

DISCOVERY LAND

Year 3 – Quarter 4

Elementary Curriculum

Adapted for use in Africa



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A Note About Curriculum Adaptations

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



A Message from Kris Smoll

Dear Leaders,

Thank you for serving!

At times we may feel tempted to be content with the students we already have and forget how important it is to reach more children with the Gospel. This quarter, think bigger! Think about the lost sheep in your community and how you can invite and welcome them into your ministry (Luke 15:3-7). Remember, this will be the first time some of these students will hear about Jesus or open a Bible. Care for them, love them, cheer for them, and pray that God reveals His truth to them. I pray that God will bring you new children who are seeking to know Him and grow in His Word!

This quarter, we will work as a team to coach our students to truly understand our all-powerful God and teach them how to be true disciples of Jesus Christ. We will be studying Naaman, King Hezekiah, Jonah, King Josiah, Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego, and Esther. These people sought truth, and they were prepared for the challenges of life.

I pray you will experience an incredible amount of joy each week as you study God's Word and then share it with your students. No matter your role or the age of your students, you are important! Ephesians 2:10 says, "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." This verse reminds us that serving is so much more than giving a few hours of our time. It's about being used by God to fulfill His grand plan - that's Kingdom work! Thank you for being obedient to His call on your life.

Looking forward to watching God use you for Kingdom work!

Kris Smoll
Executive Director of Discovery Land Global

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Understanding the Curriculum

Overview

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

The curriculum was developed to teach students:

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

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

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

Leaders

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

LEADER TIPS

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

Smaller classes may combine the DT Leader and Shepherd positions.

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

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

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

Elementary Program Overview

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

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

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

SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

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

Pre-Service Review Game

LEADER TIPS

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

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

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

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

Worship

Worship is designed to:

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

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

LEADER TIPS

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

Discover Time

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

LEADER TIPS

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

Bible Lesson

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

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

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

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

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

Suggested steps for preparing your Bible lesson:

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

End-of-Class Review Game

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

LEADER TIP

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

Classroom Resources

The following teaching tools are provided in the classroom:

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

Tracker Tickets

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

Currency Rate

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

Tracker's Treasures

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

Elementary Syllabus

Year 3 – Quarter 4

Lesson 1

2 Kings 5:1-15a

Know Right:

Naaman is healed of leprosy after a young girl shares her faith.

Think Right:

1 Corinthians 15:58 (Top 12)

Do Right:

I will boldly tell others about our great God.

Feel Right:

I can feel joyful when I tell others about our great God.

Lesson 2

2 Kings 20:1-7

Know Right:

King Hezekiah confidently prays.

Think Right:

1 Thessalonians 5:17

Do Right:

I will pray about all things.

Feel Right:

I can feel patient knowing God hears my prayers.

Lesson 3

Jonah 1 - 3

Know Right:

Jonah makes choices about obedience.

Think Right:

Psalms 119:9

Do Right:

I will obey God.

Feel Right:

I can feel strong when I obey God.

Lesson 4

2 Chronicles 34

Know Right:

King Josiah finds God's Word.

Think Right:

2 Peter 3:18a (Top 12)

Do Right:

I will seek the truth from God's Word.

Feel Right:

I can feel wise when I seek the truth from God's Word.

Lesson 5:

2 Kings 25:1-21; Jeremiah 29:4-14 (Parallel Account in 2 Chronicles 36:15-21)

Know Right:

Nebuchadnezzar conquers Judah.

Think Right:

Proverbs 3:5-6 (Top 12)

Do Right:

I will trust God's plan for my life.

Feel Right:

I can feel peaceful when I trust God's plan for my life.

Lesson 6

Daniel 1:1-20

Know Right:

Daniel refuses the king's food.

Think Right:

John 14:6 (Top 12)

Do Right:

I will live my life God's way.

Feel Right:

I can feel faithful when I live my life God's way.

Lesson 7

Daniel 2

Know Right:

Daniel asks God for wisdom to interpret Nebuchadnezzar's dream.

Think Right:

James 1:5a

Do Right:

I will ask God for wisdom.

Feel Right:

I can feel victorious when I have and share God's wisdom.

Lesson 8

Daniel 3

Know Right: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego are thrown into the fiery furnace.
Think Right: Joshua 1:9 (Top 12)
Do Right: I will trust in God's power.
Feel Right: I can feel courageous and peaceful when I trust in God's power.

Lesson 9

Daniel 6

Know Right: Daniel is thrown into the lions' den.
Think Right: 1 Corinthians 15:58 (Top 12)
Do Right: I will remain committed to God.
Feel Right: I can feel faithful when I remain committed to God.

Lesson 10

Esther 1-10

Know Right: Esther courageously risks her life and is used by God to save His people.
Think Right: James 1:22
Do Right: I will be willing to take risks to do what is right.
Feel Right: I can feel supported by God when I take risks to do what is right.

Lesson 11

Review Day

Know Right: True wisdom comes from God's Word.
Think Right: 2 Peter 3:18a (Top 12)
Do Right: I will remember God's Word.
Feel Right: I can feel wise when I remember God's Word.

Topical Lesson:

Getting to Know the Book of Psalms

Know Right: Psalms is a collection of songs responding to God.
Think Right: Psalm 19:14
Do Right: I will worship God in all situations.
Feel Right: I can feel good about worshipping God in all situations.

Topical Lesson:

When Tragedy Happens

Know Right: God is our refuge and help in times of trouble.
Think Right: Psalm 46:11
Do Right: I will go to God in times of trouble.
Feel Right: I can feel comforted when I go to God.

Topical Lesson:

The Church

Know Right: The church is made up of people who follow Jesus and glorify God together.
Think Right: 1 Corinthians 12:27
Do Right: I will glorify God as part of His church.
Feel Right: I can feel joyful when I glorify God in the church.

Quarter Overview

Year 3 – Quarter 4

Once again, we change course from our New Testament study of Jesus' life, death, resurrection, and the history of the early church and return to our journey through the powerful lessons of the Old Testament. Our study takes us back to the time of the divided kingdom of Judah and Israel, and into Judah's captivity in Babylon. We will encounter some of the most well-known Bible personalities and through their challenges, faithfulness, and even disobedience, we will learn why we should build our lives on God's Word.

Our first lesson takes us outside of Israel to the pagan land of Aram. There a young Israelite girl, taken captive by Aram's army, worked for the family of a man named Naaman. Naaman was the commander of Aram's army, and he was afflicted with leprosy. This young girl demonstrated her faith, despite her circumstances, as she boldly told how God's prophet in Israel, Elisha, could heal Naaman. From her, we learn how to boldly tell others about our great God.

Since their inception as a nation, the people of Israel had rebelled against God. When they demanded a king, God warned them of the consequences, but granted their request. One consequence of Israel's rebellion was the division of the kingdom into Judah and Israel. After this division, all of Israel's kings, and many of Judah's kings, did evil in the eyes of the Lord and led their people astray. However, there were some kings of Judah who had faith in God and did what was right in His eyes. One of these kings was Hezekiah. Hezekiah prayed and cried after being told by God's prophet that he would die. God answered Hezekiah's prayer with a 'yes' and allowed him fifteen more years of life. From Hezekiah, we are encouraged to pray about all things.

Because of their rebellion and their worship of make-believe gods, God allowed the Israelites to be vulnerable to their enemies. One of those enemies was Assyria. Because of Assyria's evil acts, God planned to destroy them. Because of God's grace and mercy, He sent His prophet Jonah to warn the Assyrians. When the resentful Jonah disobeyed, God taught Jonah a lesson through His power over the sea and its creatures. Jonah finally obeyed, the Assyrians repented, and they were spared from destruction. From Jonah's disobedience and the resulting consequences, we can be convicted to always obey God.

Israel's unfaithful kings and disobedient people neglected God's temple, His worship, and His Word. The northern kingdom of Israel had already been exiled to Assyria, and Judah's punishment was not far behind. Although Josiah became the king of Judah at only eight years of age, he did what was right in God's eyes. Every good thing he did led to another. When Josiah ordered the repair of the temple, the Book of the Law was found. When Josiah heard the truth of God's Word in that book, he believed and followed it. He read it to his people and led them back to obedience. Because Josiah yielded to the truth, God spared Judah from its punishment until after Josiah's death. May we, as God's people, follow in Josiah's footsteps by seeking the truth from God's Word.

After King Josiah's death, Judah and its kings returned to their evil ways, and the time for Judah's promised punishment arrived. God allowed King Nebuchadnezzar's army to conquer Judah, destroy Jerusalem, and take many of Judah's citizens to Babylon as captives. This was a devastating time for God's chosen people, but it was all part of His plan. God encouraged the Israelites to settle down in Babylon and make it their new home. His promise was to prosper them, not to harm them. In seventy years, they would return to their home in the Promised Land. From this episode in Judah's history, we can understand that we can trust God's plan for our lives.

During Judah's captivity in Babylon, there lived a young man named Daniel and his three friends. They were born to royal and noble families in Judah, but now they were no more than King Nebuchadnezzar's

servants. When told to eat the king's food - food that would defile them - they sought permission to eat only vegetables and water so they could continue to live God's way. God blessed the young men with good health, knowledge, and understanding. God even gave Daniel the ability to understand visions and dreams. After three years of service, rather than finding them weakened as some had feared, King Nebuchadnezzar found them to be ten times wiser and more knowledgeable than their peers from Babylon. The lives of Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego should encourage us to always live our lives God's way.

When King Nebuchadnezzar had a disturbing dream, he summoned his "wise men" and challenged them to tell him what he had dreamed and what it meant. He promised gifts, rewards, and great honors to anyone who could do so. When told that no one could do what he asked, Nebuchadnezzar ordered the execution of all the wise men in Babylon. Upon hearing this, Daniel and his three friends sought God's wisdom, so Daniel could tell and interpret the dream, and the wise men would not be killed. When God granted their request, Daniel told and interpreted the dream, and humbly gave all the credit to God. King Nebuchadnezzar recognized Daniel's God and declared Him the God of gods, the Lord of kings, and the revealer of mysteries. Daniel and his friends received all the promises made by the king. The account of Daniel and King Nebuchadnezzar's dream teaches us how important it is to ask God for wisdom.

Although King Nebuchadnezzar recognized Daniel's God as the one who revealed his dream, he did not abandon the worship of lifeless, man-made gods. In fact, he erected an image of gold that was ninety feet high and nine feet wide and commanded everyone in his kingdom to worship it. When Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refused to obey this order, King Nebuchadnezzar threatened to throw them into the blazing furnace. Armed with trust in God's power to deliver them, the three faithful men defied him still and were thrown into the flames. King Nebuchadnezzar watched as Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego, and a fourth unidentified man miraculously walked around in the fire unharmed. The king ordered the three friends to come out of the fire, gave praise to their God, and rewarded them with a promotion. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego are true examples of how to be courageous and trust in God's power.

As God had foretold through King Nebuchadnezzar's dream, Babylon was conquered by the next world power. The new king, Darius, admired Daniel and intended to promote him to oversee his kingdom. Babylon's other officials manipulated King Darius into making a new law that forbade prayer to anyone other than the king. Those who disobeyed this decree would be thrown into the lions' den. When Daniel continued to faithfully pray to the only true God, King Darius had no choice but to throw his trusted advisor into the lions' den. God sent His angel to protect Daniel, and the lions were treated to a meal of Babylon's other officials instead. In spite of the threat of death, Daniel demonstrated how we should all remain committed to God.

After King Darius' death, he was succeeded by his second-born son, known as King Xerxes I. The book of Esther begins with the deposition of Queen Vashti for refusing to obey a vulgar request of King Xerxes and her unlikely replacement by a beautiful Jewish girl named Esther, who had been raised by her cousin Mordecai. King Xerxes, at the urging of his vengeful confidant Haman and unaware of his new wife's Jewish heritage, signed into law an order to execute all of the Jewish people. Esther knew that God could use her to help save her people, but she would have to risk her life to plead before the king uninvited. Esther and the other Jewish people fasted for three days, after which she courageously entered the king's presence, revealed her heritage, and exposed Haman's evil plot to annihilate the Jewish people. The furious king called off the senseless genocide and instead had Haman executed. Inspired by the account of Esther and supported by our all-powerful God, we too can be used by Him if we are willing to take risks to do what is right.

Finally, we will take a day to reflect and remember everything that God has taught us this quarter. We invite you to join us next quarter when we return to the book of Genesis and study God's creation of our world and the unfolding of His plan to save us from our sin. God bless you for humbly serving Him.

Lesson 1

2 Kings 5:1-15a

Know Right:	Naaman is healed of leprosy after a young girl shares her faith.
Think Right:	“Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.” 1 Corinthians 15:58 (Top 12)
Do Right:	I will boldly tell others about our great God.
Feel Right:	I can feel joyful when I tell others about our great God.

GET READY!

This week we get to learn about how God used a young girl to bring healing to an army commander. She was bold in her faith and graciously told Naamaan that God could heal him. As we prepare to lead our students, let's pray that they will grow to become bold witnesses of our great God no matter the cost.

Pray: As we begin this quarter, pray that God will make Himself known to the students in your class. Ask God to give you the ability to lead with love, excellence, and biblical accuracy as a form of worship to the one true God.

Read: 2 Kings 5:1-15a

Know Right: Naaman is healed of leprosy after a young girl shares her faith

Our first lesson takes us outside of Israel to the pagan land of Aram. There a young Israelite girl, taken captive by Aram's army, worked for the family of a man named Naaman. Naaman was the commander of Aram's army, and he was afflicted with leprosy. This young girl demonstrated her faith, despite her circumstances, as she boldly told how God's prophet in Israel, Elisha, could heal Naaman. From her, we learn how to boldly tell others about our great God.

GET SET!

Lead Teacher's Notes:

- Boldly telling others about Jesus takes courage! Each time you share the Gospel with the students in your class, you are modeling for them how to share the Gospel with their friends. Prepare students by telling them that some of their friends will choose not to believe when they first hear the Gospel. Challenge them to pray for their friends if this happens.
- To link this quarter's lessons together, collect props from each lesson and then use the props to review previous lessons during review time or to introduce your lesson.
- There are many myths and misunderstandings about leprosy. In fact, the word "leprosy" in the Old Testament was used for various diseases affecting the skin. In Naaman's case, we know that there was no cure at that time, he was in serious need of healing, and it had affected his flesh.

Creative Ideas for the Bible Lesson:

1. Select a student or two to come to the front of your class. As you describe Naaman or the little girl, add in props (for Naaman: armor, medal around his neck, white powder on his arms for leprosy,

- etc.; for girl: put a scarf on her head like a servant would wear, then give her a broom, mop, feather duster, or some other prop to depict her being a servant).
2. Draw outlines of a man and a girl on roll paper or on your whiteboard, then add in pictures of objects that help describe them.
 3. Bring in props (see Option 1 above for ideas) and lay them out on a long table as you teach the lesson. Use these props to review the lesson at the end of class.
 4. Cut a sponge into the shape of a person and cover it with white powder. Have a tub of water and at the right time in the lesson, “wash away the leprosy” by immersing the sponge in the water.
 5. Use baby powder and water (flour will stick to skin) to form the look of a skin disease on your arm, then wash it off as you dunk your arm in water.

Go!

Discover Time: Who is God?

Goal: To create a bold statement for everyone to see by doing a sidewalk graffiti mural using words to describe our **great God**.

DT Activity: Sidewalk

Note: *For larger churches, this activity should be done as individual classes.*

Supplies:

- Grade signs (use to designate sections of sidewalk for each grade) (see Resources Booklet)
- Colorful tub of sidewalk chalk (one per grade; place by each grade sign)

Alternate supplies if chalk is not available: use manilla/construction paper and crayons or several colored pens. Make sure to place the artwork in a strategic place within the church compound to be visible to everyone.

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Huddle with your class and explain that they are going to create a giant mural for everyone to see that describes our **great God**.
2. Have students write words or draw pictures that describe something great about God. Suggestion: If pictures are drawn, write a description next to it so the meaning is clear. Encourage students to use the Top 12 verses, other verses, or previous lessons for ideas.
3. For example:
 - God is all-powerful! Joshua 1:9
 - I can trust in God! Proverbs 3:5-6
 - Jesus is my Savior! John 14:6
 - God is love! John 3:16
 - God sent Jesus as a gift for me! Ephesians 2:8-9
 - God heals! (previous quarter: Jesus healed a paralyzed man and a sick woman)
 - God does miracles! (previous quarter: Jesus raised a dead girl and Lazarus)
4. Remind students that the statements are going to be seen by many people as they exit the church building today, as well as people throughout the week. Encourage them to write bold statements about their **great God**!

Leader Tips:

- All leaders should engage with students by asking questions, such as “How would you describe God?” or “If someone asked you, ‘Who is God?’, what would you say?”
- Assist by drawing words in “bubble letters” and then allowing younger students to color them in.
- For visitors or students who are struggling with what to write, write words and verses on index cards. Have students copy the card information onto the sidewalk.
- Expect all students to participate in some form or another (discussion with a leader or drawing).
- Add in a prize for the most creative drawings!

- Use a drone and take video footage of the artwork, then post on social media with a statement such as “Our kids want you to know how great God is!”
- If weather prevents you from going outside, have students use chalk on black roll paper. Display the finished banners where many people will see them.

Bible Lesson Introduction

Lead Teachers ~ Connecting the DT to the Lesson: Who is God? *Coach students to answer with confidence.* Was it easy or hard to do our chalk mural today? What if I asked you to do this same thing at your school? You never have to be ashamed to boldly talk about God. God is all-powerful, loving, kind, all-knowing, and more! When you know how powerful God is, you can boldly and confidently tell others about Him. This is especially important during a time of crisis. That is exactly what happened in our Bible lesson for today. Are you ready to learn how to boldly tell others about God?

Pray: *Challenge a student to boldly pray to the one and only true God before you begin your lesson. Remind all students to bow their heads out of respect to God as you pray.*

What should you do if no one volunteers to pray in upper elementary grades? Select a more spiritually mature student in advance, and offer them the opportunity to pray. Tell them that you have selected them because of their spiritual maturity and leadership skills. Take time to build up this student and allow them to set the pace for the rest of the class. Remember, it is an honor to lead the class in prayer.

Find It: *Have the class recite the books of the Old Testament up to the book of 2 Kings, while pointing to the OT chart on the wall. Clearly pronounce the books so students can learn how to say each name. Remind students to bring their Bible each week, so they can learn how to use it. Explain that when we open our Bible, we look for the book, chapter (big number), and verse (small number). Challenge students to find*

2 Kings 5:1-15a. A more advanced class may use the Sword Drill method.

What is a “Sword Drill?” As the teacher, you say, “Bibles up!” Students’ arms should be straight up in the air with their Bible pages facing the ceiling. You then say the book, chapter, and verse. Students should repeat after you. After all students repeat the book, chapter, and verse, you say, “Go!” The first student to stand with their finger on the verse will receive a Tracker Ticket.

Timeline: We begin this quarter in the Old Testament. During the previous quarter, we were looking at the New Testament, which means we will be “going back in time”.

Optional idea: Each week, place a paper arrow on the appropriate spot on the timeline to highlight that week’s lesson. This will become a great review tool at the end of the quarter (arrows for the entire quarter are in the Resources Booklet).

Introduction to the Bible Lesson:

Last quarter, we studied about Jesus and the early Christian Church in the New Testament. Now it’s time to go back to the exciting times of the Old Testament, before Jesus was born. Even though Jesus wasn’t walking on the earth with a human body at this time, we can see that God already had a huge plan to bring Jesus to this earth to save us from our sin. *Point out on the Bible timeline.*

Do you remember what a prophet is? *Note: students learned about this in Year 3 Quarter 1.* It is someone who gives God’s messages to people. The messages are called prophecies, and prophecies are God’s words about what will happen in the future. Prophecies from God are the only true prophecies, and the prophets were His special helpers.

Today’s lesson takes place during the time of Elisha. Do you remember Elisha? He was one of God’s prophets when Israel had kings. *Point to Elisha’s name on the Bible timeline.* At first, Elisha was Elijah’s servant. He learned from Elijah until something incredible happened. Who remembers what happened to Elijah? (Elijah was taken up to heaven in a whirlwind riding in a fiery chariot led by horses)

Today's lesson has a lot of people in it, but we're going to focus on just two. The first person is a man named Naaman, from the country of Aram. The second person is a young Israelite girl.

Scripture Outline: 2 Kings 5:1-15a

Who is Naaman?

Close your eyes and imagine the person I'm describing. After I'm done, I'm going to ask you some questions about this man. Are you ready?

Read 2 Kings 5:1

Recap: Wow! What kind of guy was Naaman? Where was Naaman from? (The country called Aram) *For older students, point out Israel and Aram on the Bible Times map. Tell them that Aram is now called Syria.* Aram was Israel's enemy.

The people in Aram didn't believe or worship the one true God; they worshiped false gods instead.

What was Naaman's job? (He was the commander of Aram's army) Why was Naaman so important? (He led Aram's army to victory, and he won their battles) Why was Naaman able to win with his army? (God let Naaman's army win) Wow!

Our God is very powerful!

What was Naaman's problem? (He had leprosy) Do you know what leprosy is? It's a disease of the skin that no one knew how to cure at that time. We don't know exactly how it affected Naaman, but we do know that it affected his flesh (the effects of the disease were most likely visible to other people), and that he needed healing. Let's move on and find out about the other person in our lesson. Listen carefully to the details about this person.

Who is the young girl?

Read 2 Kings 5:2

Recap: Do we know the young girl's name? (No) Where was the young girl from? (Israel) Where is she now? (Aram) How did this young girl get from Israel to Aram? (She was taken captive) That means she had been kidnapped by the people from Aram. What happened to this young girl after she was kidnapped from Israel? (She became a servant to Naaman's wife)

Do you think it was an easy time for her or a hard time for her? *Allow students to answer.* Since she was taken away from her family and had to live without them in another country, it was most likely a hard time for her. If you were in a tough situation today, what verses could you think about? (Joshua 1:9 or 1 Corinthians 15:58) Let's find out what this girl did.

The young Israelite girl is courageous and boldly tells Naaman how he can be cured

Read 2 Kings 5:3

Recap: What did the young girl do? (Because of her faith in God, she had the courage to tell Naaman's wife about someone who could heal him) Who was this person who could heal Naaman? (It was God's prophet) The girl knew God had given one of His prophets in Israel the power to heal, and now, even though she was their servant, she was boldly telling them about her great God's prophet. Remember, Naaman and his country were enemies of Israel. Do you think this girl was doing a good thing? *Allow students to consider the question.* Let's find out what happened!

Naaman goes to Israel

Paraphrase of 2 Kings 5:4-6:

Naaman got permission and a letter from the king of Aram to go to Israel to be healed. Naaman took the letter from the king of Aram to the king of Israel. Do you think the King of Israel was excited about the letter? Let's read and find out.

The king of Israel doesn't depend on God's great power

Read 2 Kings 5:7 very dramatically

Recap: The king of Israel didn't think anyone could heal Naaman's leprosy.

He didn't trust in our great God like the young Israelite girl did. Instead, he just thought the king of Aram was picking a fight!

Elisha tells Naaman how to be cured

Read 2 Kings 5:8-10

Recap: What did the prophet Elisha tell Naaman to do to be healed? (Go wash seven times in the Jordan River) Does this seem like a simple way to be healed of leprosy? (Yes) What do you think Naaman did? Let's find out.

