encourage children to fold their hands, bow their heads, and close their eyes. Remind them that praying is talking to God. Open prayer with, “Dear Heavenly Father” and close with, “...in Jesus’ name, Amen.”*

Review questions to ask during snack:

1. Is Jesus the Good Shepherd? (Yes)
2. Does the Good Shepherd, Jesus, know our names? (Yes, He knows everything about us)
3. Will Jesus, the Good Shepherd ever leave us? (No, He is with us always)
4. Does Jesus love us? (Yes)

Review Activities

Supplies:

- Stuffed animal sheep or puppet (Fluffy; from the lesson)
- Cotton balls (to represent sheep)
- Blanket in the center of the room

Instructions:

1. Hide Fluffy and his cotton ball sheep friends in the room for children to find.
2. As children find the sheep, they should return them to the blanket in the middle of the room.
3. Repeat many times, celebrating each time Fluffy or any of his friends are found.

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!

Teacher's Note: Eye contact and tone of voice are important to keep your children engaged. Come prepared so you do not need to read the lesson, but rather teach the lesson to them. Collect props in advance to enhance the lesson.

Creative Teaching Supplies:

- Wordless Book
- Flannel board or whiteboard with dry erase markers. If using the whiteboard, include shapes cut from construction paper to enhance your drawing. For example, cut out a well from brown paper and water from blue paper. Tape the water to the whiteboard and then tape the well to the whiteboard (just at the top) to cover the water. When you lift the well, children should see the water.

GO!

Coming In Time

Joyfully greet children as they enter your class. Make sure they feel safe, special, and loved the moment they see your smiling face. Immediately engage them with toys or activities. Fun praise music is encouraged; recommended music options are in the Resources Booklet.

Clean Up

Clean up together while listening to a song such as “Let’s Clean Up.”

Large Group Opening Time

Worship Time: *All volunteers should assist children to the designated learning area for worship.*

1. “Bigger than Big”
2. “My God is so Big”
3. “Jesus Loves Me”

Bible Basics: *As children sit in the designated learning area, remind and reinforce basic sitting guidelines. (Refer to the “Let’s Get Ready to Learn!” poster).*

Hold up the Bible. What is this? (The Bible)

Let’s make a Bible with our hands. *Have children make a Bible with their two hands.*

Is everything in the Bible true? (Yes, everything in the Bible is true!)

When we pray, we talk to God. *Have children fold their hands to pray.*

When we read the Bible, this is how God talks to us. I have a special marker in my Bible marking a very important verse. *Show your fun, bright bookmark and point to the correct verse.*

Think Right Verse: *Have children listen carefully as you read the verse from your Bible. We want them to know that the verse comes directly from the Bible, God’s Word! Read the entire verse, then have children stand and say the verse with 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**

Repeat several times. At pickup time, remind parents to help children practice their verse at home.

When a child can say the verse with little or no help, celebrate and allow them to pick a prize from the basket.

Bible Lesson

God tells us in the Bible that one day Jesus stopped in a town called Samaria. The people who lived there were called Samaritans. *Draw people.* The Samaritans were known as people who sinned a lot. *Add a sad face.* Wait, we are just like the Samaritans! We don’t always obey God. We sin, too!

What color of the Wordless Book reminds us of sin? *Show the dark page.* What is sin? Sin is anything we think, say, or do that is against God. Do you sin? When you disobey your mom and dad, that is a sin. When you don’t share a toy, that is sin. When you whine or complain, that is sin.

When Jesus was in Samaria, He sat down at a well. A well is something you can get water from. *Draw a picture of a well or show pre-cut paper well.* Let's pretend we are drinking water. All the people would come to the well to get water for their family. When Jesus came to the well, He noticed a woman there. She had a large jar to collect water. He asked the woman for a drink. She asked Him many questions, and then Jesus told her the Good News about how to get to heaven. She was super excited and went out to tell her friends.

Jesus wants us to tell others how to get to heaven, just like He told the Samaritan woman at the well. Do you have friends whom you love that need to hear about Jesus? How can you tell them about Jesus? (Share a Bible verse or the Wordless Book.)

Verse Review Time

Let's stand up and practice our verse, 2 Peter 3:18a, with 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**

Tracker Skit

Note: Tracker should have the voice of a 4-year-old boy.

Props: Crayons, paper, markers, and a half-finished Wordless Book card

Tracker: Hi, friends! I am making a Wordless Book card for my friend Joey. He doesn't know Jesus, and that makes me very sad.

Teacher: That's wonderful, Tracker! Your artwork is very nice. *(hold up the half-finished card)* God wants us to share Jesus with everyone!

Tracker: That is why I am making him a card. I am using Wordless Book-colored crayons, markers, and glitter. Hey Teacher, can you find the Wordless Book colors in my crayon box?

Teacher: Kids, I'll hold up crayons and you tell me if I have Wordless Book-colored crayons.

Tracker: I love making things for other people. I am going to clean up my mess and take this card to Joey. Bye, see you next week!

Teacher: Bye, Tracker! *(to children)* Tracker is being like Jesus. Jesus told the woman at the well about the way to heaven. Let's make a special project so we can remember this Bible lesson all week.

Craft or Activity

Supplies:

- Activity sheet with a well and "I will tell others about Jesus, like the woman at the well" (see appendix)
- Sample of a completed activity sheet
- Crayons
- Washable blue dot stampers or washable blue markers

Instructions:

1. Say: Let's make a picture so we can remember how important it is to tell others about Jesus.

2. Have children color the well and use the blue dot stampers to add water to the well.

Snack and Lesson Review

Verse Activity: Our Bible verse can be found in 2 Peter, chapter 3, verse 8a. Let's all clap three times when I say "Peter" and then put our hands in our lap. Peter! *Children clap three times and then put their hands in their laps. After hands are in laps, say 2 Peter 3:18a.*

Pray: *Take time to thank God for the snack and for making heaven. Encourage children to fold their hands, bow their heads, and close their eyes. Remind them that praying is talking to God. Open prayer with, "Dear Heavenly Father" and close with, "...in Jesus' name, Amen."*

Review questions to ask during snack:

1. Does Jesus love everyone? (Yes)
2. Did Jesus tell the Samaritan woman how to get to heaven? (Yes)
3. Is there only one way to heaven? (Yes, Jesus)
4. Does God want us to tell others about Jesus? (Yes!)

Review Activities

Supplies:

- Carpet squares (one per child; create a circle with the carpet squares)
- Ball
- Fun praise music

Instructions:

1. Children will sit on carpet squares that are placed in a circle.
2. As the music plays, children can pass the ball.
3. When the music stops, everyone will say "I will tell others about Jesus!"
4. Repeat many times.

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: Pray for 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!

Teacher's Note: Use different tones in your voice as you teach the lesson. Think how you would feel to be the blind man that was healed by Jesus and teach through the eyes and emotions of the blind man.

Creative Teaching Supplies:

Supplies in a special prop box or treasure chest: dirt, water, and a jar.

GO!

Coming In Time

Joyfully greet children as they enter your class. Make sure they feel safe, special, and loved the moment they see your smiling face. Immediately engage them with toys or activities. Fun praise music is encouraged; recommended music options are in the Resources Booklet.

Clean Up

Clean up together while listening to a song such as “Let’s Clean Up.”

Large Group Opening Time

Worship Time: *All volunteers should assist children to the designated learning area for worship.*

1. “The B-I-B-L-E”
2. “My God is so Big”
3. “Jesus Loves Me”

Bible Basics: *As children sit in the designated learning area, remind and reinforce basic sitting guidelines. (Refer to the “Let’s Get Ready to Learn!” poster).*

Hold up the Bible. What is this? (The Bible)

Let’s make a Bible with our hands. *Have children make a Bible with their two hands.*

Is everything in the Bible true? (Yes, everything in the Bible is true!)

When we pray, we talk to God. *Have children fold their hands to pray.*

When we read the Bible, this is how God talks to us. I have a special marker in my Bible marking a very important verse. *Show your fun, bright bookmark and point to the correct verse.*

Think Right Verse: *Have children listen carefully as you read the verse from your Bible. We want them to know that the verse comes directly from the Bible, God’s Word! Read the entire verse, then have children stand and say the verse with 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**

Repeat several times. At pickup time, remind parents to help children practice their verse at home.

When a child can say the verse with little or no help, celebrate and allow them to pick a prize from the basket.

Bible Lesson

Today we are going to hear about another one of Jesus’ miracles.

Open the Bible. The Bible teaches us that one day Jesus was walking along the road, and He saw a blind man. What do you think Jesus did? Do you think He helped the blind man or walked away from him? (He helped him) Being blind means you can’t see anything! Close your eyes. Imagine if you couldn’t see your hands, you couldn’t see your family, you couldn’t see the sun or the grass. Well, this

man that Jesus saw was blind since he was a baby. He had never seen anything. But God had a special plan for the blind man.