Naaman gets mad

Read 2 Kings 5:11-12 very dramatically

Recap: Naaman got mad! Why do you think he was mad? Naaman thought Elisha would come out and wave his hand over him and call on God to heal his leprosy. Naaman also thought the rivers in Aram were much better than the rivers in Israel. He wondered why he couldn't just go wash in one of Aram's rivers. Naaman didn't want to do things God's way, He wanted to do things his own way! What is that called? Pride, which is sin. But then...

Naaman is healed God's way

Read 2 Kings 5:13-14

Recap: His servants talked Naaman into doing things God's way, and he was healed of leprosy! Wow! All he had to do was be humble and wash himself seven times in the Jordan River. God is so powerful that He made it that easy! How do you think Naaman felt now?

Naaman believes in God

Read 2 Kings 5:15a *(Note: Read the first two sentences only. Do not read "Please accept now a gift from your servant." The refusal of the gift and its implications will not be covered in this lesson.)*

Recap: Did Naaman believe in our great God now? (Yes)

Older students: How could this impact the country he went back to?

Conclusion

The young Israelite girl had faith in God, and she boldly spoke up about how God's prophet could heal Naaman. You can be bold like this young girl was. You can boldly tell people how God can forgive their sin, so they can be healed spiritually. Naaman finally did things God's way, and he was completely healed. Not only was he healed, but he also now believed in our great God, too!

Do Right and Feel Right

If God can use a young Israelite girl, can He use you? (Yes!) Will you follow her example and boldly tell others about God? Think about our Discover Time today; you boldly wrote down the truth about God. Are you willing to be that bold this week in your neighborhood or on your sports teams?

The Bible doesn't say, but can you imagine how the young girl felt when Naaman came back completely healed of his leprosy and believing in her great God? Don't you think she felt great joy knowing she was the one God used in Naaman's life?

Do you know how God wants to use you? He wants you to boldly tell people about how they can be forgiven from their sin by believing in Jesus. God made a way for Naaman to be healed from leprosy. He had to wash himself seven times in the Jordan River. God made a way for people to be forgiven from their sin and healed spiritually.

To be forgiven and healed, you need to humbly admit that you need a Savior. How do you do this? Each one of you needs to individually believe in Jesus (*red page of the Wordless Book*) to save you from your sin (*dark page of the Wordless Book*) and make Him the leader of your life. Have you been forgiven of your sin? If not, would you like to learn how to be forgiven right now? *Opportunity to share the Gospel through the Wordless Book*. If you have been saved from your sin, thank God for what He's done for you! Are you ready to boldly tell others? *Opportunity to let someone practice sharing the Gospel through the Wordless Book*. *Remind them of the joy they will feel as God uses them to help someone be saved from their sin, be healed spiritually, and receive eternal life.*

For older students: What happens when you boldly tell your friends about Jesus, and they reject the truth? They may even make fun of you or decide not to be friends with you. At first this will not feel good, but deep in your heart you can know what you did was right. Notice that the Feel Right poster isn't labeled the "Feel Good" poster, it is a "Feel Right" poster. Witnessing is not always easy. But even if your friend rejects Jesus, will you remain strong and pray for them and continue to love them? Being a bold Christian is not always easy, but God is always with you.

Review Questions: What did we discover today?

1. Who was Naaman and what was his problem? (Naaman was Aram's army commander, and he had leprosy)
2. What was the young Israelite girl doing in the country of Aram? (She had been taken as a captive from Israel and forced to be Naaman's wife's servant)
3. What did the young Israelite girl boldly tell Naaman's wife? (She said that the prophet in Israel could heal Naaman from his leprosy)
4. What did Elisha tell Naaman to do in order to be healed? (Wash seven times in the Jordan River)
5. Was Naaman happy about God's way for him to be healed? (No) Why not? (He wanted to be healed his way)
6. Did Naaman obey what Elisha told him to do? (Yes) What happened? (He was completely healed from his leprosy, and he believed in our great God)
7. Can God use someone young like you just like He used the young Israelite girl? (Yes) How? (To boldly tell others about how Jesus can save them from their sin)

Lesson 2

2 Kings 20:1-7

Know Right:	King Hezekiah confidently prays.
Think Right:	“Pray continually.” 1 Thessalonians 5:17
Do Right:	I will pray about all things.
Feel Right:	I can feel patient knowing God hears my prayers.

GET READY!

When faced with awful news, King Hezekiah brought his concerns to God in prayer. When we study this lesson, we see how faithful our God is in hearing and responding to our cries for help. As we prepare, let's pray that God will increase our desire to pray and seek Him in all things.

Pray: Before preparing to serve, come before God, and pray that He will do something amazing this week in your class. Thank Him that you can freely share the Good News with your students.

Read: 2 Kings 20:1-7

Know Right: King Hezekiah confidently prays

Since their inception as a nation, the people of Israel had rebelled against God. When they demanded a king, God warned them of the consequences, but granted their request. One consequence of Israel's rebellion was the division of the kingdom into Judah and Israel. After this division, all of Israel's kings, and many of Judah's kings, did evil in the eyes of the Lord and led their people astray. However, there were some kings of Judah who had faith in God and did what was right in His eyes. One of these kings was Hezekiah. Hezekiah prayed and cried after being told by God's prophet that he would die. God answered Hezekiah's prayer with a 'yes' and allowed him fifteen more years of life. From Hezekiah, we are encouraged to pray about all things.

GET SET!

Lead Teacher's Notes:

- Prayer connects to a common question students ask: “How do you know God is real?” Confidently coming to God with praises and requests helps us prove that God is real because He answers prayers! How has God answered your prayers? The way you answer this question will help you teach this lesson with passion.
- Please refer to the Children's Ministry Resource Bible: page 850 (Introduction to the Major Prophets - Isaiah); page 1304 (The Disciples Learn to Pray); page 1498 (Talking with God); Page 1499 (The Prayer Hand).
- It is important to review the Gospel message as stated in the beginning of this lesson. Prayer is built on a relationship with God.
- This lesson covers a short passage of Scripture that may be read in full with additional teacher commentary, as well as questions and answers in between the verse passages. Teachers should always have their Bible open during the entire lesson, so students know the account is coming from the Bible. All students should open their Bibles to the Scripture passages noted in the lesson below. Younger students and visitors may require assistance.

Creative Ideas for the Bible Lesson:

1. As students enter your classroom, have King Hezekiah lying on a cot facing the wall. Start off by

acting curious as to what happened to this man (show great concern). Treat the situation like a mystery and try to figure out what exactly happened and what will happen.

2. Pull props out of a box as you teach the lesson: figs, picture of a boil, king's crown, etc.
3. Have an actor come to class to play Hezekiah.
4. Create cards of pictures or important words, and use them to make a timeline of the lesson.
5. Create people from toilet paper rolls to represent main people from the lesson.



GO!

Discover Time: Prayer field of letters!

Goal: To introduce the value, urgency, and need for **prayer**.

DT Activity: Large indoor or outdoor space or the Awana game square

Supplies:

- Spray chalk or cones (to mark the starting line)
- Spray chalk, cones, or pennant string flags (to define the "Field of Letters")
- 60+ sets of the letters **P, R, A, Y** (about 5" high) (see Resources Booklet)
- Scotch tape (one roll per grade)
- Large team board (one for each grade; Scrabble board style; board could be a large whiteboard, cardboard, a large tarp, or even a rug; could use painter's tape to create squares)
- Tracker Tickets

Setup instructions: Define a large area as the "Field of Letters" for K-2nd grade students. Place the letters throughout the field. Some letters should be easy to find, and some should be hard to find (in long grass, behind a bush or tree, upside down, etc.). Create a long starting line. Set up an area for each team's board.

Alternatively, Awana Game Square can be used.

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. All students (K-2) will start on one long starting line, and they all will be running at the same time, but each grade will be a separate team with their own team board.
2. The goal is for all students to race to find one letter and return the letter to their grade's team board. This means that students are not allowed to have more than one letter in their possession at any time.
3. Once they return to their team board, a leader will tape their letter on the board to form the word "**PRAY**". After their letter is on the board, they can run back to search for another letter (think Scrabble board style, but don't expect to read "Pray" vertically and horizontally).
4. After ten minutes, the team with the greatest number of the word "**PRAY**" placed on their board wins three Tracker Tickets each.

Note: Keep the energy level high as students rush to find the letters! There should be a lot of running



Bible Lesson Introduction

Lead Teachers ~ Connecting the DT to the Lesson: What word were you spelling over and over again in Discover Time today? (PRAY) How many times were you able to form the word “PRAY”? It was amazing how quickly you formed the words and how focused you were. Sometimes I wonder what would happen if we were all that focused on prayer in our own lives. This reminds me of a king in the Bible. Can you guess what specific king I am thinking of? Let’s find out in our Bible lesson.

Pray: *Encourage one of your students to lead your class in prayer. Challenge them to stand up and pray loudly enough so everyone can hear. This will help your students learn how to pray in a public setting and develop their spiritual leadership skills.*

Find It: Let’s open our Bibles to 2 Kings. Is 2 Kings in the OT or the NT? (OT) Once you find the book of 2 Kings, go to chapter 20, verse 1. The chapter is the big number, and the verse is the small number. *A more advanced class may use the Sword Drill method.*

Timeline: As you can see, there are many courageous leaders in the Bible. Today we will be focusing on a king, and when you figure out what king, let me know. Hint: He is on the timeline.

Introduction to the Bible Lesson:

Last week we learned about a man named Naaman who had a skin disease. Can you remember what that disease is called? (Leprosy) What happened to Naaman’s leprosy? (God healed it when Naaman obeyed and washed seven times in the Jordan River) Did Naaman believe in the one true God before he was healed? (No) Did Naaman believe in the one true God after he was healed? (Yes) Each of us can choose to believe in the one true God or not. *Review the Wordless Book and include an invitation.*

Today we’re going to learn about another man. This man believed in God. He became so sick he was about to die. We are going to learn something really exciting from him. Are you ready?

Scripture Outline: 2 Kings 20:1-7

Who is Hezekiah?

Do you remember King Solomon? He was King David’s son - the one who built the temple for God in Jerusalem. Sadly, King Solomon didn’t stay faithful to God like his father, King David. Instead, he worshiped some make-believe gods. He did things his own way instead of God’s way; that was sin. Because King Solomon didn’t stay faithful to God, the nation of Israel was divided into two parts – Judah and Israel. When this happened, Judah had its own king, and Israel had its own king.

Today, we will learn about one of Judah’s kings. His name was Hezekiah. *Have students say “Hezekiah” several times.* Hezekiah believed in the one true God, and he showed courage by stopping the people in Judah from worshiping the make-believe gods that other countries worshiped. However, King Hezekiah didn’t always obey God. Sometimes he made wrong choices. But even though Hezekiah wasn’t perfect, we can learn something very important from him.

Hezekiah becomes ill, and Isaiah tells him he is about to die

Read 2 Kings 20:1

Recap: Oh, no! Isaiah told King Hezekiah that he would not get better - he would die! Isaiah was one of God’s prophets, and God sent Isaiah to tell Hezekiah that he was about to die. What if that happened to you? What do you do when you face hard times in life? What Top 12 verse could you think about? Let’s find out what King Hezekiah did.

Hezekiah prays

Read 2 Kings 20:2-3

Recap: What did King Hezekiah do when Isaiah told him he was going to die? (He prayed and cried to

God) Was it wise for Hezekiah to talk to God in prayer about his problem? (Yes) How do we know we should always pray to God? Let's read and think about this week's Think Right verse, 1 Thessalonians 5:17. *Read the verse from your Bible.* What does it say? "Pray continually." That means to keep on praying. What do you think happened when Hezekiah prayed to God? Do you think God heard his prayer? Do you think God answered his prayer? When we ask God for something, what are the three ways He answers those prayers? (Yes, no, or wait) What do you think God's answer was? Let's find out.

Lead Teacher's note: Please stress that God answers our requests in three ways: yes, no, or wait. God is all-knowing. He knows the past, the present, and the future. He knows what is best for us, even though we may never understand the reasoning. Also emphasize that God would never answer a prayer with "maybe"; He is never uncertain or unsure of a decision.

Older students: Really convey that God says "No" for a reason. It may be hard to accept a "No," but being a Christian means you can agree with God, trust that He is at work, and move on to what is best for your life even though it may be difficult.

God answers Hezekiah's prayer

Read 2 Kings 20:4-7

Recap: Did God hear Hezekiah's prayer? (Yes) Did God answer Hezekiah's prayer? (Yes) What was God's answer to Hezekiah's prayer? (Yes; He sent Isaiah back to tell Hezekiah He would heal Hezekiah and add fifteen more years to his life) What was wrong with King Hezekiah? (He had a boil) A boil is a very painful and infected sore on your skin. It can make your blood infected, which can kill you. King Hezekiah's boil must have been really bad! What instructions did God give so Hezekiah would be healed? (Prepare a fig poultice - kind of like a medicine - and put it on Hezekiah's boil)

Did God heal King Hezekiah? (Yes, the fig poultice worked!)

Conclusion

King Hezekiah is a good example of what happens when we take everything to God in prayer. He was confident that he could pray, that God would hear, and that God would answer his prayer. God wanted King Hezekiah to trust in Him alone.

Do Right and Feel Right

What about you? Do you take everything to God in prayer? Have you ever cried out to God like King Hezekiah?

Older students: Let me reverse the question. Why wouldn't you take things to God in prayer? Let's all think for a minute and talk about some things in our lives we need to pray about. It could be something good that you need to praise God for. Or, it could be something difficult, like King Hezekiah's illness, that you need to take to God and ask for His help. He wants you to bring everything to Him, good or bad, big or small.

Optional in-class application time:

- Allow students to think, and then spend a few minutes sharing how they feel knowing they can pray and talk to God anywhere and anytime (use the Feel Right poster).
- Write prayer requests on the whiteboard, and then have students in the class pray about them. Allow students to pray for each other. Remind students of 1 Thessalonians 5:17.
- Pass out prayer notebooks. Have students start to journal prayer requests and record how God answers their prayers.

- Pass out index cards and ask students to write down specific prayer requests they would like you to pray for privately.
- Break into small groups and spend time praying out loud for each other.

Review Questions: What did we discover today?

1. Who was Hezekiah? (He was one of Judah's kings)
2. What happened to King Hezekiah? (He got a boil and became so sick he was going to die)
3. Who told King Hezekiah that he was about to die? (God's prophet Isaiah)
4. What did King Hezekiah do when he found out he was going to die? (He prayed to God and cried)
5. What did God want King Hezekiah to do in order to be healed? (Put a fig poultice on his boil)
6. Did King Hezekiah obey God's instructions? (Yes)
7. Was King Hezekiah healed? (Yes)
8. What did we learn from King Hezekiah? (To take everything to God in prayer)

Lesson 3

Jonah 1 – 3

Know Right:	Jonah makes choices about obedience.
Think Right:	“How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to Your Word.” Psalm 119:9
Do Right:	I will obey God.
Feel Right:	I can feel strong when I obey God.

GET READY!

Do you see parallels between Jonah and the attitude in our world (and ourselves)? It may be uncomfortable, even counter-cultural, to submit to God's authority, but God's Word is clear. For those of us who follow Christ and are being made more like Him every day, God is our Lord and ultimate authority. Obedience to Him is one important way we show our love and honor for Him, and it will lead to God's best in our lives. As we prepare, let's consider ways we can obey God today.

Pray: Ask God to reveal His truth to the students in your classroom. Pray that they will understand the value of obedience and desire to live a life that is honoring to God no matter the cost. Also pray specifically for the students who have never made a decision to trust Christ as their Savior. Pray this will be the week they make that decision!

Read: Jonah 1 – 3

Know Right: Jonah makes choices about obedience

Because of their rebellion and their worship of make-believe gods, God allowed the Israelites to be vulnerable to their enemies. One of those enemies was Assyria. Because of Assyria's evil acts, God planned to destroy them. Because of God's grace and mercy, He sent His prophet Jonah to warn the Assyrians. When the resentful Jonah disobeyed, God taught Jonah a lesson through His power over the sea and its creatures. Jonah finally obeyed, the Assyrians repented, and they were spared from destruction. From Jonah's disobedience and the resulting consequences, we can be convicted to always obey God.

GET SET!

Lead Teacher's Notes:

- Please refer to the Children's Ministry Resource Bible: page 533 (The Prophetic Books); page 1062 (Introduction to the Minor Prophets – Jonah); page 1071 (Lesson: Jonah Runs from God); page 1128 (VSB The Prophetic Books); page 1604 (Teaching Doctrines to Children).
- As you introduce this lesson, you may want to acknowledge that students may already know the account of Jonah, but today you will be digging deeper and really searching to find out “why” God would put this lesson in the Bible and “what” God is trying to teach each student personally through Jonah's life. Challenge students to discover three new points that they never knew before (each point could be worth a Tracker Ticket).

- Another resource for in-depth study about the account of Jonah is online at the Answers in Genesis website: <http://www.answersingenesis.org/articles/am/v1/n1/great-fish>
- Due to the limited amount of time with students and the value we place on students using their Bibles, please do not read this lesson (or any other lesson) from a Bible storybook.

Creative Ideas for the Bible Lesson:

1. Have students place their DT bags in front of them. Use larger versions of the props from the Scavenger Hunt to teach your Bible lesson. Cover the objects with blue paper and reveal the items as you teach the lesson. At the end of the lesson, challenge your students to tell their parents what they learned in class with the props in their bag.
2. Bring in guest parents to read lines spoken by different characters in the lesson.
3. Create a timeline of the lesson. Above the line, draw out key events, and under the line write down the words “Obedient” or “Disobedient” as it describes the event.
4. Start the lesson inside a large “fish” and discuss how and why Jonah was stuck there. A tent works great. More ideas can be found by searching the internet.
5. Show students a satellite view of Nineveh using Google maps.



GO!

Discover Time: To obey or not to obey...it's your choice!

Goal: To challenge students to **obey** the rules.

Note: *Worship Leader should give clear instructions following worship (see below).*

DT Activity: Outdoor Space

Supplies:

- Scavenger hunt lists (one per student) (see Resources Booklet)
- Plastic zipper bags (one per student)
- Bags, containers, or buckets in one designated color (these will be the decoys and should have candy in them)
- Bags, containers, or buckets in another designated color for K-2 grade
- Bags, containers, or buckets in another designated color for 3rd-5th grade
- Scavenger hunt items:
 - Gummy candy fish or a small scoop of canned tuna or a colorful fish cutout (any fun object to represent the large fish).
 - Water (about a 1/4 cup of water per student; a scoop of water represents the Mediterranean Sea; students should not get wet, but everything in the bag will)
 - 1/4 cup measuring cups (to scoop water)
 - Shell noodles or colorful cutouts of shells (one per student; noodles will represent the ship)
 - Straws (cut into small pieces; one piece per student; straws will represent casting lots)
 - Small cardstock or construction/manilla signs that say “Nineveh” (one per student; approx. 1” x 2”) (see Resources Booklet)
- Sign for each station indicating how many/much of the item students should put in their plastic zipper bag (see Resources Booklet)
- Chalk spray paint (ash, chalk dust, sawdust or paint would also work)
- Tall flags or cones
- Stopwatch

- Horn or whistle
- Food Station pass (see Resources Booklet) or special treats for winning students

Setup instructions:

- Create boundaries with the chalk paint and add in tall flags or cones to clearly mark the area for the scavenger hunt. Make sure the students have lots of space and the boundaries are clear.
- Put each set of scavenger hunt items, along with the sign indicating how many/much of that item students should take, inside a bag, container, or bucket (K-2nd and 3rd-5th should each have a designated color).
- Hide containers within the boundaries. For larger churches, feel free to make multiple locations of the same item or fill multiple containers of the same item in the same general area (to prevent overcrowding at the containers).
- Place a few decoy containers with candy in obvious locations within the boundaries. Students should not take from these containers because, even though they are within the boundaries, they are not the right color.
- Place a few containers in the designated K-2nd and 3rd-5th grade colors outside the boundaries but make them very visible (candy can be placed inside these out-of-bounds containers to make them attractive). Students should not take from these containers because, even though they are the right color, they are outside the boundaries.
- By the worship area, place a small tub with one scavenger hunt list, one empty plastic zipper bag, and a sample plastic zipper bag filled with the scavenger hunt items for the Worship Leader to show the students. Also, by the worship area, have a tub for each grade with enough copies of the scavenger hunt list and enough plastic zipper bags for each student.
- Tip for older students to make it more difficult: Use dark bags or containers that blend in more with the natural outdoors, like dark green, brown, and black.

Instructions for the Worship Leader:

1. When worship ends, inform students they are going on a scavenger hunt outside.
2. Hold up a sample scavenger hunt list and tell them they will be looking for the items on the list.
3. Hold up the sample plastic zipper bag and tell them they will put the items they find in their bag.
4. As instructions are explained, do not hand out the lists and the plastic zipper bags, as it will cause distraction to the students.
5. Announce the following rules they need to **obey** for the scavenger hunt:
 - All students must **obey** and stay within the chalk lined boundaries.
 - K-2nd grade students may only take items from _____ (*insert color*) bags, containers, or buckets. *Have students repeat the color.* Please **obey** and only take from the _____ containers.
 - 3rd-5th grade students may only take items from _____ (*insert color*) bags, containers, or buckets. *Have students repeat the color.* Please **obey** and only take from the _____ containers.
 - The first five students from each age group (K-2nd and 3rd-5th) who have all the items in their bag and report back to the designated location will win.
6. Inform students of their time limit, and allow them to start collecting items and putting them in their bags. Let them know that things in the bag may get wet, and that's okay!
7. Before going outside to begin the hunt, have students go to their DT Leader when you say "Go!" to pick up a scavenger hunt list and a plastic zipper bag.

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Pass out a scavenger hunt list and a plastic zipper bag to all students. Make sure to match visitors with a friend or a Shepherd. Optional for younger students: Have them travel together in small groups with a leader to help them read the signs at each station and put the correct amount of each item in their bag.
2. Take your group outside to your designated area and begin the scavenger hunt.
3. Make sure this is a high-energy, fun, fast-paced event!

4. Watch to see if students are **obedient**! If they are not, they should sit in a designated location for several minutes before being allowed to rejoin the scavenger hunt.
5. The first five students from each age group (K-2nd and 3rd-5th) who have all the items in their bag and report back to the designated location will win. Check the bags to make sure they have all the items.
6. When time is up, a horn will sound (or blow a whistle) and all students will return to their DT Leader. Make sure bags are sealed and then head to class. Items in the bag will be used to teach the lesson.

Note: DT Leaders and Teachers should watch the following:

- Will students **obey** the rules or disobey and grab from the wrong-colored containers?
- Will students **obey** the rules or disobey and go out of bounds?
- Will students **obey** the rules or disobey and take from the decoy containers?

Bible Lesson Introduction

Lead Teachers ~ Connecting the DT to the Lesson: What does it mean to obey? When you did the Scavenger Hunt, was it easy or difficult to obey the rules? Were the rules optional? Why or why not? No matter your age, obedience is tough! Even adults need to make a daily choice to obey God. This isn't always easy, and at times you just want to do your own thing. But God, in His Word, tells us how important it is to obey Him.

Think about all the items you gathered in the Scavenger Hunt. Can anyone guess who we will be learning about today? This person had to face a difficult situation and then make a decision to obey...or not to obey.

Pray: Ask students if they remember how King Hezekiah prayed. (Confidently) Ask a student to boldly stand and open the class in prayer, asking God to teach each person in the classroom something new today and that we will apply it to our lives.

Find It: Ask the class if Jonah is in the New Testament or Old Testament. (OT) Have two students who confidently know the books of the Bible have a race to verbally recite the books of the OT up to the book of Jonah. Then write the verse reference on the whiteboard, and have students open their Bibles. Take time to teach that the reference is the verse's "address" in the Bible. The big number is the chapter, and the little number is the verse. Younger students and visitors may need assistance. A more advanced class may use the Sword Drill method. As students are finding the verse, say the books of the OT up to that specific book. This will help students learn how to pronounce each book.