Jesus took some dirt from the ground and spit on it to make mud. *Make mud with dirt and water; do not spit on it.* Jesus took the mud and put it on the blind man's eyes and told him to go wash the mud off in the pool. The man obeyed Jesus (*thumbs up*) and washed the mud off. Guess what happened. He could see! *Cheer!* How wonderful! Jesus healed the man. Another miracle! Jesus healed many people. God had a plan for every person Jesus healed. God has a special plan for your life, too! Everyone stand up and say three times, "God has a special plan for me!"

Verse Review Time

Let's stay standing and practice our verse, 2 Peter 3:18a, with 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**

Tracker Skit

Note: Tracker should have the voice of a 4-year-old boy.

Tracker: Hi, friends! Guess what I learned last night.

Teacher: What did you learn last night, Tracker?

Tracker: Last night, after I took a bubble bath *and* ate two chocolate chip cookies *and* brushed my teeth, my dad sat down with me on my bed. He was reading my Bible to me and there was a part in the Bible that says God has a special plan for me! That is so awesome! God loves me so much that He has a plan for my life! He knows what I'll look like when I'm eight, if I'm going to be a fireman when I get older, and He even knows what I'll do when I'm a grandpa. God knows everything about me!

Teacher: Yes, Tracker, God loves us all so very much, and He knows everything about us.

Tracker: I'm so excited that God has a plan for me! Bye, see you next week.

Teacher: Bye, Tracker!

Craft or Activity

Supplies:

- Carpet squares (one per; create a circle with the carpet squares)
- Paper bags with an item in each bag (ideas for items: banana, toy car, spoon, stuffed teddy bear, apple, cookie, etc.)
- Optional: blindfold

Instructions:

1. Have children sit in a circle on carpet squares.
2. Say: We are going to play a fun guessing game! Raise your hand if you are a good guesser. When it is your turn, you will close your eyes (*blindfold optional*), and put your hand in a bag and guess

what you are touching. Just think, this is how the blind man had to do things before Jesus healed him. He had to feel everything.

Tip: For large classes, each leader could have a set of bags to review with a small group of children. Or leaders could share one set of bags and just pass them from group to group.

Snack and Lesson Review

Verse Activity: Our Bible verse can be found in 2 Peter, chapter 3, verse 8a. Let's all clap three times when I say "Peter" and then put our hands in our lap. Peter! *Children clap three times and then put their hands in their laps. After hands are in laps, say 2 Peter 3:18a.*

Pray: *Take time to thank God for the snack and for making heaven. Encourage children to fold their hands, bow their heads, and close their eyes. Remind them that praying is talking to God. Open prayer with, "Dear Heavenly Father" and close with, "...in Jesus' name, Amen."*

Review questions to ask during snack:

1. Did the man in our lesson have a broken arm or was he blind? (He was blind)
2. Do you think the man was happy when he could see? (Yes)
3. Did Jesus help him see? (Yes)
4. Does God have a special plan for you? (Yes)

Review Activities

Supplies:

- Puzzles

Instructions:

1. Have children sit at tables and do puzzles.
2. As children put the puzzles together, remind them that God gave us eyes to see the puzzles, and He has a plan for their lives.

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!

Teacher's Note: Every time you pray in front of your children, you are role modeling how to pray. Remember, that for some children this is the only time during the week they are sitting in a structured environment. Using children's names while teaching helps them stay engaged.

Creative Teaching Supplies:

Use pictures of a sun, a moon, a car, and food.

GO!

Coming In Time

Joyfully greet children as they enter your class. Make sure they feel safe, special, and loved the moment they see your smiling face. Immediately engage them with toys or activities. Fun praise music is encouraged; recommended music options are in the Resources Booklet.

Clean Up

Clean up together while listening to a song such as “Let’s Clean Up.”

Large Group Opening Time

Worship Time: *All volunteers should assist children to the designated learning area for worship.*

1. “The B-I-B-L-E”
2. “My God is so Big”
3. “Jesus Loves Me”

Bible Basics: *As children sit in the designated learning area, remind and reinforce basic sitting guidelines. (Refer to the “Let’s Get Ready to Learn!” poster).*

Hold up the Bible. What is this? (The Bible)

Let’s make a Bible with our hands. *Have children make a Bible with their two hands.*

Is everything in the Bible true? (Yes, everything in the Bible is true!)

When we pray, we talk to God. *Have children fold their hands to pray.*

When we read the Bible, this is how God talks to us. I have a special marker in my Bible marking a very important verse. *Show your fun, bright bookmark and point to the correct verse.*

Think Right Verse: *Have children listen carefully as you read the verse from your Bible. We want them to know that the verse comes directly from the Bible, God’s Word! Read the entire verse, then have children stand and say the verse with 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**

Repeat several times. At pickup time, remind parents to help children practice their verse at home.

When a child can say the verse with little or no help, celebrate and allow them to pick a prize from the basket.

Bible Lesson

Today we are going to learn how we can talk to God. Let’s clap our hands three times if you are ready for our lesson today. Ready? *Clap, clap, clap.* Great job, that shows me you are ready!

Open the Bible. In the Bible, God tells us about a time when Jesus got up early in the morning. It was so early in the morning; the sun wasn’t shining. Jesus walked to a quiet place. Shhhh...let’s all be super quiet.

What do you think Jesus did early in the morning, in the quiet place? He prayed! Who do you think He prayed to? He prayed to God, His Father in heaven. Jesus was teaching us how to pray. We can pray to God, too. We fold our hands, close our eyes, bow our heads, and talk to God. God hears us when we talk to Him.

I am going to show you some pictures and you guess what time of day it is.

Show a picture of the sun. Do you think this is morning or nighttime? Yes, morning. Can you pray and talk to God in the morning when you wake up? Yes, you can talk to God any time!

Show a picture of the moon. What does this remind you of? Yes, nighttime. Can you pray and talk to God at nighttime? Yes, you can talk to God any time!

Show a picture of a car. Do you think you can pray and talk to God when you are riding in the car? Yes, you can talk to God any time!

Show a picture of food. What is this? Yes, food. Can you pray and talk to God before you eat? Yes, you can talk to God any time!

Verse Review Time

Let's stand up and practice our verse, 2 Peter 3:18a, with 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**

Tracker Skit

Note: Tracker should have the voice of a 4-year-old boy.

Tracker: Hi, friends! I love talking about praying. My favorite time to pray is at night.

Teacher: I love to pray when I wake up in the morning, before I eat my breakfast.

Tracker: Breakfast...I love pancakes and applesauce...yummy!!!! Do you think I should pray before I eat breakfast?

Teacher: Absolutely yes! You can pray and thank God for your yummy pancakes and applesauce. You can talk to God whenever you want.

Tracker: I am just so excited that I can talk to God anytime! Best of all, when I pray, He hears me!

Teacher: Yes, Tracker, that is right! God hears you when you pray!

Tracker: I love praying. How about you, kids, do you like to pray? Teacher, can you pray for our class right now?

Teacher: I would love to. (*pray with the children*)

Tracker: Thank you for praying! See you next week, friends!

Teacher: Bye, Tracker! See you next week.

Craft or Activity

Supplies:

- Activity sheet with praying hands and "God hears me when I pray!" (see appendix)
- Watercolor paint
- Paint brushes
- Spill proof water cups (or add a few drops of water to each paint color)

Instructions: Children will paint a picture to remind them to pray during the week.

Snack and Lesson Review

Verse Activity: Our Bible verse can be found in 2 Peter, chapter 3, verse 8a. Let's all clap three times when I say "Peter" and then put our hands in our lap. Peter! *Children clap three times and then put their hands in their laps. After hands are in laps, say 2 Peter 3:18a.*

Pray: *Take time to thank God for the snack and for making heaven. Encourage children to fold their hands, bow their heads, and close their eyes. Remind them that praying is talking to God. Open prayer with, "Dear Heavenly Father" and close with, "...in Jesus' name, Amen."*

Review questions to ask during snack:

1. Do we talk to God when we pray? (Yes)
2. Can we pray in the morning? (Yes)
3. Can we pray at lunchtime? (Yes)
4. Can we pray at ANY time? (Yes)
5. Does God hear all of our prayers? (Yes)

Review Activities

Option 1

Supplies:

- Paper
- Crayons

Instructions:

1. Trace children's hands and remind children we fold our hands when we pray and talk to God.
2. After hands are traced, have children color the hands on their papers.

Option 2

Supplies:

- Play-Doh®

Instructions:

1. Have leaders flatten Play-Doh and then have children press their handprint into the Play-Doh.
2. Remind children we fold our hands when we pray and 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.