Timeline: The purpose of the timeline is to challenge students to see the Bible as a big picture rather than individual lessons that do not connect.

Introduction to the Bible Lesson:

So far this quarter, we've learned about how God healed Naaman's leprosy and how God answered Hezekiah's prayer. Today, we'll learn about how God worked through a man named Jonah. Jonah was one of God's prophets in Israel during the time of the kings. *Point it out on the Bible timeline.* Do you remember what a prophet is? (A prophet is someone who gives people God's message about what will happen in the future) Jonah was a prophet, but Jonah was not like any of the prophets we've learned about. There was something very different about him, and we're about to find out what!

Scripture Outline: Jonah 1 – 3

God commands Jonah to go to Nineveh

Read Jonah 1:1-2

Recap: Nineveh was the capital of Assyria (*for older students: modern day Mosul, Iraq*). The people of Nineveh were Israel's enemies, and they did very cruel and evil things. God wanted Jonah to go and tell the people of Nineveh about the one true God and to warn them that, if they didn't repent, God would destroy them. If you were Jonah, what would you do? What did Jonah do? Let's find out.

Jonah disobeys God and runs away

Read Jonah 1:3

Recap: What was Jonah thinking? Did he really think he could run away from God? Can anyone actually run away from obeying God? (No) Why? (Because God is everywhere!)

Jonah sinned and disobeyed God. Can you think of a time when you've disobeyed God? Maybe you told a lie, bullied a kid at school, watched something bad on a computer or phone, didn't obey your parents, or even cheated during our Discover Time today. Did you know that God sees everything you do? He's always there, and He knows when you sin. You can't run away or hide from God.

What do you think happened when Jonah tried to run away from God? Let's see.

God sends a storm

Read Jonah 1:4-5b

Recap: Because Jonah disobeyed God, God sent a terrible storm! The sailors on the ship were afraid, and they called out to their make-believe gods who couldn't help them.

Gospel

Sin always has consequences. In Romans 6:23, we learn that the price of sin is death...eternal death. But because of God's great love, He has given us the gift of Jesus, so our sin can be forgiven. *Review the Wordless Book.*

Jonah's disobedience caused this dangerous storm. While the sailors were crying out to their false, make-believe gods and throwing the ship's cargo overboard, what was Jonah doing? Let's keep reading to find out.

Jonah is sleeping

Read Jonah 1:5c-6

Recap: The captain couldn't believe that Jonah was sleeping! The captain didn't know Jonah's God was the one true God, but he ordered Jonah to pray so maybe they wouldn't all die.

The sailors find out it is all Jonah's fault

Read Jonah 1:7-9

Recap: Now the sailors knew that this terrible storm was all Jonah's fault. He had deliberately disobeyed God. They also learned that Jonah's God, the one true God had made the sea and the land. How did this make the sailors feel? (They were afraid!)

Older students: Do you truly understand how powerful our God is? God is perfect and powerful. He controls the sea, the sky, and the wind. God decides what is right and good, and He will do whatever is best for us. And even in times of consequences for our sins, He still loves us.

Jonah has to go

Paraphrase of Jonah 1:10-16:

The sailors knew they were in serious danger, and they were terrified. They couldn't believe Jonah had tried to run away from the one true God. They finally realized that to stop the storm, they would need to

throw Jonah overboard, even though they knew it would probably kill him.

After Jonah was thrown overboard, God stopped the storm and the sailors not only believed in God, they worshiped Him. God is so powerful that even when we disobey Him, He can turn it into something good. How did God turn Jonah's disobedience into good? (The sailors now believed in God!) But what happened to Jonah?

Older students: Notice how God turned something "bad" from man's perspective into something "good." *Challenge students to see life through a God-sized, big-picture lens.*

A great fish swallows Jonah

Read Jonah 1:17

Recap: What swallowed Jonah? (A great fish) How many days and nights did Jonah spend in the fish's belly? (Three) What do you think it was like in the fish's belly? Wet? Dark? Stinky? Uncomfortable? I bet it was awful! What do you think Jonah did while he was inside the great fish?

Jonah prays

Older students: *have a dramatic reader read Jonah's prayer*

Read Jonah 2:1-9

Younger students:

Paraphrase of Jonah 2:1-9:

While Jonah was in the great fish, he prayed to God. He told God that he knew God would save him. Even though Jonah had been very disobedient, he still trusted God. And then what happened?

God commands the fish to vomit Jonah onto dry land

Read Jonah 2:10

Recap: God is so powerful that if He tells a fish to vomit, it does! He showed great mercy to Jonah by giving him another chance. Do you think Jonah will obey God now?

God repeats His command to Jonah

Read Jonah 3:1-3

Recap: Did Jonah obey God this time and go to Nineveh? (Yes)

The Ninevites believe and repent

Paraphrase of Jonah 3:4-9:

Jonah told the Ninevites that God would destroy them in forty days. What do you think the Ninevites did? (They believed God, and they repented of their sin) What does "repent" mean? It means the Ninevites stopped doing things their own evil way, believed in God, and started doing things God's way. Do you think God gave the Ninevites another chance, too?

God does not destroy the Ninevites

Read Jonah 3:10

Recap: God did not destroy the Ninevites because they believed God, repented of their evil ways, and started to obey Him.

Conclusion

The Bible tells us that we have all disobeyed God at some point of our life. The punishment for sin is being separated from an incredible relationship with God, both now and for eternity. But our God is loving, and He does not want anyone to experience the punishment for sin. This is why He sent His one and only perfect Son to take the punishment for our sin, to give us the opportunity to be with Him forever. Why was this necessary; why can't there be sin in heaven?

There is no sin in heaven (*show gold page of the Wordless Book*). That is because God hates sin, even

though He loves those who sin. That is why He sent His one and only Son, Jesus, to save us from our sin. How can Jesus save us from our sin? First, we need to recognize and admit that we have sinned (*dark page of the Wordless Book; Romans 3:23*). Then we need to believe in Jesus as the one true Savior of our sin (*red page; Hebrews 9:22b*). Once we do that, we need to make a personal choice to trust and believe in Him to save us from the punishment of our sin (*clean page; Acts 16:31*). This is a personal choice only you can make. *Allow students who have questions to move to the hallway for more discussion.*

If we already believe in Jesus as our Savior, we need to continue to obey Him. Not because we have to, but because we want to. How do we know what to obey? We need to read and study our Bible, and then do what it says. Let's always pray that God will help us to be like Jonah *after* he learned how to obey.

Do Right and Feel Right

What are you going to do with this lesson this week? How can you choose to obey God, even though it may look difficult? It could be just obeying and respecting your parents like God wants you to. Or it could be admitting you are watching something bad on the internet and asking God and your parents to help you do the right thing. Let's take a few minutes to think about how you will apply this lesson to your life this week. This lesson isn't just about Jonah, it's about you. How are you going to be obedient this week? *Allow students some quiet time to think about how they can apply the lesson.*

Review Questions: What did we discover today?

1. What did God command Jonah to do? (Go to Nineveh and warn the Ninevites that God would destroy them in forty days because of their evil, wicked ways)
2. What happened when Jonah disobeyed God? (God sent a terrible storm, the sailors had to throw Jonah overboard, and a great fish swallowed Jonah)
3. What happened to the storm when the sailors threw Jonah overboard? (God stopped the storm, and the sea became calm)
4. What did the sailors do as soon as the sea became calm? (They feared God and worshiped Him)
5. What did Jonah do when he was inside the fish? (He prayed to God)
6. What happened when Jonah obeyed God and told the Ninevites that God was going to destroy them? (The Ninevites believed God and repented)
7. Did God destroy the Ninevites? (No) Why not? (Because they believed Him and repented)
8. Have you obeyed God by repenting and trusting in Jesus to save you from your sin?

Lesson 4

2 Chronicles 34

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

GET READY!

Can you imagine what it would be like to forget or lose the Bible, or to have it taken away from you? That would be tragic! But that's exactly what happened to the Israelite people. They neglected God's Word, and it was lost for generations. This week, as we learn about when King Josiah found God's Word, let's thank God for giving us His Word.

Pray: As you prepare to serve this week, ask God to lead your preparation and to lead you as you teach or assist in the classroom. Pray specifically for students who are confused, questioning God's existence, and/or questioning whether the Bible is true. Pray that students will seek truth and that God will speak powerfully to them.

Read: 2 Chronicles 34

Know Right: King Josiah finds God's Word

Israel's unfaithful kings and disobedient people neglected God's temple, His worship, and His Word. The northern kingdom of Israel had already been exiled to Assyria, and Judah's punishment was not far behind. Although Josiah became the king of Judah at only eight years of age, he did what was right in God's eyes. Every good thing he did led to another. When Josiah ordered the repair of the temple, the Book of the Law was found. When Josiah heard the truth of God's Word in that book, he believed and followed it. He read it to his people and led them back to obedience. Because Josiah yielded to the truth, God spared Judah from its punishment until after Josiah's death. May we, as God's people, follow in Josiah's footsteps by seeking the truth from God's Word.

GET SET!

Lead Teacher's Notes:

- Please refer to the Children's Ministry Resource Bible: page 547 (Lesson: Josiah, A Leader Who Took a Stand for God); pages 1124-1125 (History of Israel: The Kingdom).
- Pronunciation for Shaphan: SHAY-fun
- Historical Note: When Josiah was king, the northern kingdom of Israel (Samaria) had already been taken into captivity by Assyria and there was only a remnant left in that area.
- Many people ask, "How do you know the Bible is true?" There is plenty of evidence that confirms it's true: prophecies in the Bible, the number of manuscripts that can be cross referenced to make sure it is true, excavation sites, and artifacts. These things provide evidence that events, people, and places mentioned in the Bible really existed - such as the city

Jericho. This means, if you jumped on an airplane and headed to Israel, you would find evidence today that God's Word is true!

Creative Ideas for the Bible Lesson:

1. As you teach the Bible lesson, have different scrolls hidden in your room with pictures, main events/ideas, or verses. While you are talking, walk to a scroll (remember the order and where they're hidden), and unroll it to reveal what is on it. By the end of your lesson, you will have several scrolls laid out in front of the class, which you can use for the review. Wooden dowels and parchment-looking colored paper can be used to help the scrolls look more authentic and interesting.
2. Have a "surprise" guest come and be King Josiah. When King Josiah hears the scrolls have been found, have him run into class from the back of the classroom and start sharing how excited he is. If you need help finding an actor for your class, ask your children's ministry leader to assist you. Note: the guest actor must be a screened volunteer.

GO!

Discover Time: Scripture Hunt

Goal: To review the Top 12 verses and remind students of the value of knowing God's Word accurately.

DT Activity: Scripture Hunt – Indoor Space

Note: Activity should be done as individual classes

Supplies:

- Sixteen small scrolls per team - one word from 2 Peter 3:18a on each scroll; print each set on a different color of paper; hide scrolls individually throughout the designated area (see Resources Booklet)
- Tracker Tickets

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Divide students into teams of 5-6 and assign each team a color.
2. Inform teams that they will be competing in a "Scripture hunt". They will need to find sixteen scrolls of their assigned color, open them up, and put them in order to form a verse.
3. Award two Tracker Tickets to each member of the team that completes the challenge first.

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

Bible Lesson Introduction

Lead Teachers ~ Connecting the DT to the Lesson:

How did your team do searching for the scrolls and putting our Think Right verse, 2 Peter 3:18a, in the correct order? Knowing God's Word is so important because it helps us learn the truth and it helps us grow! Today we are going to learn about someone who was wise and searched for the truth.

Pray: *In class, challenge one of your students to open the class in prayer. This will help them learn to pray in a public setting. Coach the student in what to pray for and to stand up and pray so all can hear.*

Find It: *Ask the class if 2 Chronicles is in the New Testament or Old Testament. (OT) Challenge students to say the books of the Old Testament up to 2 Chronicles. Write 2 Chronicles 34 on the whiteboard and have students open their Bibles to this passage. A more advanced class may use the Sword Drill method.*

Timeline: Today's lesson is about a boy who was only eight years old when he became a king. *Point to King Josiah on the timeline.*

Introduction to the Bible Lesson:

When we learn about the kings of Israel, it's like going on a roller coaster ride: up and down and all around! There were some good kings who did their best to help the Israelites love and obey God. But there were also many bad kings who disobeyed God and led the Israelite people to disobey God, too. For ten Tracker Tickets, who was the first King of Israel? (King Saul) *Point to the timeline.* Who was the second king? (King David) *Point to the timeline.* God said that every king should write a copy of God's Word for himself and read it every day of his life (*Deuteronomy 17:18-20*). If the king did this, he could learn to obey God and be a good king. Do you think every king read God's Word every day of his life like God had commanded? We're about to find out.

Scripture Outline: 2 Chronicles 34

Josiah becomes the king of Israel at age eight

Read 2 Chronicles 34:1-3a

Recap: Who was Josiah? Remember, God had divided the country of Israel into two kingdoms - the southern kingdom of Judah and the northern kingdom of Israel. Josiah became the King of Judah when he was eight years old! It sounds like he was a good king from what we just read, doesn't it? Verse 2 says that Josiah "did what was right in the eyes of the Lord". When he was sixteen, he began to seek God. Was it a good thing that King Josiah was seeking God? (Yes!) Let's see what else King Josiah did.

Josiah destroys the altars and idols of the make-believe gods

Paraphrase of 2 Chronicles 34:3b-7:

The people of Judah and Israel had been worshiping false gods instead of just worshiping the only true God. When Josiah was about twenty years old, he decided to get rid of all the stuff the people used to worship make-believe gods.

He destroyed altars and idols and other things the people were using. Do you think it was good that King Josiah was getting rid of the idols? (Yes!) Do you think it was easy for him to do? Probably not; it probably made many people very mad. What did King Josiah do next?

Josiah repairs God's temple

Paraphrase of 2 Chronicles 34:8-13:

When King Josiah was twenty-six years old, he decided to repair God's temple. Do you remember the king who built God's temple? (King Solomon, the son of King David) The temple was the place where all the Jewish people were supposed to come worship God and make sacrifices for their sins. It's sad that some of the kings had not taken care of God's temple. That's like not taking care of our church! Do you think it was good that King Josiah wanted to fix the temple back up again? (Yes!) Because it was going to cost a lot of money, they collected money from the people and stored it in the temple. Listen to what happened next.

The Book of the Law is found

Read 2 Chronicles 34:14-19

Recap: When the priest went into the temple to get the money, he found the Book of God's Law! What?? King Josiah didn't even know about the Book of God's Law.

Wait...stop this lesson. *Point to the timeline.* Are you telling me the kings never passed down the Word of the Lord? Do you mean some kings felt they could run their kingdom without seeking God's help and direction? How could this be true? God's Word was given to the Israelites way back in Moses' time.

God had commanded each and every king to write down the law for himself and read it every day. So how did God's Word just get left sitting in the temple? Some of the kings didn't obey God. They worshiped idols and forgot about God's Word. The priests and the people forgot about God's Word, too. How could this happen? Could this happen in our world today? Is it happening now? (Yes)

Would you miss your Bible if you lost it? Would you really care if you didn't memorize God's Word? Did you try to learn or review the Top 12 verses this past week? Do you read your Bible during the week? Are you on track to be like the kings who "forgot about the Word of the Lord" or are you like King Josiah?

King Josiah's men found God's Word, and when it was read to King Josiah, he learned the truth. He understood that the people in the kingdom had turned away from God, and that is why King Josiah tore his robe and cried.

King Josiah finds out about Israel's punishment

Paraphrase of 2 Chronicles 34:20-28:

After Shaphan read God's Word, King Josiah found out that God was going to punish the people in Judah, because they had worshiped false gods/idols instead of worshiping the one true God. But because King Josiah was humble and upset about Israel's sinfulness, God did not send the punishment until after King Josiah died. Let's see what King Josiah did after he heard God's message.

King Josiah reads God's Word to the Israelites

Read 2 Chronicles 34:29-33

Recap: Isn't that awesome? King Josiah read the truth from God's Word to all the people. Then he had them obey it for as long as he lived!

Conclusion

Just think about how faithful God is. When King Josiah sought God, God led him to His Word in the Book of the Law. King Josiah read it for himself, and he read it to the Israelites. They all learned the truth, and they decided to obey God.

Do Right and Feel Right

How important is it for you to read and obey God's Word every day? Why do you think God put 2 Peter 3:18a in our Bible? Growing and knowing God's Word is important. The Bible is 100% true. It is the only book that is God's Word, so we can know that it contains only absolute (complete, perfect) truth.

If you did the dunk tank DT, say: It's kind of like our dunk tank. There were many targets for you to hit, but only one was the true target. The Bible is true.

How will you make time to learn and obey God's Word this week? *Encourage students to mark this passage in their Bible and read it during the week.*

There is one important key to understanding God's Word. We must first trust in Jesus to save us from our sin and make Him the leader of our lives. When we trust in Jesus, the Holy Spirit helps us to understand what is written in the Bible. The Holy Spirit helps us to live it, too! When we learn the truth from God's Word and live it in our lives, we can feel faithful, just like King Josiah. Let's make sure everyone knows what it means to trust in Jesus to save you from your sin and make Him the leader of your life. *Opportunity to share the Gospel through the Wordless Book and give an invitation for salvation.*

Older students: What about people who don't have the Bible? How are they supposed to know the

truth? Do you know that God gives us that answer in the Bible? God tells us in Romans 1:20 that people should be able to understand that there is a God from just looking around at everything He created. He also tells us that when they see His creation and start seeking Him, they will find Him - just like King Josiah. There are many people, even now, all over the world, translating God's Word into more and more languages so all can know the truth.

Review Questions: What did we discover today?

1. What did God command every king in Israel to do? (Write down God's Word for himself and read it every day)
2. Who was Josiah? (Josiah was the king of Judah; he became king at the age of eight)
3. What did King Josiah do to the altars and idols of the make-believe gods? (He destroyed them)
4. What did King Josiah do to God's temple? (He had it repaired)
5. Why did the temple need to be repaired? (Because other kings had not taken care of it)
6. What was found in the temple? (God's Word - the Book of the Law)
7. What did King Josiah do for the people of Judah after he heard God's Word? (He read God's Word to all the people)
8. What did King Josiah have the people do after they had heard God's Word? (He had them obey it)
9. Do you read God's Word and obey it?

Lesson 5

2 Kings 25:1-21; Jeremiah 29:4-14 (Parallel Account in 2 Chronicles 36:15-21)

Know Right:	Nebuchadnezzar conquers Judah.
Think Right:	“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.” Proverbs 3:5-6 (Top 12)
Do Right:	I will trust God’s plan for my life.
Feel Right:	I can feel peaceful when I trust God’s plan for my life.

GET READY!

This week we will learn about how we can trust God's plan for our lives, even when our circumstances seem bleak. We can trust that God is weaving every challenge and every joy together for our good and for His glory. This knowledge can be such a comfort when we walk through challenging seasons. As we prepare, let's pray that our students will grow to trust God's plan and feel His peace and love.

Pray: Spend time praying for the students who come each week to class. Ask God that they will seek a friend to bring to class this week.

Read: 2 Kings 25:1-21; Jeremiah 29:4-14 (Parallel Account in 2 Chronicles 36:15-21)

Know Right: Nebuchadnezzar conquers Judah

After King Josiah's death, Judah and its kings returned to their evil ways, and the time for Judah's promised punishment arrived. God allowed King Nebuchadnezzar's army to conquer Judah, destroy Jerusalem, and take many of Judah's citizens to Babylon as captives. This was a devastating time for God's chosen people, but it was all part of His plan. God encouraged the Israelites to settle down in Babylon and make it their new home. His promise was to prosper them, not to harm them. In seventy years, they would return to their home in the Promised Land. From this episode in Judah's history, we can understand that we can trust God's plan for our lives.

GET SET!

Lead Teacher's Notes:

- Please refer to the Children's Ministry Resource Bible (these pages give an excellent overview of God's plan for Israel): pages 1120-1125 (History of Israel: The People, The Land, The Kingdom); pages 1128-1131 (The Prophetic Books: The Hope of the Jews, and History of Israel: The Remnant and Bridging the Testaments).
- Special Note: To simplify this lesson, we will not address the events of the temple treasures' theft or the exile of the people of Jerusalem recorded in 2 Kings 24.
- Students often ask, "Why does God allow bad things to happen?" Our students need to know that in Genesis sin entered this world. Sin has consequences that impact good people. God hates sin. God is righteous and perfect, and sin will be punished. We need to cry out to God

(like King Hezekiah), trust that He is in control of all things, and know that one day He will make all things right.

Creative Ideas for the Lesson:

1. Make a large map on your whiteboard or on a poster board. Add in country names, cities, armies, walls, kings, and battle scenes with stick figures as you teach the lesson.
2. Turn your classroom into a “map”. Move students to different locations on the “map” as you tell the lesson.
3. Make a large map on your floor and use army men to teach the lesson.
4. Use a tarp and dump sand on it. Create a 3D map as you teach the lesson.

GO!

Discover Time: Red Light, Green Light

Goal: To challenge students to remain focused on the perfect **plan**.

Discover Time Leader Note: It is critical that this be more than just a fun, quick game. Read the entire lesson carefully and be an expert on the plan as detailed below so this Discover Time will truly connect to the lesson.

DT Activity: Outdoor Space

Note: *activity should be done as individual classes*

Supplies:

- Chalk spray paint (ash, chalk dust or sawdust would also work) (create two chalk lines - line A will be the start line and line B will be the finish line; lines will be on the grass, about thirty feet apart; shorter or longer based on age - it should be a challenge to cross the lines).
- Popsicles or a fun treat (stored in a cooler) for all students after crossing line B
- Designated resting place (after crossing line B)
- Tracker Tickets
- Large signs that say “Stop” and “Go” taped back to back on a yardstick (see Resources Booklet resource),
- Referees who are wearing some form of identification (red or blue bandanas or striped referee shirts)

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Group students so everyone can hear.
2. Say: I’ve got a plan! It is my **plan** for all of you to start on line A, and then cross over line B while being obedient to the traffic signs. Does that sound easy? It’s a simple **plan**, just stop and go according to my sign. My **plan** also includes something good at the end. If you successfully cross over line B, you can rest and enjoy a cold popsicle (or another fun treat). What do you think of this **plan**? One more thing - just a reminder - the challenging part of this **plan** is that you obey the traffic signs (red light/green light). When the sign changes to stop, you must stop. (*You shouldn’t need to yell out stop and go... just flip the sign.*) The consequence for not following the **plan** is to go back to line A, and then try to follow the **plan** correctly the next time. Remember, if you cross line B, you can rest and enjoy a popsicle. Do you understand the **plan**?
3. Play until all students cross the line. Repeat if time allows. For round two, the reward will be one Tracker Ticket for everyone who makes it across.
4. Introduce the referees (other leaders and guest parents) who will watch for students that move when the sign switches to stop. Tell them when they are not following the **plan**. Make sure to catch the students who move and send them back to the starting line.
5. Make sure to change the sign quickly and make it tricky! You should switch the sign several times before any student crosses the line.

6. This game should be fast-paced and fun!

Note for Older Students: Add in difficult tasks such as: go under a rope, go over a rope, crawl under a fishnet suspended by chairs, etc.

DT tip: Great day to introduce parents to Discovery Land. Ask your athletic parents to be the referees for the class. The more referees, the more accurate your DT will be.

Bible Lesson Introduction

Lead Teachers ~ Connecting the DT to the Lesson:

The DT Leader had a really good plan for you. All you needed to do was make it to the second line and enjoy the treat.

What made the DT hard? (Following the traffic signs)

Was it easier to follow the traffic signs when your eyes were focused on the signs? (Yes)

What happened when you didn't follow? (There were consequences, you had to start over)

What happened when you followed the plan? (You were able to make it through the challenge and receive a treat)

This reminds me of God's plan for your life. He gave you the Bible, so you can know Him, and you can know how He wants you to live. Staying focused on God and His plan for you, even when you don't understand it, brings blessing! Today, let's find out what happened to the Israelites when they didn't stay focused on God and His plan for them. In fact, they willfully disobeyed God for 1,000 years!

Pray: Challenge one of your students to open the class in prayer. If prayers are repetitive week after week, you may need to model a more focused prayer that matches the lesson such as, "Dear heavenly Father, I pray that we will trust in Your perfect plan for our lives. Help us to be obedient and obey Your Word every day of the week."

Find It: Ask the class if 2 Kings is in the New Testament or Old Testament. (OT) Have students say the books of the Old Testament up to 2 Kings. Have students find 2 Kings 25 and place a bookmark in that location. In Discovery Land, we strongly encourage all students to bring their own Bible. By bringing their own Bible, they will personalize it and learn how to use it. If a student does not bring their Bible, kindly remind their parents when the student is picked up of the importance of bringing their Bible.

Timeline: Can you see God at work through the lives of the people on our timeline? God worked through the Israelites, kings, and many others to accomplish His purpose. He also will work through you! Do you remember where we are on the timeline? (The Church Age)

Introduction to the Bible Lesson:

God had a very special plan for the people in Israel. He wanted them to be different. He wanted them to be set apart (holy) and make God the top priority in their lives.

If you are a Christian (define "Christian" by using the Wordless Book) and understand what a big deal it is to be a Christian (you are saved from your sin for eternity and have an incredible relationship with the one true God), this is how you should want to live. You should be passionate about keeping God #1 in your life, and the people around you should notice there is a difference in your life. Your life should be like King Josiah.

God gave the Israelites the Book of the Law (a portion of the Bible). It showed them how to live, so they could know God and His plan for them. God promised blessings for the Israelites if they obeyed Him, and He promised punishment if they disobeyed Him. Unfortunately, for nearly 1,000 years, the

Israelites almost always disobeyed God. They lived their own way, and they worshiped the idols the other countries worshiped. God sent prophets to warn them to repent - that means turning away from sin and deciding to do what is right. The prophets told the Israelites that God was going to punish them, but they refused to believe it. Then God allowed the northern kingdom of Israel to be taken captive by Assyria. A few of Judah's leaders, like King Josiah (last week's lesson), led the people in Judah to live God's way again, but it didn't last. God had told King Josiah that Judah would be punished, but it would be after Josiah died. Remember, God keeps His promises. Finally, the time came for God to punish the Israelites in Judah. We'll learn about that terrible time right now.

Scripture Outline: 2 Kings 25:1-21; Jeremiah 29:4-14 (Parallel Account in 2 Chronicles 36:15-21)

God uses Babylon to punish the people in Judah

Paraphrase of 2 Kings 25:1-7:

Remember, God told King Josiah He was going to punish Judah. Why? (The people in Judah were worshiping idols) An idol is a created thing that is worshiped instead of worshiping God, the Creator. Do people still worship idols today? What kinds of idols do we find in our community? Some other religions have actual, physical idols or statues they worship. Another form of an idol can be sports, money, being famous, etc.

King Josiah had died and now one of his sons, Zedekiah, was the king of Judah.

Nebuchadnezzar was the powerful king of Babylon. King Nebuchadnezzar was making Judah pay him money to leave the people in Judah alone. One day, King Zedekiah decided to stop paying the money to Babylon. Then King Nebuchadnezzar sent his army to surround Jerusalem, the capital of Judah, so none of the Israelites could go in or out. This is called a siege. Soon, the people in the city were starving to death because they had run out of food. King Zedekiah and his army tried to escape, but the Babylonian army caught him and his sons. They killed King Zedekiah's sons, blinded King Zedekiah, and took him to Babylon as a captive.

Why did God allow this to happen? This is such a horrible situation! There is always a punishment for sin. That is justice. Captivity in Babylon was a part of God's plan to punish Judah, so they would turn to God and repent. Repent means to turn away from sin and decide to do what is right.

Babylon's army destroys Jerusalem

Paraphrase of 2 Kings 25:8-17:

Babylon's army burned the temple where the Israelites worshiped God. They burned the king's palace and all the important buildings in Jerusalem. They broke down the walls that went all around the city of Jerusalem. They stole treasures from the temple. This was a very harsh punishment.

Was this a part of God's plan to punish Judah for being so disobedient? (Yes) Remember, God hates sin. Sin is very serious to God.

Gospel

Stop and think about your sin... God must really love us, to send His only Son, Jesus, to die and take the punishment for our sin.

God hands the people in Jerusalem over to King Nebuchadnezzar

Paraphrase of 2 Kings 25:18-21:

After King Nebuchadnezzar destroyed Jerusalem, he killed many of the people in Judah. He took most of the survivors all the way to Babylon as captives. Do you think this was also a part of God's plan to punish the people of Judah? (Yes) Let's read what God told the people who were taken captive to Babylon.

God tells the Israelites to go and settle down in Babylon and live a normal life

Read Jeremiah 29:4-7

Recap: The Israelites had been taken far away from their homes and everything they knew. God wanted them to settle down and make Babylon their new home for a while. He wanted them to do well and have a good life in Babylon. Not only that, but He made them a promise. Let's listen to what He promised them.

Due to content and time, we will be skipping Jeremiah 29:8-9

God promises the Israelites that He will take them back to Judah in seventy years

Read Jeremiah 29:10-14

Recap: God's plans are not always easy, just like our Discover Time. There are times we can go, times we need to stop, and times we will need to start over. Through it all we need to keep our eyes on Him and trust His perfect plan.

Conclusion

God loved the Israelites and had a great plan for them, but God is holy. He hates sin, and God punished the Israelites so they would repent and turn back to Him. They spent seventy years in Babylon, and then God took them back to their own land. He wanted good things for them, not harm. He wanted them to seek Him with all their heart. He wanted them to live out our Think Right verse, Proverbs 3:5-6. Let's say it together now. *Recite Proverbs 3:5-6.*

Do Right and Feel Right

You might be thinking, "I can't believe these Israelites! Can't they just obey and follow God's plan? Shouldn't they know by now that God's plan is always the best?"

Well, what about us? Do we always obey and follow God's plan? God knew that the Israelites, and all of the people who came after them, would never be able to perfectly obey and follow Him. He knew that every person would sin. Sin is a big deal, and there is a very serious consequence to sin (*Romans 3:23, Roman 6:23*). The Good News is that God loves you so much, He sent His Son, Jesus, to be your Savior. He came to die on the cross to take on Himself the punishment you deserve. God wants every person to believe in Jesus and make Him their Savior and Lord.

Do you choose God's plan or your own plan? Do you want what you want, or do you want God's best for your life? If you want God's best for your life, it begins when you trust in Jesus to save you from your sin and make Him the leader of your life. Have you done that already? When you trust and follow God's plan, you can feel the peace that only He can give you. But what if you haven't trusted in Jesus yet? You can trust in Him today. *Opportunity to share the Gospel through the Wordless Book and give an invitation to believe in Him.*

What about those of you who have already trusted in Jesus as your Savior? If you are a Christian, God has a plan for your life. What often gets in the way of you staying focused on His plan and following Jesus every day? For example: you know you should read your Bible, but you are too busy watching YouTube videos. Or you are so into sports and winning that you don't care if you say things to cut people down to make yourself look better. This is sinning against God and against others. When we sin, we need to admit, confess, and repent, and then ask for the Holy Spirit's help to stay focused on following Jesus. God promises to forgive us, and He always keeps His promises!

Let's stop and take a minute to be still and quiet. Take time to think about what we learned today, and tell God that you will trust Him with His plan for your life.

Review Questions: What did we discover today?

1. What had King Josiah learned God was going to do? (God was going to punish the people in Judah, because they sinned)
2. Why would God punish the people in Judah? (They had worshiped false gods instead of Him, the only true God)
3. What country and king did God use to punish the people in Judah? (Babylon, King Nebuchadnezzar)
4. What did King Nebuchadnezzar's army do to the city of Jerusalem? (Burned the temple, the palace, and the important buildings; broke down the walls around the city; stole the treasures from the temple)
5. What happened to the people of Judah? (Some were killed, most were taken captive to Babylon, the poorest people were left in Judah)
6. What did God tell the Jewish captives in Babylon to do? (Settle down and live a normal life in Babylon)
7. What promise did God make to the Jewish captives in Babylon? (They would remain in Babylon for seventy years, and then He would take them back home to Judah)
8. Was all of this part of God's plan? (Yes)
9. Do you trust God's plan for your life?

Lesson 6

Daniel 1:1-20

Know Right:	Daniel refuses the king's food.
Think Right:	"Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'" John 14:6 (Top 12)
Do Right:	I will live my life God's way.
Feel Right:	I can feel faithful when I live my life God's way.

GET READY!

Each person can choose to be self-focused or God-focused. When we trust in Christ, our old self is crucified, so we can focus on living a God-honoring life. This can bring great joy but comes at a cost. This week we will begin to study the life of Daniel, a young man who chose to live faithfully for God, even when the cost was high.

Pray: If you knew that Daniel, as a child, was sitting in your class, how would you pray for him? Would you ask God for protection, courage, spiritual maturity, the ability to stand firm? Please know that you DO have "Daniels" in your class! Pray for students by name, knowing that they will walk through difficult trials that test and challenge their faith.

Read: Daniel 1:1-20

Know Right: Daniel refuses the king's food

During Judah's captivity in Babylon, there lived a young man named Daniel and his three friends. They were born to royal and noble families in Judah, but now they were no more than King Nebuchadnezzar's servants. When told to eat the king's food - food that would defile them - they sought permission to eat only vegetables and water so they could continue to live God's way. God blessed the young men with good health, knowledge, and understanding. God even gave Daniel the ability to understand visions and dreams. After three years of service, rather than finding them weakened as some had feared, King Nebuchadnezzar found them to be ten times wiser and more knowledgeable than their peers from Babylon. The lives of Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego should encourage us to always live our lives God's way.

GET SET!

Lead Teacher's Notes:

- Please refer to the Children's Ministry Resource Bible: page 533 (The Prophetic Books); page 774 (Lessons from Bible Young People); page 1011 (Lesson: Four Young Men Tested).
- Historical Note: Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were taken captive to Babylon in the first part of a three-stage exile. To simplify this lesson, we will not address the three different stages of the exile.
- Our goal is to teach students that our desire to be obedient to God flows out of our relationship with Him. We "Do Right" because we "Know Right."
- Be careful not to equate obedience of eating the right food to salvation.

Creative Ideas for the Bible Lesson:

1. Hang four costumes on a clothesline to represent the four main people in the lesson. As you talk about the friends, stand behind the costumes, as if you are stepping into the character, personalize them with props and explain how they could have felt. Encourage the students to view them as real people, not just characters in a story.
2. Use pictures and/or props to teach the lesson. Pictures (or balloon people) of four young men and the king, a plate with rich foods (use plastic food), and a plate with vegetables (use plastic food), and a sign that says, "God's Way."
3. Set the scene for a banquet by bringing in a crock pot filled with fragrant food. This will help emphasize that resisting the king's food probably wasn't always easy!



GO!

Discover Time: One way!

Goal: To challenge students to follow the **one way**.

DT Activity: Outdoor Space

Basic goal: Groups will travel to four or five stations to complete a challenge. Their goal is to find the ultimate treasure by the end of Discover Time by completing the challenge at each station before moving to the next station. The stations must be done in order, but groups could start at different stations. For example, Kindergarten could start at Station 1, 1st Grade at Station 3, and 2nd Grade at Station 5. The final destination is the classroom.

Advanced planning: Depending on your class size, you will need to determine if each grade will do the activity separately or if several grades will be combined. You will need to create four or five stations for each group. Each station should have an age-appropriate challenge. The challenges should be written on the station signs. Assign a color to each group in advance and print each group's station signs on paper of their assigned color. This will help groups find their own stations more easily.

Supplies:

- **One way** station signs – signs have a blank space for you to write the challenge for each station; print each group's signs on their assigned color (see Resources Booklet)
- Supplies for each challenge
- Final treasure (could be a fun arrangement of veggies such as the veggie kebabs in the photo; treasure will be in the classroom)



Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. After worship, huddle with the students from your class/group.
2. Explain that at each station they will need to complete a **one way** challenge – meaning there is only one way to complete the challenge. Once the challenge has been completed correctly, they will travel to the next station and another **one way** challenge. Their goal is to find the ultimate treasure by the end of Discover Time by completing a **one way** challenge at each station before moving to the next station.
3. Sound easy to follow the **one way** challenges? Think again! If students are tempted to skip the challenge or even compromise on it, allow them to debate about it and then do what they want to do. This behavior will connect into the lesson.
4. Continually challenge students to follow the station's **one way** instructions within a limited amount of time until they find the ultimate treasure.

Sample Challenges:

- Jumping Jack Challenge: Entire team must do 20 jumping jacks. (Older students could also run through tires, walk on a board, etc.)
- Hula Hoop Challenge: Entire team must stand in a circle and hold hands. Two team members should hold hands through a hula hoop. With your leader's help, pass the hula hoop around the whole circle without letting go of each other's hands. (Older students could do this twice.)
- Bean Bag Challenge: Entire team must stand on a line and one at a time toss a bean bag into a bucket. A leader should stand by the bucket to throw the bean bag back to the next person. Every person must make the bean bag into the bucket.
- Rope Challenge: Entire team must hold hands, forming a line. While holding hands, the team must duck under a rope one after another.
- Tunnel Challenge: Entire team must line up at one end of the tunnel and crawl through the tunnel one at a time as fast as they can.
- Bible Verse Challenge: Choose three students to recite a specific verse or their favorite verse.
- Crawling Challenge: Entire team must line up and crawl from one line to the second line, then turn around and hop back to the first line.
- Books of the Bible Challenge: Entire team must say the books of the New Testament or Old Testament.

Bible Lesson Introduction

Lead Teachers ~ Connecting the DT to the Lesson: Was it easy or hard to follow your **one way** cards during Discover Time? Why or why not? Were you ever tempted to skip the challenge or maybe only complete part of it, so you could just race to the next destination? This reminds me of how people often treat God's Word, the Bible. Some people think they only need to follow God's way some of the time or only on Sundays. This isn't true; we need to follow God's way 100% of the time, seven days a week. But is this easy or difficult? Why? Today, we are going to learn about some young men who took a risk and followed God's way 100% of the time.

Pray: As you challenge a student to stand up and pray, ask where and in what situations they could pray in front of people. (Crisis at school, home, dinner, a time when God blessed a group of people, etc.)

Find It: Ask the class if Daniel is in the New Testament or Old Testament. (OT) Challenge students to say the books of the Old Testament up to the book of Daniel. By reciting the books each week, your students will become familiar with the books and how to pronounce them. Write down Daniel 1:1-20 on the whiteboard and have students find it in their Bible. Always encourage students to bring their own Bible. Why? The goal is for every student to become familiar enough with their Bible that they are confident reading it on their own. Encourage students to put a bookmark in their Bible and read the passage at home.

Timeline: The purpose of the timeline is to challenge students to see the Bible as a big picture rather than individual lessons that do not connect. Point out Daniel on your timeline.

Introduction to the Bible Lesson:

Refer to the timeline as you review. Who remembers the first king of Israel? (Saul) Who came after him? (David) What was the name of David's son who became king? (Solomon)

After King Solomon, the kingdom of Israel became divided into two separate kingdoms: Israel (in the north) and Judah (in the south). The kings of Israel were all wicked and did not follow God's plan. Some of the kings of Judah were wicked, and some were faithful.

Older students: God sent prophets to both Israel and Judah, warning them and telling them to repent (to turn from their sin and to do what is right). If they did not repent, God promised that they would be punished for their sin. The people in Israel continued to disobey God, and so God allowed the northern kingdom of Israel to be taken captive by Assyria (this took place in 722 BC).

Do you remember learning about King Josiah? (He became king of Judah at eight years old, he destroyed altars and idols to false gods, he repaired God's temple, and he restored the Book of the Law) King Josiah was one of the kings of Judah who was faithful to God and led the people to worship God alone.

After King Josiah, the people in the kingdom of Judah returned to their evil ways. They did not worship the one true God. God had a very good plan for His people. He wanted them to be set apart (holy) and for them to make God the top priority in their lives. Instead, the people chose their own way instead of God's way. Do you remember the promise God made to King Josiah? He told King Josiah that after he died, the people of Judah would be punished for their sin.

Like God had promised, the time finally came for Judah to be punished. God allowed King Nebuchadnezzar's army to conquer Judah, destroy the city of Jerusalem and God's temple, and take many of the people of Judah to Babylon as captives and servants (this took place in 586 BC).

This was all part of God's plan, and today we get to see how God used four young Israelites to point others to God. Daniel was one of the people taken from Judah to Babylon as servants. Let's learn about him and his three friends!

Scripture Outline: Daniel 1:1-20

King Nebuchadnezzar takes captives from Jerusalem to Babylon

Paraphrase of Daniel 1:1-3, 6-7:

Some of the Israelites that King Nebuchadnezzar took from Jerusalem to Babylon were from special (royal or noble) families. There were four young men named Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. King Nebuchadnezzar's chief official changed their names to Belteshazzar, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. We're going to call them Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Let's hear a little bit about these four men and what King Nebuchadnezzar wanted them to do. They were...

King Nebuchadnezzar wants Daniel and his three friends to serve in his palace

Read Daniel 1:4

Note: Read through the list of these young men's traits slowly, so students will have time to understand what they were like.

Recap: Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were handsome and smart. King Nebuchadnezzar wanted them to be trained to serve him in his palace. Can you guess what else King Nebuchadnezzar wanted them to do?

King Nebuchadnezzar assigns the king's food for the four young men

Read Daniel 1:5

Recap: The king wanted Daniel and his friends to eat food and drink from his table. But there was a big problem with the king's food and drink. What was the problem? Remember, God wanted the Israelites to be different from the nations around them. One of those differences was the kind of food they were eating. If Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego ate the king's food and drank his wine, they would be disobeying God. Plus, the king's food might have been an offering to an idol or a fake god! Let's see if these four guys stood firm and obeyed God.

Daniel stands firm

Read Daniel 1:8

Recap: Daniel truly desired to live his life God's way. He asked for permission not to eat or drink the

king's food and wine. Isn't it awesome that Daniel wanted to be faithful and live God's way? He could have wimped out and just eaten the food in front of him, but he was courageous and followed God's way 100%.

What about you? Has anyone encouraged you to sin? What are some examples? *If needed, help your students with age-appropriate suggestions: looking at something bad on the internet, watching a bad movie, playing inappropriate games, listening to music that talks about things God would not want you to hear, being mean or bullying someone, disobeying your parents, etc.*

Have **you** made a choice to live God's way, or do you give in and do things you know God doesn't want you to do? Always remember that God wants what is best for you. He loves you and wants to protect you from things that are bad for you.

Let's see what happened when Daniel asked permission not to eat the king's food.

God is taking good care of Daniel

Read Daniel 1:9

Recap: Does it sound like God was taking good care of Daniel? (Yes!) He was with Daniel, and He worked everything out for good. When you choose to live your life God's way, He is with you, too! He will be there working everything out for your good.

But I wonder if the official still made Daniel and his friends eat the king's food. Let's see.

The official is afraid of King Nebuchadnezzar

Re-read Daniel 1:9, along with Daniel 1:10

Recap: The official was afraid if Daniel didn't eat the king's food, Daniel wouldn't be healthy, and King Nebuchadnezzar might chop off the official's head! But God had given Daniel wisdom. Let's see how Daniel used God's wisdom.

Daniel asks for a test

Read Daniel 1:11-13

Recap: Daniel made a deal with the official to test him and his friends. The official would allow them to eat nothing but vegetables and water for ten days, and then he could see how they looked. That was pretty smart, wasn't it? Do you think the official agreed to the test?

The official agrees to test Daniel and his friends

Read Daniel 1:14

Recap: The official agreed to the test! What do you think happened?

They pass the test

Read Daniel 1:15-16

Recap: Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego passed the test! They looked healthier and better fed than the young men who were eating the king's food. Daniel and his friends were allowed to keep eating vegetables and drinking water from then on!

Remember, God always wants what is best for you. What are some ways God doesn't want us to live? *Have students give examples and assist them if needed: lying, cheating, stealing, fighting, making fun of others, etc.*

Older students: *Examples: drinking, bad choices on the internet, drugs, bad TV, movies, video games with demons, etc.*

Now think of things you should do to live life God's way, because you know God's way is best. Think of the fruit of the Spirit. You should show love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. You should honor and obey your parents, keep your word, continually talk to God through prayer, read your Bible, love God and others, etc.

Do you know that God blesses us when we live His way? Let's see how He blessed Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.

God blesses Daniel and his friends

Read Daniel 1:17

Recap: Wow! God really blessed them! He gave them everything they needed to do a good job serving King Nebuchadnezzar. Daniel could even understand visions and dreams of all kinds. How would you like to be able to do that?

Just like Daniel and his friends obeyed and lived God's way, we should also make a choice today to live our life for God! Let's see what happened when Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego had to go see King Nebuchadnezzar again.

Daniel and his friends are ten times better than the king's magicians and enchanters

Read Daniel 1:18-20

Recap: King Nebuchadnezzar realized that God had made Daniel and his friends ten times smarter and wiser than the king's magicians and enchanters! Just think how wise you could become if you focus on living according to God's word!

Conclusion

Life in Babylon couldn't have been easy for Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. But they obeyed and lived God's way, even though they were told to disobey God. God blessed them, and He gave them everything they needed to be good servants for King Nebuchadnezzar. But their story doesn't end here. Come back next week to find out what's next in their adventure in Babylon!

Do Right and Feel Right

You always have a choice. You can live your life the way people in this world want you to live, or you can live your life God's way. What will you choose? Will you choose God's way so you can feel faithful and allow Him to bless you? Or will you choose the world's way and end up sorry? Each day you need to choose to follow and obey God. But what is the very first thing we need to do to live life God's way? Let's say our Think Right verse right now. *Have the class recite John 14:6.* The first thing we need to do to live God's way is to trust in His Son, Jesus, to take away our sin and make Him the leader of our lives. Have you done this? If you have, then God has given you His Holy Spirit to live in you and help you obey Him. If you've never prayed and asked Jesus to take away your sin and be the leader of your life, would you like to learn how to do that right now? *Opportunity to share the Gospel through the Wordless Book and give an invitation for salvation.*

Review Questions: What did we discover today?

1. Who was Daniel, and why was he in Babylon? (Daniel was an Israelite from a special [royal or noble] family that was taken as a captive to Babylon by King Nebuchadnezzar)
2. What did King Nebuchadnezzar want Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to do? (He wanted them to eat the food and drink from the king's table, and he wanted them trained to serve him)
3. Why didn't Daniel and his friends want to eat the king's food? (They wanted to eat only the food God said to eat, especially since the king's food may have been an offering to a make-believe god)
4. What deal did Daniel make with the official? (Test them and let them eat vegetables and drink water for ten days and then compare them to the young men who ate the king's food)
5. What did God give Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego? (He gave them knowledge and understanding; Daniel could understand visions and dreams)
6. What did Daniel and his friends look like at the end of the ten days? (They looked healthier and

better fed than the young men who ate the king's food)

7. What did King Nebuchadnezzar think about Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego when he talked to them? (They had ten times more wisdom and understanding than the others in Babylon)
8. Why were Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego doing better than the king's magicians and enchanters? (They lived God's way)
9. Will you live your life God's way?