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 your children will seek God with their whole hearts. Take time to pray Proverbs 2:1-11 for your children during the week as you prepare for the lesson.

Read: Review Lessons 7 and 8.

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!

Teacher's Note: The quarter review is split into two parts, so this lesson is short. If possible, repeat it twice so children can answer the questions a second time. Repetition is always important for young children.

Creative Teaching Supplies:

Supplies in special prop box or treasure chest:

- Pictures of a shepherd with sheep, a child, and a group of children
- Wordless Book

GO!

Coming In Time

Joyfully greet children as they enter your class. Make sure they feel safe, special, and loved the moment they see your smiling face. Immediately engage them with toys or activities. Fun praise music is encouraged; recommended music options are in the Resources Booklet.

Clean Up

Clean up together while listening to a song such as “Let’s Clean Up.”

Large Group Opening Time

Worship Time: *All volunteers should assist children to the designated learning area for worship.*

1. “The B-I-B-L-E”
2. “Thank You Lord for Making Me”
3. “Jesus Loves Me”

Bible Basics: *As children sit in the designated learning area, remind and reinforce basic sitting guidelines. (Refer to the “Let’s Get Ready to Learn!” poster).*

Hold up the Bible. What is this? (The Bible)

Let’s make a Bible with our hands. Have children make a Bible with their two hands.

Is everything in the Bible true? (Yes, everything in the Bible is true!)

When we pray, we talk to God. Have children fold their hands to pray.

When we read the Bible, this is how God talks to us. I have a special marker in my Bible marking a very important verse. Show your fun, bright bookmark and point to the correct verse.

Think Right Verse: *Have children listen carefully as you read the verse from your Bible. We want them to know that the verse comes directly from the Bible, God’s Word! Read the entire verse, and then have children stand and say the verse with 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**

Repeat several times. At pickup time, remind parents to help children practice their verse at home.

When a child can say the verse with little or no help, celebrate and allow them to pick a prize from the basket.

Bible Lesson

Clap your hands three times if you are ready for our lesson today. Ready? *Clap, clap, clap.* Great job, that shows me you are ready!

We have learned so much from the Bible. Do you have a Bible at home? Everything in the Bible is true.

Picture of a shepherd with sheep:

Our Bible tells us that Jesus is the Good Shepherd. What does a good shepherd watch? Sheep. What sounds do sheep make? Baa...baa. A good shepherd watches over his sheep and keeps them safe.

Jesus watches over us and keeps us safe, too. Let’s all say, “Thank You Jesus!”

Picture of a child:

Do you know that Jesus, the Good Shepherd, knows everything about you? He knows your name. He knows how many hairs you have on your head. He knows what you ate for breakfast. He even knows which is your favorite toy. Jesus knows everything about you.

Wordless Book and a picture of many children:

Does God want us to tell others about Jesus? Yes! How can we tell others about Jesus? We can tell people about Jesus with the Wordless Book. The red page reminds of Jesus. Jesus loves every person in the whole world!

Verse Review Time

In the Bible, God tells us that He loves us very much, and He sent Jesus to save us from our sin! This reminds me of a verse we learned a while ago, John 3:16. Let's review that verse.

"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, 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

Tracker Skit

Note: Tracker should have the voice of a 4-year-old boy.

Prop: A Wordless Book should be near the puppet stage.

Tracker: Hi, boys and girls! You look very busy today.

Teacher: Yes, we are busy. Today we are thinking about all the Bible lessons we have learned.

Tracker: My favorite lesson was about the sheep...baa, baa, baa. I think Jesus is the best Shepherd in the whole world!

Teacher: You're right, Jesus is the best Good Shepherd! Just like a shepherd loves his sheep, Jesus loves us very much.

Tracker: I wish everyone knew about Jesus.

Teacher: We can tell others about Jesus.

Tracker: Yes, we can. Hmmm...I wish I had a Wordless Book. Kids, can you find a Wordless Book in our classroom? (have children search)

Teacher: Tracker, look what the kids found – a Wordless Book!

Tracker: Yay! This little book reminds me of how much God loves everyone. I'm going to go and tell my friends about Jesus.

Teacher: That is a great idea! Kids, can we tell our friends that God loves them? Let's practice and say, "God loves you!" Awesome!

Tracker: I've gotta go and tell my friends about Jesus. Bye, kids!

Teacher: Bye, Tracker!