Lesson 7

Daniel 2

Know Right:	Daniel asks God for wisdom to interpret Nebuchadnezzar's dream.
Think Right:	"If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God." James 1:5a
Do Right:	I will ask God for wisdom.
Feel Right:	I can feel victorious when I have and share God's wisdom.

GET READY!

As you prepare for this week and study Daniel 2, consider the difference between wisdom and intelligence. We can be intelligent, but still lack wisdom. We become wise by spending time with God and in His Word. Let's pray that we will help our students understand the importance of seeking God's wisdom.

Pray: Ask God to place a desire in your students to seek His wisdom throughout their lives. Also pray that their parents will point them to true wisdom rather than the things of this world.

Read: Daniel 2

Know Right: Daniel asks God for wisdom to interpret Nebuchadnezzar's dream

When King Nebuchadnezzar had a disturbing dream, he summoned his "wise men" and challenged them to tell him what he had dreamed and what it meant. He promised gifts, rewards, and great honors to anyone who could do so. When told that no one could do what he asked, Nebuchadnezzar ordered the execution of all the wise men in Babylon. Upon hearing this, Daniel and his three friends sought God's wisdom, so Daniel could tell and interpret the dream, and the wise men would not be killed. When God granted their request, Daniel told and interpreted the dream, and humbly gave all the credit to God. King Nebuchadnezzar recognized Daniel's God and declared Him the God of gods, the Lord of kings, and the revealer of mysteries. Daniel and his friends received all the promises made by the king. The account of Daniel and King Nebuchadnezzar's dream teaches us how important it is to ask God for wisdom.

GET SET!

Lead Teacher's Notes:

- When you teach a Bible Lesson, be sure to remember that, just like a story, you should have the following four parts: introduction, progression of events, climax, and conclusion.
- Definition of wisdom: using the truth of God's Word to understand the world and make right decisions.
- What is the opposite of asking God for wisdom? It's trusting in your own ability and strength to make good decisions. Our goal this week is to really challenge students to acknowledge their need for God's wisdom and to personally ask God for His wisdom to make the right decisions.

Creative Ideas for the Bible Lesson:

1. Before class, prepare a paper plate for each student by drawing seven equally spaced dots around the edges and writing the words “True Wisdom! – James 1:5a” in the middle. As you teach the lesson, have students write main ideas or simple pictures that represent each segment of the lesson at each dot clockwise. Model the activity for your students by creating a large circle on your whiteboard. At the end of the lesson, have students talk through what they’ve written. Remind students they must seek true wisdom every day in all circumstances.
2. Have a stuffed, life-size body sleeping under a blanket on a cot in your room. Dim the lights in your room as students enter. Begin your lesson by talking about “this man” who had a dream.

GO!

Discover Time: Got wisdom?

Goal: To discover the importance of seeking **wisdom**.

DT Activity: Indoor

Bring in a “Percussion Expert”, such as a current or former music teacher, or someone who plays the drums really well. Have the expert demonstrate their skills and give some background on how long they have been playing the instrument and the practice required to become an expert. The percussion expert should acknowledge that God gave them the ability to read music and learn how to play the instrument. Then give each student a percussion “instrument” such as an empty bucket turned upside down or a shaker made from an empty water bottle filled with rice. Have the percussion expert be the **wise** conductor. The students need to follow them to produce a song that sounds great.

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

Bible Lesson Introduction

Lead Teachers ~ Connecting the DT to the Lesson: What is the definition of **wisdom**?

(Using the truth of God's Word to understand the world and make right decisions) Did the Bubble Expert (or Percussion Expert) seem to have **wisdom** on how to create large bubbles (or create a great sound)? When you had problems or questions, did you go back and ask them? Why? It was very important for you to be humble enough to ask and listen to the expert's wisdom. The second step was to actually do what the expert told you to do.

In life, who can you go to when you need true **wisdom**...I mean the highest quality **wisdom** in the world? Let me give you a hint (*reveal this verse on your whiteboard*): James 1:5a, “If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God.” Just like you went to the Bubble Expert (or Percussion Expert), you should go to God for **wisdom** in both big and small decisions.

Pray: *Allow a student to open your class in prayer. Before the student begins to pray, ask students, “What should you do when someone is praying?” I’m sure students will say, “close your eyes, fold your hands, and bow your heads.” This is a great answer, but they may be missing the “why” behind these steps: so we can focus on God. When one person prays, they are leading the entire class in one unified prayer. The word “Amen” at the end of the prayer actually means, “I agree.” You are agreeing with what the person just prayed.*

Find It: *Challenge students to say the books of the Old Testament up to Daniel. By reciting the books each week, you are reviewing with your regularly attending students. For new students, you are teaching them how to pronounce each book. Have students find Daniel 2 in their Bibles. A more advanced class may use the Sword Drill method.*

Timeline: Point to the timeline and remind students that we are in the Old Testament, and we are studying Daniel.

Introduction to the Bible Lesson:

Last week, we learned about Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. They were Israelites from Judah. Even though Daniel and his friends had been taken to Babylon as captives, they stood firm and lived their lives God's way. Instead of eating King Nebuchadnezzar's food, they ate vegetables and drank water. God blessed them and gave them everything they needed to be good servants for King Nebuchadnezzar. Can you remember how many times better they were than all of King Nebuchadnezzar's other "wise" men? (Ten times better!) God was with Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, and we're about to see how much they needed Him!

Scripture Outline: Daniel 2

King Nebuchadnezzar has a dream, and he wants to know what it means

Paraphrase of Daniel 2:1-13:

Do you ever wake up and remember the dreams you had while you were asleep? Do you ever wonder what your dreams mean?

One night, King Nebuchadnezzar had a dream. This dream bothered King Nebuchadnezzar so much that he wanted to know what it meant. He sent for men who he thought were wise. He said he wanted them to tell him what he had dreamed and to also interpret the dream. Interpret means to say what the dream meant. Why did he want them to both tell him what the dream was and interpret it? Isn't it impossible for someone to know what someone else has dreamed unless he's been told? King Nebuchadnezzar knew if anyone could know what he dreamed without being told, he could trust that person to be wise enough to explain the dream correctly.

Now here's the scary part. He told the men if they couldn't tell him his dream and interpret it, he'd have them cut to pieces and their houses turned into rubble! How do you think these men felt? They must have been terrified! The men told the king that no one could know and explain the dream except the gods! This made the king so mad he ordered that all the wise men in Babylon be killed. Well, guess what. That included Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego!

Daniel asks God for help

Paraphrase of Daniel 2:14-18:

As soon as Daniel found out that King Nebuchadnezzar had ordered all the wise men to be killed, he went to the king and asked for more time to know and interpret the dream. Then, Daniel went back to his friends, and they asked God to help them and give them the wisdom to interpret the dream so they wouldn't be killed.

Do you know what wisdom is? Think about our Discover Time activity again. The Bubble Expert used their knowledge to make the bubble liquid, showed us how to make the giant bubbles, and then we made them.

Wisdom means: "Using the truth of God's Word to understand the world and make right decisions." Who is the only one who can give you wisdom to make the right and best decisions in your daily life? (God!)

Lead Teacher's note: Students may say parents, teachers, etc. So yes, God can give wisdom through them as well. The important point is that all wisdom comes from God.

Can you think of a time when you were in trouble? Did you ask God for help? Do you ask God for wisdom when you have problems or need to make decisions? Let's recite our Think Right verse. *Recite James 1:5a. Give a short (three sentence) personal example of a time you asked God for wisdom.* Do you think God helped Daniel and his friends? Let's see.

Daniel praises God for giving him wisdom

Read Daniel 2:19-23

Recap: Isn't our God awesome? He gave Daniel wisdom and showed him what King Nebuchadnezzar's dream was and what it meant! Now Daniel could tell King Nebuchadnezzar's dream and interpret it, so he and his friends wouldn't be killed.

Daniel tells and interprets the dream and gives all the credit to God

Read Daniel 2:24-28

Recap: Who did Daniel say was the only one who could tell the mystery of the dream? (God!)

When you do something wise like Daniel did, do you take the credit, or do you give the credit to God? Did our Bubble Expert take all the credit, or did he give credit to God? We should always be humble and give credit to God because we can't do anything good alone. Our wisdom comes from Him. Just like in our Discover Time activity, we couldn't take the credit for making the huge bubbles. We received the wisdom to make them from the Bubble Expert, and we just did what the expert said!

Daniel told King Nebuchadnezzar that God wanted the king to understand the dream. Let's see what the dream meant.

The dream foretells what will happen in the future

Paraphrase of Daniel 2:29-45:

King Nebuchadnezzar's dream was about what would happen in the future. A weaker kingdom (Medo-Persian Empire) would come after Babylon. Then a weaker kingdom (Greece) would come after that. Then even a weaker one (Roman) would come after that. None of those kingdoms would last. But finally, there would be a kingdom that would come and **never** be destroyed. It would rule forever. We'll talk more about that kingdom in a minute.

What do you think King Nebuchadnezzar did after Daniel explained his dream? Let's see.

King Nebuchadnezzar praises God

Read Daniel 2:46-47

Recap: What did King Nebuchadnezzar say about God? (He is the God of gods, the King of kings and a revealer of mysteries) King Nebuchadnezzar realized Daniel's wisdom came from God! That didn't mean King Nebuchadnezzar knew God was the only true God, but he did believe God was the best god. Guess what King Nebuchadnezzar did next?

King Nebuchadnezzar rewards Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego

Read Daniel 2:48-49

Recap: Isn't that amazing? Instead of killing Daniel and his three friends, King Nebuchadnezzar rewarded them! This is all because Daniel was courageous and asked God for wisdom.

Conclusion

When Daniel and his friends were in trouble, did they seek God's wisdom or depend on their own thoughts and ideas? God gave Daniel the wisdom to know and interpret King Nebuchadnezzar's dream, and Daniel humbly gave all the credit to God. King Nebuchadnezzar realized Daniel's God was the best and praised Him. Instead of being killed, Daniel and his three friends were rewarded.

Do Right and Feel Right

What do you do when you're in a hard situation? Do you try to take care of it yourself, do you go in a corner and cry, or do you remember to ask God to help you and give you wisdom? What does God tell us to do in our Think Right verse, James 1:5a? Let's say it now. *Recite James 1:5a.* When God helps you, do you take the credit, or do you humbly give God the credit like Daniel did? When you need wisdom, remember to ask God. Then you can kindly share that wisdom with others.

One more thing. Do you remember what King Nebuchadnezzar's dream meant? There were going to be three weaker kingdoms that would come after him, but then there was going to be one final kingdom that would come and last forever! Do you know the King of the Kingdom that will last forever? (It's Jesus!)

Do you belong to Jesus' kingdom? If you've trusted in Jesus to save you from your sin and made Him the leader of your life, then you do belong to His Kingdom. If you've never prayed and trusted Jesus to save you from your sin, would you like to learn how to do that today? *Opportunity to share the Gospel through the Wordless Book and give an invitation for salvation.*

Review Questions: What did we discover today?

1. What did King Nebuchadnezzar want his "wise" men to do? (Tell him his dream and interpret it)
2. Why did King Nebuchadnezzar want them to tell him what the dream was instead of just interpreting it? (So he could be sure they interpreted the dream correctly)
3. What was the king going to do if no one could tell and interpret his dream? (Kill the wise men, including Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego)
4. When Daniel needed to tell and interpret the dream, what did he and his three friends do? (They asked God for wisdom)
5. What did God do? (God gave Daniel the wisdom to tell and interpret the dream for King Nebuchadnezzar)
6. Who did Daniel say was the only one who could tell the mystery of the dream? (God)
7. What did King Nebuchadnezzar say about God after Daniel told and interpreted the dream? (Daniel's God was the God of gods and the Lord of kings and a revealer of mysteries)
8. What happened to Daniel and his three friends? (The king gave Daniel and his three friends rewards)
9. Will you ask God for wisdom?

Lesson 8

Daniel 3

Know Right:	Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego are thrown into the fiery furnace.
Think Right:	“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.” Joshua 1:9 (Top 12)
Do Right:	I will trust in God’s power.
Feel Right:	I can feel courageous and peaceful when I trust in God’s power.

GET READY!

Have you witnessed the power of God in your life and in the world around you? God is amazing, powerful, grand, and He is at work in a million different ways! Stand in awe of God as you prepare for this lesson, thinking about what He has already done and what He will do in the future!

Pray: Ask God to move in powerful ways in your class - to eliminate distractions, to open hearts, to cause clear comprehension of the Scripture, and to provide life changes.

Read: Daniel 3

Know Right: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego are thrown into the fiery furnace

Although King Nebuchadnezzar recognized Daniel’s God as the one who revealed his dream, he did not abandon the worship of lifeless, man-made gods. In fact, he erected an image of gold that was ninety feet high and nine feet wide and commanded everyone in his kingdom to worship it. When Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refused to obey this order, King Nebuchadnezzar threatened to throw them into the blazing furnace. Armed with trust in God’s power to deliver them, the three faithful men defied him still and were thrown into the flames. King Nebuchadnezzar watched as Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego, and a fourth unidentified man miraculously walked around in the fire unharmed. The king ordered the three friends to come out of the fire, gave praise to their God, and rewarded them with a promotion. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego are true examples of how to be courageous and trust in God’s power.

GET SET!

Lead Teacher’s Notes:

- Please refer to the Children’s Ministry Resource Bible: page 1015 (Lesson: The Fiery Furnace).
- How do you make this lesson go from an “exciting story” to “life transformation”? Step one is to allow it to transform your life first. What is God teaching you? Is He really powerful? How would a student know that you really believe in a powerful God?
- If a student says they couldn’t rely on their partner during the DT, clarify that humans make mistakes and can’t always be counted on, but God is perfect, and we can always trust Him.
- As you assist with the DT, look for students who listen to the guide, truly trust them, and move according to each word they say. If students moved through the challenge trusting in themselves, point out how they were disqualified for cheating or they knocked over water and got wet.

Creative Ideas for the Bible Lesson:

1. Find action figures to illustrate the lesson as you teach. Create the main scenes and objects out of household items. Additional ideas for this lesson can also be found by searching the internet.
2. In advance, draw a comic strip on roll paper or on your whiteboard. Add in details as you teach the lesson.
3. During the lesson, have the class confidently stand up each time they hear of a person trusting in God. Make a chart to record these important moments: who stood firm, their challenge, and the potential consequence(s) of the decision.

GO!

Discover Time: Trust Factor

Goal: To help students understand that God is all-powerful, He is always with them, and even though they cannot physically see Him, they can totally **trust** Him.

DT Activity: Outdoor Space

Note: *Activity should be done as individual classes.*

Supplies:

- 15-yard starting line (all partners should be able to stand on the line)
- 15-yard finish line (there should be a good distance, approximately 25 yards, between the two lines)
- Blindfolds (one for every two students)
- Many water balloons, water buckets, and small baby pools to create water hazards (if inside, use paper plates or objects)
- Hose or water supply
- Two large cones with a flag stuck in each (one placed on each line)

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Divide students into partners.
2. Have partners stand on the starting line.
3. Blindfold one partner in each team (make sure they cannot peek).
4. Challenge the seeing partner to guide their blindfolded partner through the “field of water”, without getting wet, to be the first to retrieve the flag.
5. The blindfolded partner must **trust** their friend to not allow them to touch the traps. If a partner steps on a balloon or gets wet, that team is disqualified from getting the flag.
6. If a partner cheats, that team is disqualified. It should be obvious - all leaders will need to watch for broken balloons, tipped buckets, etc.
7. The team that remains completely dry and is the first to grab the flag at the opposite end wins five Tracker Tickets each.
8. After all groups have finished, repeat activity by switching the partners’ positions and reversing directions. The finish line becomes the starting line for the second group and the starting line becomes the finish line.
9. Continue to emphasize the word **trust** as students allow their partners to guide them through the race.

Special Tips:

1. Make sure the students are blindfolded well.
2. The guiding partner should physically and verbally guide their partner. For older students, you may want to say they can only verbally guide their partner. This will emphasize the importance of listening to God and **trusting** His words. It will also help if you make it challenging enough, which is crucial to this Discover Time.
3. It may be a good day for students to take their shoes off.

4. Make sure the guiding partners understand their role. They need to be a **trustworthy** and responsible guide.
5. Warn students not to cheat! It will be obvious if they do.
6. Speed will be a factor because there is only one flag.
7. The more pools, balloons, and water buckets to walk around, the better!
8. At the end of your outdoor fun, make sure the students do not grab water balloons or tip buckets as they may be used for additional classes or multiple services.
9. This is a good day to get extra help setting up the activities.

Bible Lesson Introduction

Lead Teachers ~ Connecting the DT to the Lesson: When you were blindfolded, how did you feel when your partner guided you through the field of water? Did you **trust** your partner? How did you show that you truly trusted them? (By listening and obeying their instructions) Could you rely on your partner to keep you safe from the water and do what was best for you? Why? (Because the guide could see the big picture of the obstacle course, but the blindfolded person couldn't) How much did you **trust** your partner - 100% or less than 100%?

Just like you followed your partner, you can show God that you **trust** Him by listening to His words and following Him. He is there to protect you and guide you. He is all-powerful and you can **trust** Him as you walk through life. Life isn't always easy, but remember, you can **trust** God 100% during both the good times and the bad times.

Pray: Encourage all students to be courageous, like Daniel, by standing up and praying silently. Challenge students to pray they will learn something new that will cause them to be stronger and bolder for Christ. Remind students that when we pray, the all-powerful God of the universe hears us. Allow students to silently pray for about fifteen seconds and then close the time with a short prayer.

Find It: Ask students if the book of Daniel is in the New Testament or Old Testament. (OT) Challenge students to say the books of the Old Testament up to Daniel without looking at any chart. After students recite the books of the OT, see who can find Daniel in the Bible first. Have visitors work alongside a regularly attending student. A more advanced class may use the Sword Drill method.

Timeline: Where on our timeline can you see God's power? Give a Tracker Ticket out for each good answer. Today, we will once again see God's power through the life of Daniel.

Introduction to the Bible Lesson:

Let's review the last couple of lessons. Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were Israelites who lived in Judah. Because many of the Israelites had disobeyed God, He allowed King Nebuchadnezzar to conquer Judah. King Nebuchadnezzar took many of the Israelites as captives back to Babylon to serve him. Even though Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were now captives in a foreign land and were told to live King Nebuchadnezzar's way, they stood firm and made the choice to live God's way.

We learned last week how Daniel relied on God's wisdom and was able to tell and interpret King Nebuchadnezzar's dream. To reward Daniel and his friends, King Nebuchadnezzar made Daniel the ruler over Babylon, and he made Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego leaders, too. Would life be easy now for Daniel and his friends, or would it still be challenging to stand firm and live God's way? Let's find out!

Scripture Outline: Daniel 3

King Nebuchadnezzar makes a golden statue

Paraphrase of Daniel 3:1-3:

King Nebuchadnezzar made a huge golden statue. It was ninety feet high and nine feet wide. He called all the leaders in Babylon to come to the dedication ceremony. The leaders came and stood in front of the giant golden statue. Listen to what King Nebuchadnezzar ordered all the people to do.

King Nebuchadnezzar orders everyone to bow down and worship the statue

Read Daniel 3:4-6

Recap: King Nebuchadnezzar ordered everyone to bow down and worship the golden statue when they heard music! But do you remember what God said in the Ten Commandments? He told the Israelites - and us - not to worship anything except Him! What did Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego do? Did they obey the king, or did they obey God? We'll find out in a moment.

What about you? Whom or what do you worship? People all over this world bow down and worship statues because they think they are gods, but these gods aren't real; they're false gods. People also worship other things in this world - things that are more important to them than God. Maybe it's money, friends, sports, video games, music, or other things. *Allow students to think of things more important to people than God is.* It may not seem like we bow down and worship these things, but they become more important to us than God. That is sin because nothing in this world should be more important to us than God.

Let's get back to the Bible to see if Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego obeyed King Nebuchadnezzar or God.

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego obey God

Read Daniel 3:7-12 with special emphasis on verse 12

Recap: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego stood firm and obeyed God! They wouldn't serve or worship the statue! Let's find out what King Nebuchadnezzar did.

King Nebuchadnezzar orders them to be thrown into the blazing furnace

Read Daniel 3:13-15 with special emphasis on the last sentence of verse 15

Recap: King Nebuchadnezzar ordered Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to be thrown into the blazing furnace if they did not fall down and worship the image he made. He didn't think any god could rescue them! But listen to what they told King Nebuchadnezzar.

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego trust in God's great power

Read Daniel 3:16-18 with special emphasis on verses 17-18

Recap: Who did they think had the power to rescue them? (God) They trusted in God's power to save them. Just like in your Discover Time activity, you had to trust in your partner to guide you and keep you from getting wet. But there's something else Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego said to the king. They said even if God didn't save them, they would never serve King Nebuchadnezzar's gods or worship the golden statue.

Doesn't it make you happy that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego stood firm and trusted in God's power? What if that had been you? Do you think you would have stood firm, too?

Wait...let's think about something that could happen today. If you attend a public school and your teacher asks you to stand if you are a Christian, would you instantly jump up or would you look around the room first to see if anyone else stands up? If your teacher says, "God isn't real, it's more of a story", would you be bold enough to disagree and defend what you believe? You can trust God to be with you when you stand firm for Him.

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego are thrown into the blazing furnace

Read Daniel 3:19-23

Recap: How many times hotter did King Nebuchadnezzar order the furnace to be heated? (Seven times hotter than normal) The furnace was so hot that the soldiers who threw Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego into the furnace were burned up! But what happened to Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego? Did they burn up?

There are four men walking around in the fire unharmed

Read Daniel 3:24-25

Recap: How many men were in the fire? (Four) Who do you think the fourth man was? Maybe it was God's angel, or maybe it was Jesus! The Bible doesn't tell us, but we know that a fourth man was there and none of them were harmed because God's power protected them. God guided them and kept them safe.

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego come out of the fire

Read Daniel 3:26-27

Recap: Did King Nebuchadnezzar now know that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego's God, the one true God, had the power to save them? (Yes) Listen to what King Nebuchadnezzar said.

King Nebuchadnezzar praises the one true God

Read Daniel 3:28-30

Recap: King Nebuchadnezzar praised God. He told everyone how Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego trusted in God's power, and God saved them. What did the king order for anyone who said anything against the one true God? (They would be cut into pieces and their houses would be turned into piles of rubble)

And he even gave Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego more important jobs!

Conclusion

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego are powerful examples for us. They trusted in God's power to save them in the fire. Not only that, but they also trusted in God's power, even if He didn't save them in the fire. They knew that if God allowed them to die, they would have eternal life with Him forever. God did save them, and He blessed them even more than before!

Do Right and Feel Right

Are you like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego? Do you trust in God's great power? What verse reminds you of God's great power? (Joshua 1:9) During a storm, do you trust Him and quote Joshua 1:9 to help focus your mind on Him? During a medical emergency, do you really trust Him? If your friends tempt you to do wrong things, do you trust that God will help you avoid the temptation? God is just as real today as He was in the time of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. You can trust in Him, just like they did.

The first step in trusting God is to admit you have sinned, trust Jesus to forgive you, and allow Him to be the leader of your life. Would you like to learn more about how to do that? *Opportunity to share the Gospel through the Wordless Book and give an invitation for salvation.*

Before we leave today, let's take just a little time to think about how we can apply this lesson to our lives this week. Maybe you need to make God "your God" by deciding to become a member of His family, like we just talked about. Or maybe you need to make a decision now to trust in God's great power through a difficult situation you're dealing with. Let's think about it, and then you can talk to God about how you can apply it to your life.

Review Questions: What did we discover today?

1. What did King Nebuchadnezzar order everyone to do? (Fall down and worship the golden image when they heard music)
2. Who would not obey the king's order to fall down and worship the golden image? (Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego)
3. Were these men courageous or wimpy? (Courageous)
4. Why wouldn't Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego worship the golden image? (God said not to worship anything but Him)
5. What did King Nebuchadnezzar say would happen to Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego if they didn't worship the golden image? (They would be thrown into the blazing furnace)
6. Who did Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego say was able to save them? (God)
7. What happened to the soldiers who threw Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego into the furnace? (The furnace was so hot it killed them)
8. What happened to Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the furnace? (They walked around in the furnace with a fourth "person", and they were unharmed)
9. What did King Nebuchadnezzar say about God, after He saved the three friends in the furnace? (If anyone said anything against God, they would be killed and their houses would be turned into rubble)
10. Will you always trust in God's power to help you through difficult situations?

Lesson 9

Daniel 6

Know Right:	Daniel is thrown into the lions' den.
Think Right:	"Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain." 1 Corinthians 15:58 (Top 12)
Do Right:	I will remain committed to God.
Feel Right:	I can feel faithful when I remain committed to God.

GET READY!

When you become part of God's family, God makes a commitment to you and you to Him. God's commitment never waivers; it remains strong and steadfast. As fallen humans, we tend to be fickle and struggle with steady faithfulness. Thankfully, by God's grace, He always gives us another chance. He also gives us His Word to spur us on. Daniel is a great example of what commitment looks like when there is pressure to lose focus and bend to the things of the world. This week let's recommit our lives to God and stand firm like Daniel!

Pray: Ask God to help your students understand the importance of honoring a commitment in a world where commitments are often broken. Pray that they will grasp and appreciate the truth of God's commitment to them both now and for eternity.

Read: Daniel 6

Know Right: Daniel is thrown into the lions' den

As God had foretold through King Nebuchadnezzar's dream, Babylon was conquered by the next world power. The new king, Darius, admired Daniel and intended to promote him to oversee his kingdom. Babylon's other officials manipulated King Darius into making a new law that forbade prayer to anyone other than the king. Those who disobeyed this decree would be thrown into the lions' den. When Daniel continued to faithfully pray to the only true God, King Darius had no choice but to throw his trusted advisor into the lions' den. God sent His angel to protect Daniel, and the lions were treated to a meal of Babylon's other officials instead. In spite of the threat of death, Daniel demonstrated how we should all remain committed to God.

GET SET!

Lead Teacher's Notes:

- During Discover Time, watch for students breaking their commitment. Why did they break their commitment? What distracted them? Use some of these illustrations during your lesson to show how and why people break their commitment to God.
- Please refer to the Children's Ministry Resource Bible: page 664 (Children Learn About Angels); page 1027 (Lesson: Daniel in the Lions' Den).
- Definition of commitment: a promise made with the intention of faithfully carrying it out (actually doing it).
- What does commitment look like to an average student today? Are commitments often broken?

As you teach your students to remain committed to God, remember that many of them take this word lightly. Teach the value of commitment in your lesson today and the value it holds in their relationship with God.

Creative Ideas for the Bible Lesson:

1. Hand out index cards with sound effects from the lesson (for example: lions roaring, Daniel praying, crying, etc.). Distribute the cards to your students, and have them fold and display the card tent-style so you can see the word written on it. As you teach, point to the student with that sound at the applicable moment. More than one student can have the same sound effect, such as the lions roaring.
2. Create a lions' den in your classroom. Dim the lights and have roaring lion sound effects playing in the background as students enter your room.

GO!

Discover Time: Together forever!

Goal: To teach the importance of remaining **committed**.

DT Activity: Outdoor Space

Note: *Activity should be done as individual classes.*

Supplies:

- Cones or spray chalk paint
- "Tagged Out" signs (see Resources Booklet)
- Super soakers (other options: toy water guns, spray bottles or water bottles with an hole poked in the bottle top/cap for squirting).
- Tracker Tickets for the winning set of partners

Setup instructions: In advance, each class will need boundaries created with cones or spray chalk paint large enough to play tag and a designated area for students who are tagged out. Post "Tagged Out" signs in the designated "Tagged Out" area.

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Challenge students to a game of partner "Commitment Tag."
2. Select either a leader or a student to be "it." You can rotate the "it" person as needed.
3. Select leaders to spray the students with the super soakers (weather permitting).
4. Show students the designated area to play tag.
5. Show students the designated "Tagged Out" area.
6. Have students find a partner. Help them if needed.
7. Instruct partners to connect by hooking their elbows.
8. Emphasize and remind partners they must remain **committed** (key word of the game) to each other and stay connected, even if they get wet!
9. Any partners that disconnect will automatically be out.
10. Any partners that go outside the boundaries will be out.
11. Any partners that are tagged by the person who is "it" will be out.
12. The last partners still in the game are the winners and will receive two Tracker Tickets each.
13. Explain again what **commitment** means - they need to stick together until the end of the game.
14. Repeat as time allows.
15. Have fun and keep repeating the word **commitment** as you play this game!

Bible Lesson Introduction

Lead Teachers ~ Connecting the DT to the Lesson: What does the word **commitment** mean? When you played tag, was it always easy to remain committed to your friend? Why or why not? Just because you were going to get wet or tagged, was that a good reason to unhook and break your commitment? Do you realize that if you are a Christian, you need to remain committed to God twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week - even on the soccer field and even when you are hanging out with your friends? This is a big deal; it's a big commitment. In today's lesson, we are going to learn about a person who was 100% committed to God, even to the point of death!

Pray: In some parts of the world, people do not have the freedom to pray out loud in public. It is a crime and you could go to prison. In other parts, they do have that freedom. Let's thank God that today, we can pray together out loud. Who would like to pray? *Challenge a student to stand up and pray before you begin your lesson.*

Find It: Write Daniel 6 on your whiteboard and cover it with a sheet of paper. As soon as you uncover it, students should race to find the reference in their Bibles. Winner will receive two Tracker Tickets.

Timeline: Who on our timeline remained committed to God, even when it was very difficult? Allow students to share. Today we will be focusing on Daniel.

Introduction to the Bible Lesson:

Do you remember when we learned about King Nebuchadnezzar's dream? Who gave Daniel the wisdom to tell and interpret the dream? (God!) Through this dream, God told King Nebuchadnezzar that other kingdoms would come and take over Babylon, and there would be new kings. Daniel was still in Babylon when this began to happen. The new king's name was Darius. Today, we're going to learn about a huge challenge Daniel faced when Darius was the king.

Scripture Outline: Daniel 6

Daniel is King Darius' best leader

Paraphrase Daniel 6:1-5:

King Darius took over Babylon just as God had said. Daniel was one of the three men the king chose to be in charge of his kingdom. Because Daniel was committed to God, he did such a good job that King Darius decided to put him in charge of the whole kingdom. King Darius' other officials were jealous of Daniel. Being jealous means that you're unhappy or even angry when someone has something that you don't have. It's a sin! The other officials didn't want Daniel to be in charge of the whole kingdom, so they tried to find a way to get Daniel in trouble. When they couldn't find anything that Daniel did wrong, they decided to trick King Darius. Listen to what they did.

King Darius makes a new law

Read Daniel 6:6-9

Recap: The men tricked King Darius into signing a new law that said this: if anyone prays to any god or man during the next thirty days, except King Darius, they will be thrown into the lions' den. King Darius issued the law, and it couldn't be changed even if King Darius wanted to change it. What would Daniel do now? How would he stay courageous and committed to God?

What would you have done if you were in Daniel's shoes? Think about it. Is it ever hard for you to remain committed to God? Let's think of some challenges that students your age might face. What about challenges you have at home? Do you have a hard time obeying your parents or being kind to your brothers and sisters? What about at school? Are you ever ashamed for someone to know you're a Christian? Are you ever afraid to pray or read your Bible in front of your friends? Do you let other students pressure you into doing things you know God doesn't want you to do? It could be using swear

words, watching something wrong on the internet, making fun of someone else, or being disrespectful to your teacher. What about at a friend's house? Do you watch movies or play video games that you know aren't appropriate?

What is one of our Top 12 verses that will help you remain committed to God no matter what? It's today's Think Right verse. *Have class recite 1 Corinthians 15:58*. Let's go back to our lesson to see if Daniel remains committed to God or if he obeys the king.

Daniel remains committed to God

Read Daniel 6:10

Recap: Did Daniel follow King Darius's new law? (No) Why not? (He didn't want to sin; it's a sin to worship anyone or anything other than the only true God) Did Daniel remain committed to God? (Yes) How? What did Daniel do? (He got down on his knees and prayed to God three times a day in front of the open window) Would the jealous men find out that Daniel was breaking the new law? Would King Darius really throw Daniel into the lions' den?

King Darius doesn't want to throw Daniel into the lions' den

Read Daniel 6:11-15

Recap: Did you hear that? Did King Darius want to throw Daniel into the lions' den? (No) Did King Darius try to save Daniel? (Yes) Could he? (No) So what do you think happened to Daniel?

King Darius wants God to save Daniel from the lions

Read Daniel 6:16

Recap: What did King Darius say when Daniel was thrown into the lions' den? *Allow someone to answer and then repeat Daniel 6:16 to the class for emphasis.* Do you think it was important for King Darius to see that Daniel remained committed to God in such a challenging situation? (Yes)

Is it important for people to see that you remain committed to God, even when you're being pressured not to? (Yes) Remember, if you're a Christian, people are watching you to see if you are a true follower of Jesus. Do you remain committed to God, or do you put other things before Him? Let's see what God did.

Daniel spends the night in the lions' den

Read Daniel 6:17-23

Recap: Did the lions hurt Daniel at all? (No) What did God do to protect Daniel? (He sent an angel to shut the lions' mouths) Isn't it awesome that God is so powerful He can protect us?

Older students: If you are a Christian, there is something very important for you to understand: Daniel trusted in God, and God chose to protect him. Do you remember Stephen? We learned about him a few months ago. *Students learned about this in the previous quarter (Year 3 - Quarter 3).* Stephen trusted in God and stood firm for Him, too, but God allowed him to be stoned to death. Where did Stephen get to go when he died? (Heaven) Let's also remember how Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego remained committed and trusted that God could save them in the fire, but they said, even if He didn't, they would never worship anything or anyone but the only true God. No matter what God allows to happen in your life, whether it seems good or bad, or even whether it's life or death, you should always remain committed to Him, and He will take care of you! What is one of our Top 12 verses that helps us to remember this? (1 Corinthians 15:58) Let's say that verse right now. *Recite 1 Corinthians 15:58 with the class.*

Now let's get back to Daniel to see what happened next.

The jealous men and their families are thrown into the lions' den

Read Daniel 6:24

Recap: Wow! These jealous men wanted Daniel to be killed in the lions' den. Instead, they and their families were killed because of their sin! I bet everyone else learned a big lesson from that! Do you wonder what happened to Daniel?

Let's keep reading.

King Darius praises God

Read Daniel 6:25-28

Recap: Did King Darius now believe in the only true God? (Yes) King Darius praised God, and he made a new law that said everyone in the kingdom must worship Daniel's God.

Conclusion

Everything worked out well for Daniel. Not only did he remain committed to God, but he was also one of God's major prophets who told about God's plan for the future. We've learned a lot from Daniel and his three friends, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Even though their lives were at stake, they remained committed to God.

Do Right and Feel Right

Let's say our Think Right verse again. *Have class recite 1 Corinthians 15:58.* Can you remain committed to God no matter what? You can if you've trusted in Jesus to save you from your sin and made Him the leader of your life. Think of some ways you can remain committed to God and do what He wants you to do. *Have students share examples. Make suggestions if they need help.* Now think of some times when you haven't remained committed to God. Instead, you've done what God doesn't want you to do. *Have students share examples. Make suggestions if they need help.* If you have trusted in Jesus, who lives inside you to help you remain committed? (The Holy Spirit) Remember, God has given you His Holy Spirit, so you have the power you need to remain committed. When you do, you will feel faithful!

But what if you haven't trusted in Jesus to save you from your sin and haven't made Him the leader of your life? Would you like to learn how to do that today? *Opportunity to share the Gospel through the Wordless Book and give an invitation for salvation.*

Review Questions: What did we discover today?

1. Why did King Darius' officials try to get Daniel in trouble? (They were jealous, and they didn't want King Darius to put Daniel in charge of the whole kingdom)
2. What did King Darius do that could get Daniel killed? (He made a law that said if a person prayed to anyone but King Darius they would be thrown into the lions' den)
3. What did Daniel keep doing in spite of King Darius' law? (He remained committed and prayed to God three times a day)
4. What did King Darius say when Daniel was thrown into the lions' den? ("May your God, whom you serve continually, rescue you")
5. What happened to Daniel in the lions' den? (God sent His angel to shut the mouths of the lions, and Daniel was saved)
6. What happened to the officials who tried to get Daniel killed? (King Darius had them and their families thrown into the lions' den, and they were killed)
7. What law did King Darius make after God saved Daniel? (Everyone in the kingdom must worship Daniel's God)
8. Will you remain committed to God no matter what?

Lesson 10

Esther 1-10

Know Right:	Esther courageously risks her life and is used by God to save His people.
Think Right:	“Do not merely listen to the Word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.” James 1:22
Do Right:	I will be willing to take risks to do what is right.
Feel Right:	I can feel supported by God when I take risks to do what is right.

GET READY!

When we risk our own comfort and safety to do what is right, we take action knowing that God is behind us and before us, and that nothing can thwart His plan. We should be quick to do what is right and to honor and please God, no matter the cost. Just as God worked through Esther to save the Jews, He can work through each one of us, causing our words and actions to reflect Him. As you study the book of Esther, ask God to show you how He can use you in new ways as you take risks for Him.

Pray: Pray that your students will truly seek God and do what is right. Pray Proverbs 2:1-11 over your students each day of the week.

Read: Esther 1 - 10

Know Right: Esther courageously risks her life and is used by God to save His people

After King Darius' death, he was succeeded by his second-born son, known as King Xerxes I. The book of Esther begins with the deposition of Queen Vashti for refusing to obey a vulgar request of King Xerxes and her unlikely replacement by a beautiful Jewish girl named Esther, who had been raised by her cousin Mordecai. King Xerxes, at the urging of his vengeful confidant Haman and unaware of his new wife's Jewish heritage, signed into law an order to execute all of the Jewish people. Esther knew that God could use her to help save her people, but she would have to risk her life to plead before the king uninvited. Esther and the other Jewish people fasted for three days, after which she courageously entered the king's presence, revealed her heritage, and exposed Haman's evil plot to annihilate the Jewish people. The furious king called off the senseless genocide and instead had Haman executed. Inspired by the account of Esther and supported by our all-powerful God, we too can be used by Him if we are willing to take risks to do what is right.

GET SET!

Lead Teacher's Notes:

- This text talks about virgins and eunuchs. This portion of the text will be paraphrased rather than being read aloud. If students notice the terms and ask what they mean, kindly tell them to ask their parents about those terms when they get home.

- We are covering an entire exciting book of the Bible in one lesson. Careful paraphrasing will be critical to making the Bible come to life in the limited amount of time available.
- Because we are covering so much detailed content, it is essential to be prepared to teach for the correct age level. Older students can handle more details, but younger students need the big picture of the lesson.

Creative Ideas for the Bible Lesson:

1. Select one prop per chapter of the book of Esther. Reveal the prop as you talk about the chapter it corresponds with.
 - Chapter 1: Royal food on a special plate - real or pretend (to represent a banquet)
 - Chapter 2: Crown, hairbrush or comb, and bottle of perfume (royal beauty treatments)
 - Chapter 3: Scroll with a seal and a fancy ribbon to tie it (royal decree)
 - Chapter 4: Empty plate (fasting)
 - Chapter 5: Royal food on a special plate - real or pretend (to represent a banquet)
 - Chapter 7: Royal food on a special plate - real or pretend (to represent a banquet)
 - Chapters 8-10: Paper with the words "Jewish people saved" in gold glitter
2. Hang up costumes of the following people: King Xerxes, Haman, Mordecai, and Esther. As you talk, stand by each costume, and ask the students how the person represented might have felt or what the students would do if they were in that person's situation.

GO!

Discover Time: Who comes first?

Goal: To challenge students to put others first and **help** them even when it might be costly.

DT Activity: Large indoor or outdoor space

Supplies:

- Blindfolds (enough for half of the students)
- Tracker Tickets (in denominations of two and five)
- A long starting line and finish line, about 30 feet apart
- A variety of obstacles set up between the two lines (make sure the obstacle course is challenging enough for the age of the students participating)

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Split the students quickly into pairs and have them stand behind the starting line.
2. Distribute blindfolds to half of the students (one from each pair). The other half of the students (without blindfolds) should each receive two Tracker Tickets.
3. Inform students that they have the opportunity to earn Tracker Tickets by completing an obstacle course. The partner with the blindfold must compete, but the partner without the blindfold may choose whether or not to participate once they understand the rules of the activity.
4. Explain the rules of the game: One partner will be blindfolded, and they will need to cross the obstacle area without bumping into any obstacles. If they successfully complete the obstacle course without bumping into an obstacle, and if they keep their blindfold in place the whole time, they will earn five Tracker Tickets. If their partner chooses to participate, the partner can assist the blindfolded student by walking alongside them and providing verbal instructions, but they must not touch them.
5. Explain the twist: If any student wants to **help** their blindfolded partner, they must give up their two Tracker Tickets in order to participate.
6. Allow students to decide how to proceed, and collect the two Tracker Tickets from partners who choose to participate. Partners who chose not to participate must silently watch the challenge.

7. Instruct students to put on the blindfolds and begin the challenge.
8. ALL LEADERS: Observe students' reactions! Will anyone give up their two Tracker Tickets to **help** their partner? Who is willing to make a sacrifice to do the right thing and put their partner first?
9. At the end of the challenge, announce that both partners will receive five Tracker Tickets if they worked together to successfully complete the obstacle course (without bumping into an obstacle and if they kept their blindfold in place the whole time).

Bible Lesson Introduction

Lead Teachers ~ Connecting the DT to the Lesson: Sometimes life can be comfortable and fun. God blesses us with times like that! But sometimes we get the idea that being comfortable and having fun is super important, and we put ourselves first and forget about doing what is right and bringing honor to God. *(Insert one of these questions based on the DT your class did: Did you want to catch a ball to help a teammate? Did you want to give up your Tracker Tickets to help your partner?)* Why or why not? Today, in our lesson, we will learn about a person who could have put herself first and just enjoyed her time in a palace, but instead she did what was right... even though it could have cost her life.

Pray: *Have a student open the class in prayer. If they need suggestions, encourage them to pray that the class would learn something new and that everyone would be excited to apply what they've learned.*

Find It: Is the book of Esther in the Old Testament or the New Testament? (OT) *Have students recite the books of the Old Testament up to Esther as they open their Bibles to the book of Esther.*

Timeline: *Point out all the kings on the timeline. Today we are going to talk about a queen - Queen Esther. Esther lived after the time of Daniel but before the time of Ezra and Nehemiah. Point this out on the timeline.*

Optional idea: Now that it's the end of the quarter, if you used the paper arrows, take them down and have your students race to put them back in order.

Introduction to the Bible Lesson:

We've been learning about Daniel, who chose to do what was right even though it meant putting his own life at risk. Today we will learn about King Xerxes, who ruled all the land from India to north Africa; Haman, a man who hated the Jewish people; Esther, who was incredibly courageous; and Mordecai, who was Esther's cousin.

Scripture Outline: Esther 1 - 10

King Xerxes

Paraphrase of Esther 1:

King Xerxes was a very powerful and very rich king. He had a celebration that showed off all his wealth and splendor. The celebration lasted 180 days. That's six months! All the important people in his area, including princes, military leaders, and noblemen, came. At the end of the celebration, he had a banquet that lasted for seven days. He invited everyone who lived and worked in the palace to this banquet, from the least to the greatest.

At that time, King Xerxes had a wife named Queen Vashti. She gave her own banquet to the women in the royal palace. During the party, King Xerxes told her to come to his party, so he could show his friends how beautiful she was. Queen Vashti did not like this idea at all! She said "no" and refused to come. Disobeying the king was a big deal! King Xerxes got so mad he declared that she could no longer be the queen.

Esther is made queen

Paraphrase of Esther 2:1-7:

The king's personal helpers said that a search for a new queen should begin. Do you remember how King Nebuchadnezzar took over Jerusalem and brought back some of the Jewish people to Babylon? One of the Jewish families that got brought to Babylon included a man named Mordecai and his cousin Esther. Mordecai took Esther in as his own child because her parents had died when she was young. Esther was very beautiful. Let's find out what happened to Esther.

Read Esther 2:8-11

Recap: Esther was one of the girls brought to the palace as a possible queen. Her cousin Mordecai told her not to tell anyone that she was Jewish, so she kept it a secret.

Paraphrase of Esther 2:12-17:

Esther was taken care of in the palace and was given months of royal beauty treatments, until finally her turn came to be presented before the king. The king liked Esther and made her queen. He placed a crown on her head, and it was official.

Read Esther 2:18

Recap: Could you imagine what it would be like to be just a regular person, and then one day to be chosen to be royalty?

Due to limited time, we will skip Esther 2:19-23.

Haman seeks to destroy the Jews

Paraphrase of Esther 3:

One of the officials in the king's court was a man named Haman. Haman did not like the Jewish people. Haman thought he was a great person, and he even made all the royal officials and other people bow down to him at the gate. Mordecai refused to do this, even though it made people dislike him. This made Haman mad, so he planned to kill all of Mordecai's people. He even convinced the king to make it a law to destroy all the Jewish people.

Esther does what is right

Paraphrase of Esther 4:

Mordecai learned what had happened and knew the Jewish people were going to be destroyed. Mordecai and all the other Jewish people tore their clothes and wept as a sign that they were sad and disturbed about what was going to happen. Esther heard about what the other Jewish people were doing, and she learned about Haman's awful plan to have all the Jewish people killed. All the Jewish people began to pray.

Mordecai pleaded with Esther to help, but it wouldn't be easy. She couldn't go to the king unless he asked her to come. It was against the law! If she just went to him, she could be put to death. But Mordecai reminded her that maybe she was made the queen for exactly this reason - "for such a time as this." Do you think she was going to help save her people? Let's find out.

Read Esther 4:15-17

Recap: Wow! Esther was so courageous! She said she would try to save her people – God's special people – even if it meant she herself would die. Besides being willing to die for her people, Esther was also wise in asking the Jewish people to fast. When people fast, they give up eating for a certain amount of time and instead spend lots of time in prayer. Have you ever had a problem and asked all your friends and family to pray?

Gospel

Wait a minute! This reminds me of someone from the New Testament who was willing to die to save people. He also asked His friends to pray. Can you guess who I'm thinking of? (Jesus) *Share the*

Gospel using the Wordless Book, making sure to give an invitation for students to pray and receive Jesus as their Savior.

Esther goes to the king

Read Esther 5:1-8

Recap and Paraphrase of 5:9-14:

King Xerxes allowed Esther to come to him and make a request. She asked for the king and Haman to join her for dinner that day. Haman thought he was even more important than before because he had dinner with the king and queen. While they were at dinner, Esther invited the king and Haman to join her for another special dinner the next day. Later that day, Haman saw Mordecai. Once again, Mordecai did not bow to him, and it made Haman very angry - so angry that he made detailed plans for killing Mordecai.