Craft or Activity

Supplies:

- Green roll paper with a picture of Jesus in the middle and "Jesus is my Good Shepherd" written below it
- Cotton balls
- Glue

Instructions:

Around the picture of Jesus, have children fill in the paper with cotton ball "sheep."

Snack and Lesson Review

Verse Activity: Our Bible verse can be found in 2 Peter, chapter 3, verse 8a. Let's all clap three times when I say "Peter" and then put our hands in our lap. Peter! *Children clap three times and then put their hands in their laps. After hands are in laps, say 2 Peter 3:18a.*

Pray: Take time to thank God for the snack and for being a good God. Encourage children to fold their hands, bow their heads, and close their eyes. Remind them that praying is talking to God. Open prayer with, “Dear Heavenly Father” and close with, “...in Jesus’ name, Amen.”

Review questions to ask during snack:

1. Is Jesus the Good Shepherd? (Yes)
2. Does God know your name? (Yes)
3. Does God love you very much? (Yes)
4. Does God love your friends? (Yes)

Review Activities

Supplies:

- White paper
- Washable Wordless Book-colored dot stampers

Instructions:

1. Have children fill the paper with Wordless Book-colored dots.
2. As they work, review the meaning of each color:
 - Gold/Yellow - God loves you/heaven
 - Dark - Sin
 - Red - Jesus died for our sin
 - White/Clean - Jesus takes away our sin
 - Green - We should grow to be more like Jesus

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 in your class will remember verses they have memorized and Bible lessons they have learned during the good times and challenging times of their lives. Take time to pray Proverbs 2:1-11 for your children during the week as you prepare for the lesson.

Read: Review Lessons 4, 9, and 10.

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!

Teacher's Note: 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 Teaching Supplies:

Supplies in special prop box or treasure chest:

- Boat (toy boat, paper boat, etc.) – optional: include net and/or fish
- Mud in a jar
- Cereal, pillow, toys

GO!

Coming In Time

Joyfully greet children as they enter your class. Make sure they feel safe, special, and loved the moment they see your smiling face. Immediately engage them with toys or activities. Fun praise music is encouraged; recommended music options are in the Resources Booklet.

Clean Up

Clean up together while listening to a song such as “Let’s Clean Up.”

Large Group Opening Time

Worship Time: *All volunteers should assist children to the designated learning area for worship.*

1. “The B-I-B-L-E”
2. “My God is so Big”
3. “Jesus Loves Me”

Bible Basics: *As children sit in the designated learning area, remind and reinforce basic sitting guidelines. (Refer to the “Let’s Get Ready to Learn!” poster).*

Hold up the Bible. What is this? (The Bible)

Let’s make a Bible with our hands. *Have children make a Bible with their two hands.*

Is everything in the Bible true? (Yes, everything in the Bible is true!)

When we pray, we talk to God. *Have children fold their hands to pray.*

When we read the Bible, this is how God talks to us. I have a special marker in my Bible marking a very important verse. *Show your fun, bright bookmark and point to the correct verse.*

Think Right Verse: *Have children listen carefully as you read the verse from your Bible. We want them to know that the verse comes directly from the Bible, God’s Word! Read the entire verse, then have children stand and say the verse with 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**

Repeat several times. At pickup time, remind parents to help children practice their verse at home.

When a child can say the verse with little or no help, celebrate and allow them to pick a prize from the basket.

Bible Lesson

Clap your hands three times if you are ready for our lesson today. Ready? *Clap, clap, clap.* Great job, that shows me you are ready!

We have learned so much from the Bible. Do you have a Bible at home? *Allow for children to respond.* Everything in the Bible is true. I love reading my Bible at home. *Show children your Bible.*

Props: boat, net, fish

Pull out boat. Do you remember when we learned about a man in a boat? His name was Simon Peter. Jesus told Simon Peter to put his nets out (*pull out net*) into the water to catch fish (*pull out fish*). He did just what Jesus said to do. Do you know what he caught? He caught fish. Simon Peter loved Jesus and followed Him.

Props: mud in a jar

From the Bible, we learned about a time Jesus did a miracle. Do you remember the man who could not see? He was blind. *Have children cover their eyes.* Jesus had a great plan for him. He allowed the man to be blind for a long time. Then one day, Jesus chose him for a huge miracle. The miracle was so big that people would hear about it for hundreds and hundreds of years! Jesus did this miracle by taking dirt (*show jar of mud*) and some of His spit, mixed it together to make mud, and put it on the man’s

eyes. He then told the man to go to the water and wash his eyes. Can you guess what happened? The man listened to Jesus, washed his eyes in the water, and then he could see! Jesus did a miracle.