Older students: Haman had a seventy-five-foot pole set up so that Mordecai could be impaled on it!

Due to limited time, we will skip Esther 6.

Haman is caught

Read Esther 7:1-7

Recap: Queen Esther told the king about Haman's evil plan to kill her people! When the king heard this, he was furious!

Paraphrase of 7:8-10:

Remember when Esther and the other Jewish people fasted and prayed for three days? God answered with a "yes" and came to their rescue.

Younger students: Because the king was so mad, he had Haman killed.

Older students: Because the king was so mad, he had Haman impaled on the very pole he had prepared for Mordecai.

The king blesses Esther

Paraphrase of Esther 8:

That same day, the king gave Queen Esther everything that had belonged to Haman. The king also gave Mordecai the authority and power that Haman had once had, and the Jewish people were saved.

Conclusion (included Esther 9-10)

Esther was courageous, and God used her to save His people! God continued to use Esther and Mordecai to bless the Jewish people. At home, you and your parents can finish the book of Esther by reading chapters nine and ten.

Do Right and Feel Right

Esther could have been in big trouble with King Xerxes, but she stood up for her people anyway. She was bold and courageous, and she trusted God. What about you? If you were at school and someone wanted you to join in and bully another kid, would you say "no"? Would you go befriend the kid being bullied? Or if someone wants to show you and your friends something on their screen that is bad, are you willing to do what is right and walk away while encouraging others to walk away, too? Esther could have ignored Mordecai and the other Jewish people and just enjoyed her life in the palace, but she realized that her life wasn't about serving and pleasing herself; it was about serving others. Just like some of you were willing to give up your Tracker Tickets or catch a ball to help a friend during Discover Time, Esther courageously put others first and did the right thing, and God used her to save the Jewish people!

Review Questions: What did we discover today?

1. What was the name of the king who had a royal celebration for 180 days? (King Xerxes)
2. When King Xerxes decided Queen Vashti could no longer be the queen, what did the king's helpers do? (They began to search for a new queen)
3. What was the name of the new queen? (Esther)
4. Was it part of God's plan for Esther to become queen? (Yes)
5. What was the name of Esther's cousin who took care of her after her parents died? (Mordecai)
6. What was the name of the man who had an evil plan to kill all of the Jewish people? (Haman)
7. What did Mordecai, Esther, and all of the other Jewish people do for three days? (They fasted)
8. Did God answer their prayers and save the Jewish people? (Yes)
9. Esther took a big risk to do what was right. When might you have to take a big risk to do what is right?

Lesson 11

Review Day

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

GET READY!

Review days are days of celebration for both students and leaders. It is so exciting to see how the students have grown in their understanding of God through His Word. Enjoy seeing the fruit of how God has been at work this quarter!

Pray: Pray that, as we review this week, students will be quick to remember what they've learned this quarter and that its truth will sink deeply into their hearts.

Know Right: True wisdom comes from God's Word

Finally, we will take a day to reflect and remember everything that God has taught us this quarter. We invite you to join us next quarter when we return to the book of Genesis and study God's creation of our world and the unfolding of His plan to save us from our sin. God bless you for humbly serving Him.

GET SET!

Special Schedule for Review Day

-:15	Pre-Service Review Game
:00	Worship
:15	Discover Time Review Game
:35	Dismiss classes to go to classrooms for a snack and wrap-up discussion (<i>see below</i>)
:05	Parent Pickup

GO!

Discover Time: The race to review!

Goal: To challenge students to recall everything they've learned this quarter while having fun!

DT Activity: Outdoor Space

Note: *Larger churches could split this activity into two groups: K-2nd and 3rd-5th.*

Supplies:

- Emcee of the game
- Large timer
- Large tarp with holes (smaller churches will need just one tarp for all grades; larger churches will need two tarps if splitting into two groups - K-2nd and 3rd-5th)
 - Alternate idea instead of using a tarp: Use stanchions, wooden stakes, or garden stakes with pool noodles covering them. Write point values on the stanchions, wooden stakes, or the pool noodles. Students will toss hoops to receive points.
- Balls of all types: Footballs, volleyballs, dodge balls, etc.
- Paper and clipboard for each DT Leader to use as a class score sheet
- Cones or team canopies for classes to sit by or under
- Airhorn
- Music to create a competitive atmosphere
- Lines or cones to mark where each grade will throw from (older students should be farther back)
- Snacks for all students and an "ultimate snack" for the winning team
- List of questions (prepared by the children's ministry leader using the Lesson Review questions and On Track Map questions from the Resources Booklet); questions should be true/false, multiple choice, or fill-in-the-blank, and should focus on:
 - The ability to recognize key people we studied this quarter and what they did (Know Right).
 - The ability to apply the Bible Lesson to real life situations (Do Right).
 - On Track Map topics



Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Say: Today we will be competing against other classes. You have limited time to score as many points as possible. Everyone will receive a snack at the end, but only the winning team will receive an ultimate snack (show the ultimate snack so students will want to work hard to win it).
2. All Teachers will ask their class a question. To prevent one teacher asking easy questions and one teacher asking hard questions, all teachers should use the list of questions created by the children's ministry leader. If the answer is right, a student can run to the tarp and attempt to earn points by throwing two balls. The DT Leader for each class will be stationed by the tarp to assist students and keep score.
3. Have your reset team or parent volunteers stationed by the tarp to continually bring the balls back to the throwing line, or have students collect the two balls they threw and return them to the throwing line.
4. While they are gone, the Teacher can continue to ask questions so there is no wasted time and students are continually running to the tarp area. This should be a fast-paced game with kids constantly running to the tarp area to try to score points.
5. The emcee of the game should be updating teams on scores every thirty seconds and highlighting

how much time is left to score.

6. At the end of the review activity, the team with the most points will win the ultimate snack.

Alternate idea: Instead of classes competing against each other, challenge teams to score a certain number of points to receive the ultimate snack. If they don't score enough points, then they will just get the regular snack/prize. In this scenario, you would need to make sure you have enough of both snacks - the regular snack and the ultimate snack - since you won't know in advance how many will earn the ultimate snack and how many will only get the regular snack. Also, with this activity, you will want the "regular snack/prize" to be super small (like a tootsie roll or an eraser), so teams will try hard to earn the ultimate snack.

Snack and wrap-up discussion in the classroom

- All classes will return to the classroom to have a brief end of the quarter review and/or discussion time. Lead Teachers will have flexibility in how they lead this time.
- Shepherds: As your students are heading back to class, please stop in the designated location to pick up the appropriate number of snacks (standard or ultimate) for your students. Please return any extra snacks to the designated location promptly.

Option 1: Divide the class into two teams. Challenge teams to write down a list of everything they have learned this quarter. The Shepherd and DT Leader can be the team captains. After the challenge is done, have students sit down around the list and talk about how they've applied what they learned. Specific examples could be rewarded with Tracker Tickets.

Option 2: Younger students: Use roll paper and have students draw their favorite Bible lesson from this quarter. For visitors, outline a picture for them to color and assign a Shepherd to explain what the lesson was about.

Option 3: Give each student a small copy of the Feel Right poster (postcard-sized or half sheet-sized) (see Resources Booklet). As you review each person you studied this past quarter, have students write that person's name next to one of the feelings. Ask students why the person would feel that way; this should create some deep spiritual conversations. For younger students, have them write the lesson number next to the feeling, rather than write out the name.

On Track Map

Topical Lesson: Getting to know the book of Psalms

Know Right:	Psalms is a collection of songs responding to God.
Think Right:	"May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer." Psalm 19:14
Do Right:	I will worship God in all situations.
Feel Right:	I can feel good about worshiping God in all situations.

GET READY!

This lesson is designed to introduce students to the longest book in the Bible - Psalms. They'll learn some basics about the book, as well as what is contained in its pages and the different types of psalms. Through the Psalms, God's people communicate with Him passionately and expressively, but no matter what they are feeling, the writers always go back to their trust in God and their desire to worship and obey Him.

Pray: Pray that God will help your students begin to understand the book of Psalms and they will have the desire to worship and obey God.

Read: Psalm 19:14, which is the Think Right verse today. It will also benefit you to read some of the other Psalms to refresh your thoughts on the variety of feelings expressed in this book (Psalms 34, 42, and 95).

Know Right: Psalms is a collection of songs responding to God

GET SET!

Lead Teacher's Notes:

- The book of Psalms reminds us that we worship and serve not only a God who rules over all creation, but who is also interested in being personal with each of us. He commands our obedience as His disciples but doesn't leave us on our own to deal with the complexities of life.
- Psalms is a wonderful collection of songs from people who are coming to God as they are - no cleaning up, no carefully tiptoeing around the words they use, and no "I'm not good enough to come before God."
- Psalms is not mediocre or dull! This book of the Bible shows the wide range of human emotions. When it speaks of joy, it's not just a brief moment of happiness; it's deep, incredible, soul-filling joy. When it speaks of sorrow, it's not just a temporary sadness; it's the deep, longing emptiness of prolonged sorrow. This is your opportunity to make this book of the Bible very personal to each student. Encourage them to obey God wholeheartedly and to express themselves honestly to the One who created them.

Creative Ideas for the Bible Lesson:

1. The following ideas are written into the lesson:
 - a. Three large blocks that you can write on (or write on them in advance: Trustworthy, Powerful, Loving)
 - b. A small treat to provide students, to show that you keep your promises (example in the lesson is a cookie)
 - c. Pictures of God's incredible creation (i.e. the Grand Canyon, mountains, galaxies, etc.)
 - d. Draw a happy face on one side and a sad face on the other side of small, white paper plates (one plate per student). Pass out the plates when you get to the "God wants us to bring our feelings to Him" section of the lesson. After reading each Scripture passage, have students hold up their plate showing the type of feeling that is being conveyed in the passage.
2. Refer to the Feel Right poster throughout the lesson.

GO!

Discover Time: Is it in the Psalms?

Goal: To get students thinking about the variety of topics that are covered in the book of Psalms.

DT Activity: Large open area (large enough for all grades to run around in)/ Awana game square

Supplies:

- One large sign with "YES" and one large sign with "NO" displayed on opposite ends of your large open area
- Loud bell or horn (that can be heard throughout the room)
- List of questions (see below)

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Gather all students in a huddle to explain the rules of the game:
 - a. Say: Remember that the Bible is one big book made up of many little books. What is the longest book in the Bible? (Psalms) Psalms is a book that expresses many feelings of the writers - good, bad, sad, joyful, and more! We're going to play a game where you'll decide what you think is written in the book of Psalms.
 - b. You (the DT Leader) will quiz students on the book of Psalms. You will ask Yes/No questions, and students will answer by running to the correct sign.
 - c. If students choose the wrong answer, they are eliminated from the round.
 - d. There will be two rounds, each with 10 questions. After each round, the remaining students will earn two Tracker Tickets each. Students who were eliminated from the first round will rejoin the group for the second round.
2. Instruct students to spread out in the open area, and then begin to read each statement below, followed by the question: "Is it in the book of Psalms?"
3. Students will have 10 seconds to make a decision and pick a side of the room. When you sound the horn/ring the bell, students must freeze.
4. Give the answer (yes or no).
5. If students chose the wrong answer, they must sit out for the rest of the round.
6. *Optional: To keep your kids who are "out" engaged, have kids sit in teams based on gender and answer as a team with hands up or hands down and give points to the boys or the girls team. Assign a Shepherd or the Lead Teacher to manage this group of kids.*
7. Continue until 10 questions have been asked, then award Tracker Tickets. Repeat the activity with the remaining 10 questions.

Questions:

Note: Psalm references included for as the leader prepares.

ROUND 1:

1. Worshiping God with all that we have. Is it in the book of Psalms? (Yes; Psalm 86:12)
2. The type of food that God enjoys. Is it in the book of Psalms? (No)
3. The prophet Jonah. Is he mentioned in the book of Psalms? (No)
4. The importance of asking for forgiveness. Is it in the book of Psalms? (Yes; Psalm 25:11)
5. Thanking God. Is it in the book of Psalms? (Yes; Psalm 136:26)
6. Jesus was born in Bethlehem, and His mom's name was Mary. Is it in the book of Psalms? (No)
7. The importance of being patient. Is it in the book of Psalms? (Yes; Psalm 37:7)
8. The sun and the ocean. Is it in the book of Psalms? (Yes; Psalm 93:3, 4)
9. How to deal with being very sad. Is it in the book of Psalms? (Yes; Psalm 34:18)
10. We should encourage others. Is it in the book of Psalms? (Yes; Psalm 10:17)

ROUND 2:

11. The topic of sickness. Is it in the book of Psalms? (Yes; Psalm 41:3-4)
12. The importance of baptism. Is it in the book of Psalms? (No)
13. Joy. Is it in the book of Psalms? (Yes; Psalm 95:1-2)
14. Strength. Is it in the book of Psalms? (Yes; Psalm 118:14)
15. Admiring God because He is the Creator. Is it in the book of Psalms? (Yes; Psalm 146:6)
16. Warnings about too much screen time being bad for your heart and mind. Is it in the book of Psalms? (No)
17. Patience. Is it in the book of Psalms? (Yes; Psalm 27:14)
18. The importance of getting enough rest each night? Is it in the book of Psalms? (No)
19. The history of Abraham and his sons? Is it in the book of Psalms? (No)
20. Obedience. Is it in the book of Psalms? (Yes; Psalm 119:35-36)

Bible Lesson Introduction

Lead Teachers ~ Connecting the DT to the Lesson:

DT Option 1: In today's Discover Time, you guessed what is included in the book of Psalms and what is not included. Today, we are going to discover a lot about Psalms. This book helps us learn that we can come before God, no matter what is happening or how we are feeling, and cry out to Him through songs, words, and actions.

DT Option 2: In today's Discover Time, you used what you know about God to create a beautiful piece of art that tells or shows others who God is. That's one way we can worship God! Today, we are learning about a book in the Bible that is all about worship. The book of Psalms helps us learn that we can come before God, no matter what is happening or how we are feeling, and cry out to Him through songs, words, and actions.

Pray: *Encourage one of your students to lead your class in prayer. This will help them learn to pray in a public setting and develop their spiritual leadership skills.*

Find It: Is Psalms in the Old Testament or the New Testament? (OT) The book of Psalms is right in the middle of your Bible, a little toward the front half. *Demonstrate opening a Bible and how it opens to Psalms. Encourage students to do the same with their Bibles. Challenge students to find the first page and last pages of Psalms, holding all the pages together. This way they can see how many pages of the entire Bible Psalms takes up. That's a big chunk of the Bible. There are 150 chapters in the book of Psalms - that makes it the longest book in the Bible! Psalms must be important if this much of the Bible is devoted to it!*

Timeline: We don't see the book of Psalms on our timeline, because it was written over many years by many different people. We do know that it was written during the Old Testament. *Point to the Old Testament section of the timeline.* We also know that King David either wrote about half of the psalms or someone wrote them in his honor. Do you see King David on the timeline? *Students should point out King David.* But the other half were written by lots of different people - Moses (*point out Moses on the timeline*), David's son Solomon (*point out Solomon on the timeline*), the sons of Korah (a leader among the Israelites), and Asaph (a worship leader assigned by King David). The last psalms were written during the time of Ezra (*point out Ezra on the timeline*). Look how much of the timeline this covers! It took a long time to collect all the songs that are in Psalms.

Introduction to the Bible Lesson:

The word "psalm" actually means a song usually sung along with musical instruments. Songs are written about all kinds of things, and the songs written in Psalms are no different. They are written about many different topics. We don't have the tunes to the songs, but these verses were most likely the lyrics. Each psalm paints a picture with words, so you can relate to what the writer is experiencing. The writers of these songs and poems sometimes felt sad, sometimes angry, sometimes confused, and sometimes happy - but no matter what they felt, they chose to worship and obey God. These songs and poems are made to worship God.

Optional: For older students

The different types of Psalms!

Lead Teacher's note: To help students process the following information, write out the types of psalms (genres) on your whiteboard in advance.

One chapter of Psalms may be celebrating the God who created everything. The next chapter could be about needing forgiveness. And then turn the page, and the next chapter is filled with beautiful words that simply worship God. There are some main categories, though, that the psalms fall into.

- **Thanksgiving.** There are psalms of thanksgiving telling God how thankful the person is for who God is and all that He has created and done.
- **Praise and Worship.** Many of the psalms are written as part of worship, praising God and recognizing His greatness. They point out that God is the one true God and the only one worthy of our worship.
- **Lament.** Now that may be a new word to you. "To lament" means to cry, to express sadness, or to grieve. When you read these psalms, you hear someone's broken heart. The writer invites God to be part of his sadness and help him through it.
- **Forgiveness.** Some of the psalms focus on the writer's need for forgiveness. They state the sin of disobedience against God and ask that He forgive that sin.
- **Help.** So many times, we are in trouble and just don't know what to do. We would obey if we just knew how. We can go to God and ask Him for help in dealing with whatever it is that seems to overtake our lives, and His Word will guide us. Many of the psalms are "please help me God" psalms.

There are some psalms that don't seem to fall in one of these categories, but you'll find that most psalms are about thanksgiving, praise and worship, lament, forgiveness, or help.

Scripture Outline

Establishing the foundation - what we know about God

When we worship God, we are thanking Him for who He is, and we are reminding ourselves of what we know about God. Let's think about what we know about God.

We know that God is trustworthy

First, we know that we can trust God. He is TRUSTWORTHY. What does it mean to be trustworthy? It means that when you say you will do something, you will do it. It means that others can depend on you. That means that if I say I will give you a cookie (*or choose something else you can follow through on*) –

even something crazy the students wouldn't expect you to actually do!), I will do it. Give students the cookie or follow through on whatever promise you made.

Why do you think God is trustworthy? God is trustworthy because He always does what He promises. He never lies. One promise that God made was to send us a Savior. Did He do that? Yes! He sent Jesus! That is just one promise fulfilled that shows God is trustworthy.

Let's read Psalm 9:10a. This verse teaches us that God is trustworthy.

Read Psalm 9:10a *On a large block, write "TRUSTWORTHY".*

We know that God is powerful

Second, we know that God is POWERFUL.

Why do you think God is powerful? We know that God is powerful because the Bible tells us about the amazing, powerful things God does. God created the whole world. Some of the places in our universe are just amazing - they help us remember how powerful God is: the galaxies, the Grand Canyon, giant mountains. *Show students pictures of these places as you talk about them.*

Only our powerful God could create all of these amazing, beautiful places!

Remember when we learned about Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead? That was powerful, too!

Let's read Psalm 68:35. This verse teaches us that God is powerful.

Read Psalm 68:35 *On a large block, write "POWERFUL".*

We know that God is loving

We also know that God is LOVING. How do you know that God loves you? I know that God is loving because He sent His only Son, Jesus Christ, to save me. John 3:16 tells me this! I also know that God doesn't stay high and far away from me. Remember how we learned about the Holy Spirit a few weeks ago? This means that God is always with me. He is close to me. He hears me. He loves me, no matter what I'm feeling. *Opportunity to share the Gospel using the Wordless Book and give an invitation for salvation.*

Let's read Psalm 103:8. This verse teaches us that God is loving.

Read Psalm 103:8 *On a large block, write "LOVING", then stack the three blocks on top of each other.*

The psalms are worship songs and poems

We know that God is trustworthy, powerful, and loving. The writers of the psalms knew this about God, too, and they used the things they knew about God to write worship songs and poems together. Let's read a psalm together.

Read Psalm 100.

What did you notice in this psalm that describes things we know about God?

1. It says God is our Creator. (He's powerful!)
2. It says that we belong to God, and He will take care of us like a shepherd takes care of his sheep. (He is trustworthy!)
3. It says God is good, and His love lasts forever. (He is loving!)

God wants us to bring our feelings to Him

Note: If you're using the paper plates, pass them out now and explain the activity.

When you listen to Psalm 100, how does it make you feel? *Have students hold up their plates.* It makes me feel joyful! I feel happy and loved when I remember who God is. It feels good to be joyful, doesn't it? Guess what. God wants you to come to Him when you feel joyful. Why? Because He loves you and wants to share that joy with you!

We don't always feel happy, though, do we? Sometimes we feel confused, or sad, or afraid. There are psalms for those feelings, too.

I'm going to read you a few verses from different psalms for when we feel afraid, sad, or confused.

Read Psalm 23:4; *then have students hold up their plates*

Psalm 23 is a really good psalm to read when you feel afraid. It helps us remember that God is our Shepherd, and He is always with us.

Read Psalm 130:1-2; *then have students hold up their plates*

In this psalm, the writer is crying out to God. He feels sad and is asking God to hear him and be with him.

Read Psalm 121:1-2; *then have students hold up their plates*

If you feel confused, Psalm 121 can help us remember that God is always with us and is ready to help us.

Even though it isn't comfortable to feel sad or afraid or confused, we still sometimes experience these feelings, and God still wants us to come to Him. Why? Because He loves us and wants to comfort us. God always loves us and always hears us. How does that make you feel? *Have students hold up their plates.*

The writers in the Psalms knew this! Each one of the psalms is written by a person expressing how they feel at that moment. It's 150 chapters of people telling God their gut reaction about life. No pretending! They're telling God what's on their mind and in their heart. The God of the Psalms is a personal God who is interested in the things that make us really joyful... *(have students hold up their plates)* and the things that make us cry our hearts out... *(have students hold up their plates)* and the things that make us want to pound our fists in frustration *(have students hold up their plates)*. He is the God we can plead to for help. All of these - joy, sadness, frustration, helplessness - can be pleasing to God, if we react to the feeling by serving Him with total obedience, no matter the situation. Let's read Psalm 19:14.

Read Psalm 19:14; *have students hold up their plates*

Did you hear that? That is someone passionately asking that all that is in his heart would be pleasing to God, during the ups and the downs of life.

When we feel sad or confused *(have students hold up their plates)*, we still choose to obey God because we know that He is with us and that He loves us *(have students hold up their plates)*.

Conclusion

When we spend time in the book of Psalms, we are reminded that we can always come to God. He always hears us and loves us, no matter how we're feeling. Because we know we can trust Him always, we can obey Him, no matter how we're feeling. Just like the writers of the Psalms, we can trust our good God.

Do Right and Feel Right

So, the next time you are feeling frustrated, happy, sad, angry, or any other big feeling...

1. Return to your foundation - what do you know about God?
2. Read a psalm. Remember that other people, who loved and obeyed God, also felt the same things as you! The songs and poems that they wrote to God can help us worship God, too!
3. Finally, choose to obey God, because you know He is good, and you can trust Him.

Let's stop and pray, and thank God for always being trustworthy, powerful, and loving.

Close in prayer.

Review Questions: What did we discover today?

1. Is Psalms in the New Testament or the Old Testament? (OT)
2. What is a psalm? (It's a song or poem that worships God)
3. What's the best way to find Psalms when you're opening your Bible? (Go to the middle)
4. Who is one person who wrote worship songs and poems to God? (Moses, King David, King Solomon, etc.)
5. How many chapters are in Psalms? (150)
6. Can you obey God, even when you're angry or sad? Why? (Yes! Because we know that He is good, and we can trust Him)

On Track Map

Topical Lesson: When Tragedy Happens

Know Right:	God is our refuge and help in times of trouble.
Think Right:	"The LORD Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress." Psalm 46:11
Do Right:	I will go to God in times of trouble.
Feel Right:	I can feel comforted when I go to God.

GET READY!