Props: cereal, pillow, toys

Jesus did miracles, and He also taught us to pray. When we pray, we talk to God. When we pray, we fold our hands, bow our heads, and close our eyes. *Have children practice.* This way we can really think about God. We can talk to God in the morning, at night, before we eat, when we play...anytime. Let's stop and pray right now. *Have children fold their hands, bow their heads, and close their eyes.* Thank You, God, for listening to us pray. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Verse Review Time

Let's stand up and practice our verse, 2 Peter 3:18a, with 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**

Tracker Skit

Note: Tracker should have the voice of a 4-year-old boy.

Prop: Bible

Tracker: Hi, Teacher! I have a Bible just like you. My dad gave me my Bible.

Teacher: That's a really nice Bible.

Tracker: Do you know what my favorite Bible lesson is this week?

Teacher: Hmmm...was it about the blind man?

Tracker: Nope, I liked that one, but my favorite one is about the fisherman guy.

Teacher: You mean Simon Peter? The guy who obeyed and followed Jesus?

Tracker: Yes...that one is my favorite. I liked it when all the fish jumped into his nets.

Teacher: There are so many people we learned about from our Bible.

Tracker: Can you tell me more....

Teacher: Yes, next week when you come back, we can learn about more people from our Bible.

Tracker: Bye, kids!

Teacher: Bye, Tracker! See you next week!

Craft or Activity

Supplies:

- Blue roll paper (to represent water)
- A toy boat (place in the center of the water) or create a boat using paper or other supplies
- An action figure to represent Simon Peter (place in the center of the water)
- Fish stamps, stickers, or paper cutouts and glue sticks

Instructions:

1. Children will place fish in the water around the boat.
2. Have children listen to you count the different colored fish.
3. Remind children that Simon Peter loved and followed Jesus.

Snack and Lesson Review

Verse Activity: Our Bible verse can be found in 2 Peter, chapter 3, verse 8a. Let's all clap three times when I say "Peter" and then put our hands in our lap. Peter! *Children clap three times and then put their hands in their laps. After hands are in laps, say 2 Peter 3:18a.*

Pray: *Take time to thank God for the snack and for loving each person in the world. Encourage children to fold their hands, bow their heads, and close their eyes. Remind them that praying is talking to God. Open prayer with, "Dear Heavenly Father" and close with, "...in Jesus' name, Amen."*

Review questions to ask during snack:

1. What did Simon Peter catch in nets from his boat? (Fish)
2. Who healed the blind man? (Jesus)
3. Does God hear us when we pray? (Yes)

Review Activities

Supplies:

- Music
- Wordless Book-colored balls
- Wordless Book-colored buckets

Instructions:

1. Have children sit against the wall.
2. Roll out the balls.
3. Play music and have children put the balls in the correct buckets.
4. When all the balls are picked up, quickly review the meaning of each color.
5. Repeat.

On Track Map

Topical 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 (Top 12)
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 for limited distractions in your classroom as you teach the lesson or assist in the classroom. Ask God to make the lesson simple and unforgettable for each child.

Read: Matthew 1:18-2:12 and Luke 1:30-33 (Due to content, we will be skipping Matthew 2:3-8)

Know Right: Celebrate Jesus!

GET SET!

Creative Teaching Supplies:

Supplies in a special Christmas gift box: Nativity set (pull out pieces as you teach the lesson).

GO!

Coming In Time

Joyfully greet children as they enter your class. Make sure they feel safe, special, and loved the moment they see your smiling face. Immediately engage them with toys or activities. Fun praise music is encouraged; recommended music options are in the Resources Booklet.

Clean Up

Clean up together while listening to a song such as “Let's Clean Up.”

Large Group Opening Time

Worship Time: *All volunteers should assist children to the designated learning area for worship. Choose 2-3 worship songs to sing with the children.*

Bible Basics: *As children sit in the designated learning area, remind and reinforce basic sitting guidelines. (Refer to the "Let's Get Ready to Learn!" poster).*

Hold up the Bible. What is this? (The Bible)

Let's make a Bible with our hands. Have children make a Bible with their two hands.

Is everything in the Bible true? (Yes, everything in the Bible is true!)

When we pray, we talk to God. Have children fold their hands to pray.

When we read the Bible, this is how God talks to us. I have a special marker in my Bible marking a very important verse. Show your fun, bright bookmark and point to the correct verse.

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

Have children listen carefully as you read the current verse from your Bible. We want them to know that the verse comes directly from the Bible, God's Word! After reading the verse, review the actions with children and say it together several times. When a child can say the verse with little or no help, celebrate and allow them to pick a prize from the basket.

Bible Lesson

Today we are going to learn about God's gift to us.

Open Bible. We learn from the Bible that an angel came to a young girl named Mary. The angel told Mary, "You will have a baby, and you are to give Him the name Jesus." This was very special for Mary. Jesus was going to be a gift from God!

Mary was about to be married to a young man named Joseph. Joseph loved God and did what was right. One night while Joseph was sleeping, an angel came to him in a dream. The angel told him that Mary was going to have a baby! Jesus would save us from our sin! What is sin? Sin is anything we think, say, or do that is against God. So, Mary and Joseph did what God wanted them to do. Let's see what happened next!

Mary had a baby boy. What did they name Him? Jesus! Jesus was born in a city called Bethlehem. Our Bible also talks about shepherds. They were men who watched the sheep. These men were watching their sheep and a group of angels appeared and announced that Jesus was born! They were so excited they went to see Jesus right away. When they arrived and saw Him, they worshiped Him. (Luke 2:15)

This Christmas, can you celebrate Jesus? Jesus is the best gift God could ever give us.

Verse Review Time

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

Great job! You are really learning that verse from the Bible. Wait...did you hear something? I think I hear Tracker!

Tracker Skit

Note: Tracker Jr. should have a voice of a 4-year-old boy.

Prop: sample of a completed activity sheet from craft time

Tracker: Hi, friends! Merry Christmas!

Teacher: Merry Christmas to you, too, Tracker!

Tracker: I love hearing about Jesus at Christmastime! It's so special.

Teacher: Tracker, do you think you will remember to think about Jesus on Christmas morning?

Tracker: I sure hope so!

Teacher: Let me show you how I will remember. I have a picture of Jesus that I will hang by my bed starting today. This will remind me of Jesus.

Tracker: Wow, that's a good idea! I think I can paint a picture and hang it by my bed, too. Then tonight, after I put on my Superman pajamas, I will stop and thank God for Jesus.

Teacher: Kids, do you think you can paint a Christmas picture of Jesus and hang it by your bed? Let's go paint one right now. Bye, Tracker!

Tracker: Bye, everyone! Merry Christmas!

Craft or Activity

Supplies:

- Activity sheet with baby Jesus and "Celebrate Jesus!" (see appendix)
- Watercolor paints
- Paint brushes
- Spill proof water cups (or add a few drops of water to each paint color)

Instructions:

1. Say: Today you are going to paint a picture, just like Tracker is going to. Where is Tracker going to hang his picture? (In his bedroom, by his bed) Where should you put your picture?
2. As children paint their picture, talk about baby Jesus, the special gift God sent.

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)

Runners Printable Resources

Year 3 - Quarter 2 (Africa Version)



Lesson 1
God is good
activity sheet



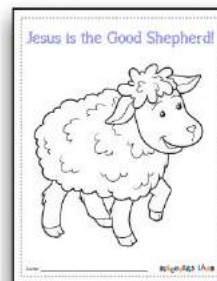
Lesson 2
Wordless Book
with dot stickers



Lesson 4
Fish activity sheet



Lesson 5
Miracles activity sheet



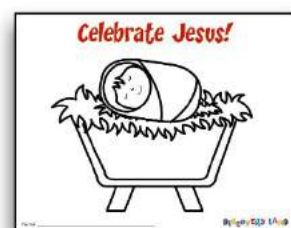
Lesson 7
Good Shepherd
activity sheet



Lesson 8
Woman at the Well
activity sheet



Lesson 10
Praying Hands
activity sheet



Get on Track Lesson
Celebrate Jesus!
Baby Jesus activity sheet

THE WORDLESS BOOK - PRESENTING THE GOSPEL TO CHILDREN



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

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

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

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

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

Using the Wordless Book:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Additional Tips:

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

Coaching Kids For Salvation

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

DISCOVERY LAND

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

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

Ask: Would you like to pray and ask Jesus to take away your sin?
If a child says, "No," 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's Next?* 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's Next?* 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 DL leadership so we can rejoice with the student.

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