Tragedy and loss are heartbreaking and confusing. We don't understand why horrible things take place in our world, and we want God to make things right. When our world is dark and fills us with grief, we can find comfort knowing that God is near. Psalm 46:1 reminds us that, at all times, we can count on God as our refuge, strength, and help. This week we will be sharing this hope with our students. As you prepare, pray for God's perfect peace to fill you and your students. Ask Him to work in each of you through His Word. We know that our world is broken by sin; that means our hearts will continue to be broken by tragedy. During those times, may we find comfort in our God who is always with us.

Pray: Pray that your students will truly feel the depth of God's love for them this week. Pray that they will seek Him as their ultimate source of comfort and strength when they encounter challenges in their lives. Pray also for the unsaved students in your classroom. Before we can go to God as our source of comfort and strength during hard times, we need to have a relationship with Him. That means we need to surrender to Jesus as our Lord and Savior. Pray that the unsaved students in your classroom will have soft hearts and a clear understanding of the Gospel message and invitation, and they will respond to God's call on their lives.

Read: Psalm 46

Know Right: God is our refuge and help in times of trouble.

GET SET!

Lead Teacher's Notes:

- Please refer to the Children's Ministry Resource Bible: page 1544-1545 (Problems Children Face); page 1504 (Teaching Children from Troubled Homes).
- As you prepare to explain a difficult subject:
 - Spend a significant amount of time in prayer. Pray that God will make you sensitive to the students' needs and that the Holy Spirit will speak through you. Pray for peace that surpasses understanding (Philippians 4:7).
 - Be sensitive to the age of your students. Do not share anything that is not age appropriate; do not be specific about types of tragedy (unless you are using this lesson because your community has gone through a specific, recent tragedy). The focus of

this lesson is on God's strength, presence, and comfort during difficult times, and it is not meant to scare children.

- Read through the parent letter included with this lesson.
- During your lesson:
 - If your community is navigating a recent loss or tragic event, reassure students that it is normal to experience fear, anger, or sadness. These feelings are natural and appropriate in these circumstances. Model how to bring these feelings to God. Model how to express these feelings to loved ones. Do not shame kids for these feelings or minimize them. Kids need to be given places to process painful emotions; the church should be one of those places.
 - When teaching younger students: When young children experience difficult circumstances, they may feel (or literally be) unsafe. Make sure that you prioritize creating an environment that feels safe. Throughout the lesson, emphasize that they are safe during this conversation, and they are safe in this room.
 - When teaching older students: Make your classroom a space where students feel comfortable voicing their feelings. Listen intentionally to their worries and fears, and don't be afraid of not having an answer. If you don't have an answer for something, these statements may be helpful:
 - "I don't know, but this verse might help us find peace."
 - "Would you like me to do some research on this question? I can come back next week with some more information."

Creative Ideas for the Bible Lesson:

1. Give students a blank sheet of paper to color as you teach. Invite them to illustrate the passage you are reading to them.
2. Frequently refer to the Feel Right poster throughout the lesson.
3. Create a "fortress/refuge" (a fort) inside your classroom, and have students sit in the fort as you teach.
4. For older students: Print out Psalm 46 in advance (one copy per student) and invite students to highlight, underline, and circle words that stick out to them as you study this passage together.
5. Creative ideas for specific portions of the lesson:
 - Use creative props in Wordless Book colors when sharing the Gospel.
 - Use snaps, stomps, and other sounds to create a storm in your classroom as you read verses 2-3.
 - During the Conclusion, as you discuss what you can know about God from these verses, create a banner to hang in your classroom as a reminder.
 - At the end of your lesson, listen to "Psalm 46 (Lord of Hosts)" by Shane & Shane.

Special Note for Directors and Lead Teachers: With this lesson, we recommend including a letter to send home to parents. Explain what was covered in this lesson, include Scripture references and book suggestions, and encourage parents to keep this letter somewhere safe so they can bring it out if their family or community ever encounters a tragedy. We've provided an example in the Resources Booklet.

GO!

Discover Time: Our Refuge

Goal: To introduce students to the concept of God being our **refuge**.

Note: This Discover Time activity can take place before or after the lesson.

DT Activity: Large open area

Supplies:

- Supplies for making forts (sheets, pillows, chairs, boxes, etc.)
- Painter's tape (divide the area into 2-3 regions so teams can have their own space to build)
- Tracker Tickets
- For older students:
 - Dividing line
 - Dodgeballs

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Quickly divide students into 2-3 teams, having them stand in their assigned team space.
2. Before explaining the activity, ask students, "Have you ever heard of the word **refuge**?" Invite students to explain what it means.
3. Explain: The purpose of a place of **refuge** is to keep people safe and protected from dangerous things. Today, we'll be learning about how God is our **refuge**. To help us start thinking about the idea of "refuge", we'll be having a fort-building competition! The team with the strongest fort will earn two Tracker Tickets each. (For older students, these forts will be put to the test at the end of our time with a quick game of dodgeball! The team with the strongest fort will earn two Tracker Tickets each.)
4. Give teams approximately 10 minutes to build their fort. After time is up, the classroom leaders should judge the forts based on the fort's durability and strength and give the winning team members two Tracker Tickets each. (Older students can have a three-minute dodgeball game. The goal for this game is to test the forts' strength. The winning team members will earn two Tracker Tickets each.)

Bible Lesson Introduction

Lead Teachers ~ Connecting the DT to the Lesson: During Discover Time today, we learned about the word **refuge**. A refuge is a place where we can find safety and protection. God is our refuge!

Option 1: Today, we're going to discover some verses from the Bible that teach us that God is our refuge. This is something we really want to know and remember: God is always with us and is our place of protection. That's why we made those posters... to help us remember!

Option 2: You made some creative forts today. A fort is a place we go for protection. Another word for that is "refuge"! When we experience something scary or sad, we can go to God because He is our safe refuge.

Note: If students have experienced places of refuge that ended up being unsafe, remind them that, since sin can show up anywhere in our world, God is our only perfect refuge.

Pray: *Have a student open your class in prayer. Remind students that when we pray we are talking to God. He always hears our prayers, and He loves it when we come to Him in prayer.*

Find It: Have you heard of the book of Psalms? This Old Testament book is full of poems, worship songs, and prayers written by different people at different times. Some Psalms are joyful worship songs, some are written by someone who is scared and crying out to God, and some are remembering God's promises and how He rescues us from sin. The book of Psalms is in the Old Testament, right between Job and Proverbs.

Older students: The book of Psalms is part of what we call the 'Poetic Books' in the Bible. These books - Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon - are full of wise teachings, songs, and poetry that help us learn about God and the world He created.

Timeline: We aren't learning about a specific event on our timeline today, but we are going to read verses written by people who lived during the Old Testament period. Which part of our timeline shows the Old Testament? *Have students point at the timeline.* Today we are going to be reading from Psalm 46.

Older students: Psalm 46 was written by the sons of Korah. These men were descendants of Levi, one of the sons of Jacob. Do you see Jacob and his twelve sons on our timeline? *Have students point at the timeline.*

Introduction to the Bible Lesson:

Let's look at the beginning of our timeline. In Genesis 1, God created the world. And the world was perfect! It was filled with beautiful, good things. But that didn't last long because sin entered the world when Adam and Eve disobeyed God. What is sin? (Anything we think, say, or do that is against God)

What is the consequence for sin? (Death) *See Romans 6:23.* That doesn't just mean that we will all eventually die; it also means that our world is broken. Sometimes people get sick, sometimes people do mean things to others, sometimes our favorite toy or game breaks, and, yes, sometimes people that we care about die. These things can be sad or scary. All the bad things in our world exist because of sin.

But there is hope. Jesus is God's rescue plan! He came to save us from sin. He is our Savior. *See 1 John 4:14; John 3:16; John 14:6.*

Every good thing in the world is from Jesus. Once Jesus saves us, we can trust Him to be with us and to comfort us. How do you know if you have been saved by Jesus? *Invite students to answer; use this opportunity to share the Gospel and give an invitation for salvation.*

Eventually, Jesus will come back and destroy sin and death. They will no longer exist! I want to read something to you. This is a promise from God's Word about when Jesus will destroy sin and death.

Read Revelation 21:4. Someday there will be no more tears, scary things, or death. Everything will be perfect again, just like it was at the beginning when God created the world!

Until Jesus comes back, there will still be darkness in our world. Sin is still here, which means bad things will happen. In fact, when Jesus lived on the earth, He experienced loss and sadness too, even though He never sinned! His close friends, John the Baptist and Lazarus, died. There were wars, and Jesus Himself was hurt, mocked, and killed. Thankfully, there is a happy ending because Jesus rose again, and He promises to bring an end to all bad things. But in the meantime, when bad things do happen, we can know that Jesus truly understands what we are feeling. *If your community has recently experienced a tragedy, this would be an appropriate time to mention that loss.*

What do we do when we encounter something horrible or scary or sad? I want to introduce you to some Bible verses that can bring you comfort during those times.

Scripture Outline: Psalm 46

Even in sad, dangerous, or scary situations, God is our refuge and strength

Read Psalm 46:1-3

Recap: What do you think of when you hear the word “refuge”? *Allow students to answer.* When we are in a place of refuge, the purpose is to stay safe and protected from anything that might be dangerous or scary. These verses describe God as our refuge! They also say He is our strength and our ever-present help. What do you think of when you hear those words describing God? *Allow students to answer.*

I’m going to re-read verses 2-3. I want you to close your eyes and pretend you’re watching a video of what I’m reading. *Re-read verses 2-3.* What did you picture as I read these verses? *Allow students to answer.* How does that make you feel? *Use the Feel Right poster to help them describe their feelings.*

In these verses, the writer is describing some very scary things, right? The writer is trying to tell us that when it feels like everything around you is falling apart, God is still strong and safe, and He promises to be with you always. God knows how you feel, and He will never leave you! What Top 12 verse does that remind you of? (Joshua 1:9)

God brings peace and justice

Read Psalm 46:4-6

Older students: What do you think these verses mean when we read “nations are in uproar” and “kingdoms fall”? (Wars, conflict, fighting, uncertainty, etc.) Do these kinds of things happen in our world today? (Yes) *If appropriate, reference current events that older students are aware of that are similar to these verses.*

All students: Even during scary situations, like when people fight or when there are wars, where is God? *Invite students to answer; guide them to look at verses 4-5.* God is still there, and He promises to bring peace and justice! There will not always be fighting, and God will always be in control.

God has always been the same and is always with us

Read Psalm 46:7

Recap: Who is the God of Jacob? *Allow students to answer.* Let’s look back at the timeline. Did Jacob worship the same God that we worship today? (Yes) God is always the same. He has always been with His people, and He promises to always be with His people. If you have accepted Jesus as your Savior, you are one of His people!

When I read this verse, I feel protected, safe, and thankful. How do you feel when you hear this verse? *Use the Feel Right poster and invite students to answer.*

God is exalted; this means He is victorious

Read Psalm 46:8-10

Recap: These verses describe how God is victorious. What does the word victorious mean? *Invite students to answer.* When we describe God as victorious, we mean that He always defeats sin. He is the most powerful and is always in control. Isn’t it amazing that we also get to know and love our victorious God? When we go to God in prayer, we can know that He has the power to hear our prayers and to answer them in the right way.

In verse 10 God says, “Be still, and know that I am God...”

Why do you think God wants us to be still and know that He is God? *Invite students to answer.* When we slow down and remember who God is, we can be filled with courage and hope. We remember that we aren’t alone. God is always with us!

Older students: Let's practice that right now! I'm going to give you about a minute to be still and remember what you've learned about God. *The goal of this exercise is to give students the opportunity to peacefully meditate on Scripture. When done, ask students to describe how they feel (use the Feel Right poster to initiate this conversation).*

God promises to be with us

Read Psalm 46:11

Recap: This verse sounds familiar. Can you find where we read this before? (Verse 7). When something in the Bible is repeated, that means we need to pay very close attention. What do you think we need to learn from this verse? *Invite students to answer.* Even in the darkest, saddest, scariest places, God promises to be with us. He has always been the same, and He will always be the same.

Conclusion

What are some true things we can know about God from these verses? (God is with us, God is powerful, God is strong, God is our fortress/shelter/refuge, etc.)

Do Right and Feel Right

These are important things to remember, especially when the world is dark and when bad things happen. We don't usually understand why bad things happen; even if we ask questions, we may never really figure out why. But, even if we feel confused or afraid, we can remember that God promises to be with us and to comfort us.

Optional, for older students: 1 Corinthians 13:12 says that right now, while we still live here in our broken world, we only understand things a little bit. This verse says it's kind of like a foggy mirror – when you look in a foggy mirror, you can't see everything. This verse says that in the future, when we are with God, we will understand everything clearly. For now, we can trust that God knows everything and has the best plan for us.

Pray together to close.

Hand out the letter to parents as students are picked up at the end of class.

Review Questions: What did we discover today?

1. What does the word "refuge" mean? (A place of safety/protection)
2. God is our _____ and _____. (Refuge, strength)
3. From which book of the Bible did we read today? (Psalms)
4. Why is our world broken? (Because of sin)
5. What are some things we know about God from the verses we studied today? (God is with us, God is powerful, God is strong, God is our fortress/shelter/refuge, etc.)

On Track Map

Topical Lesson: The Church

Know Right:	The church is made up of people who follow Jesus and glorify God together.
Think Right:	"You are the body of Christ. Each one of you is a part of it." 1 Corinthians 12:27
Do Right:	I will glorify God as a part of His church.
Feel Right:	I can feel joyful when I glorify God in the church.

GET READY!

In this lesson, we want to help students understand that a building is not what the Bible means when it refers to the church. This is a huge concept to grasp and is different from what society usually means when they talk of the church. The church is made of people who believe in Jesus and follow Him - we are the church! In fact, the Bible often calls the church "the body." Being a part of the church body and glorifying God is a great gift to believers in Jesus!

Pray: Pray that God will give you a clear understanding of Scripture and that the students in your class will understand that the people are the church. Also pray for those who are not saved - they may attend a church building but are not part of the church. Pray that today they too will become part of the church family.

Read: 1 Corinthians 12:27

Know Right: The church is made up of people who follow Jesus and glorify God together

GET SET!

Lead Teacher's Notes:

- We want to help students move from understanding church as a destination to something they are part of. This is a huge and important shift! The church as a destination doesn't involve their participation. It doesn't require a choice on their part. It doesn't move or breathe. It isn't loved by God. God doesn't love the building or want to have a relationship with it.
- The church began in the New Testament after Jesus left this earth.
- To glorify means to praise and worship God with our thoughts, words, and actions.

Creative Ideas for the Bible Lesson:

Bring in the largest umbrella possible, such as a golf umbrella or even a patio umbrella. The bigger it is, the more impactful it will be. Make one large sign on top of the umbrella that says: Glorify God. Make six smaller signs that say: Meet Together Regularly, Worship, Pray, Do Life Together, Help Others, and Add to Believers. Hang the six signs on strings and tape the strings underneath the umbrella as you teach the lesson. If the umbrella is not self-standing, recruit someone to hold it as you lead the lesson. *This idea is written into the lesson.*

GO!

Discover Time: The church isn't a building!

Goal: To give students a visual of how the church works together to accomplish one purpose.

DT Activity: Open Area

Supplies:

- Cardboard boxes (from your Box Station) and extra boxes as needed - the more the better!
- Painter's tape
- Tracker Tickets

Set-up Instructions: With painter's tape, mark a square for each team on the floor at least 6'x 6'.

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Divide into teams of eight to ten students.
2. Place a stack of boxes (the more boxes, the more fun!) twenty feet away from the taped square.
3. Create a line of students from the boxes to their team square.
4. Challenge the teams to build the best church building as a team.
5. Teams must pass the boxes down the line to the builder at the end of the line (who places boxes on the lines). Once a layer of the boxes is built, rotate the builder to the end of the line. Repeat every layer.
6. The team with the best church building (straight and tall walls) wins three Tracker Tickets per person.

Alternate idea: For churches with less space, bring in the following supplies and have students create a "fort" that could represent a church building: bed sheets, tarps, poles, etc. Allow students to work as a team to build the church.

Bible Lesson Introduction

Lead Teachers ~ Connecting the DT to the Lesson: Today, as you worked as a team, each one of you was an important part of completing the challenge. What would have happened if someone decided not to participate? The same is true with the church - each person is important. And when one person chooses to not participate, things start to fall apart. Today we are going to learn about how the church works together, how you fit in, and what the ultimate goal of the church is.

Pray: *Encourage one of your students to lead your class in prayer. This will help them learn to pray in a public setting and develop their spiritual leadership skills.*

Find It: We're going to read several different verses today, but a couple of them will be in the book of Acts. Is Acts in the Old Testament or the New Testament? (NT) Can you find the book of Acts in your Bible? *A more advanced class may use the Sword Drill method.* Acts is an awesome book that talks about the beginning of the church.

Timeline: Can you find on our timeline when the church started in the New Testament, after Jesus went to heaven? You can also see the "church age" which we are part of.

Introduction to the Bible Lesson:

What is a church? Usually when we think of church, we think of a building. But that's not what God means when He talks about the church! The church is made up of Christians who come together to worship God. What is the purpose of the church? The purpose of the church is to glorify God. *Point to the top of the umbrella.* To glorify God means to praise and worship Him with our thoughts, words, and actions. God has given each person special gifts, so we can work together. Some people in the church are teachers, some are encouragers, others are organizers, and some can lead worship. There are so many different gifts God gives to people in the church. If you are a Christian, God has given you a special gift to use in the church. Let's look in the Bible, to find out more about what God says about the church and what He wants the church to do.

Lesson

Meet together regularly

Tape the "Meet Together Regularly" sign so it hangs under the umbrella.

Read Hebrews 10:25

Recap: The believers in Acts met together regularly. This was very important.

Could you imagine being on a soccer team and only showing up half the time? Your team would miss you, and there is a high chance that your team would not win the game. The same is true at church. You are missed when you are not here.

In the New Testament, when the people went to church, they would study God's Word. They wanted to know more about Jesus, and they listened with excitement so they could be better followers. What verse does this remind us of? (2 Peter 3:18a) They ate meals together, just like the disciples had eaten with Jesus. When we share bread in church, like Jesus did when He had the last meal with the disciples, we call it "taking communion".

What should the church of today do? We should also make it a priority to meet together regularly. If you are a follower of Christ and part of the body, you need to meet together with other people who follow Jesus. Most importantly, when we come together, we should study, eat together, and take communion in a way that gives God glory. *Point to the top of the umbrella.* Remember, glorify means to praise and worship God with our thoughts, words, and actions. If we don't glorify God, then there's no reason to study or eat together or take communion.

Worship

Tape the "Worship" sign so it hangs under the umbrella.

Read Psalm 86:9-10

Recap: Worship is telling God how much He is worth. Nothing is more important to us than Him. If God truly is most important to us, then nothing should get in the way of each member of the body – the church – coming together to worship.

What happens in worship? Through music, quiet, praying, art, and words that are spoken, we express how much God is worth to us. Being together to worship encourages and energizes each one of us. A regular time of worship is when we get our hearts and minds lined up with God. We can worship God on our own throughout the week, but it's important for us to come together with other followers of Jesus as one big voice to worship also. Most importantly, when we come together, we worship in a way that gives God glory. *Point to the top of the umbrella.* The church worships God in order to glorify Him.

Pray

Tape the "Pray" sign so it hangs under the umbrella.

Read: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Recap: Praying is an important thing the church does in order to glorify God. When we pray, we turn everything over to God. We admit that we don't have the power to take care of situations. Remember, glorifying God is praising and worshiping Him, and that's exactly what prayer does. When we pray, we should say things like: "God, You have created things that are greater than anything I can make", or "God, You have the power to heal and I don't", or "God, You are the only One able to take away my sin. I can't do that myself."

Have you ever talked with a friend and didn't want it to end? That's how the believers in the early church felt about praying. They were speaking with God and glorifying Him, and they didn't want it to end. Sometimes they prayed through an entire night!

Point to the top of the umbrella. The church is supposed to glorify God by praying. When was the last time you prayed through the night or just didn't want your time of talking with God to end?

Do life together

Tape the "Do Life Together" sign so it hangs under the umbrella.

The early church got to know one another. They enjoyed being together. When a loved one died, they grieved with them. They shared the everyday things of raising kids and making a living. In fact, as the body of Christ, they believed so much that they should be part of one another's lives that they sold things they owned so they could share what they had with each other.

Read Acts 2:45-46

Recap: They glorified God by making Him more important than anything they owned. *Point to the top of the umbrella.* The church is supposed to help each other as we live life out each day, doing the regular kind of things. We can do that by helping someone with yard work, taking someone to a doctor's appointment, making a meal when someone's week gets really hard, or helping when someone is moving to a new home. It's important to remember that we don't do any of these things hoping that the person will do something back, but we do it because it's what God wants. Can you think of any other ways that the church of today can do life together to glorify God?

Help others in a generous way

Tape the "Help Others" sign so it hangs under the umbrella.

The early church not only spent time with each other, but they reached out to help those in need outside the church. They took in orphans, fed hungry people, and took care of the sick. They were quick to be generous and point people to Jesus.

Read Acts 5:14-15

Recap: Can you think of ways that believers you know are generous in helping others? This could be with their time or their money. How have you been generous in helping others?

Add to believers

Tape the "Add to Believers" sign so it hangs under the umbrella.

Read: Matthew 28:19-20

Recap: As Jesus left this earth to return to heaven, He gave the disciples His last orders. He told them to go and make disciples – go and tell others about Him so they could also glorify God. God doesn't want the church to stay the same size with the same believers. He wants every person to admit their sin and put their trust in Jesus when they realize how much God loves them. He wants everyone to be part of the body of believers called the church. We glorify God when we tell others about Him and welcome them as part of the church.

Conclusion

Let's look at our umbrella. The main thing is to glorify God. *Point to the top of the umbrella.* What the church is supposed to do all comes under glorifying God. If it doesn't glorify God, then it's not something the church needs to do. The church glorifies God when it (*point to each sign*):

- meets together regularly,
- worships,
- prays,
- does life together,
- helps others in a generous way,
- and adds to believers.

Do Right and Feel Right

The church is not a building; it's Christians who come together to worship God. They may come together in a building we refer to as a church, but the Bible does not mean a building when it uses the word "church." Believers do many things like worship, pray, generously help others, do life together, meet together regularly to study, share meals, take communion, and share Jesus with others who have not claimed Him as their Savior. They don't do any of these to bring attention to themselves, but to glorify God. As believers in Jesus, we are part of the church and we can joyfully work together to bring glory to Him.

Review Questions: What did we discover today?

1. When the Bible talks about the church, what does it mean? (The church is made up of Christians who come together to worship God)
2. What does "glorify" mean? (To praise and worship God with our thoughts, words, and actions)
3. When the Bible says "body of Christ", what does it mean? (The church)
4. Name two ways we can glorify God. (Meet together regularly, worship, pray, do life together, help others, add to believers, etc.)
5. What does the church do when it comes together? (It glorifies God; *have students share specific examples*)
6. What does the church do when it goes out into the community? (It glorifies God; *have students share specific examples*)

End-of-Class Review Games

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

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

Sink or Swim

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

Waterfall

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

The Big Race

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

Dice Roll

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

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

Tic-Tac-Toe

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

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

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

Trash Can Basketball

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

Spin and Win

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

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



All In

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

Score Big

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

Cup Stacking (supplies: two sets of cups)

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

Push-Ups

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

Cup of Goodness (Limited prep needed in advance)

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

Four Corners

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

The Hot Seat

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

Just Give Points

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

Beach Ball

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

Around the World

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

Swatter

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

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

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

Elementary Printable Resources

Year 3 - Quarter 4



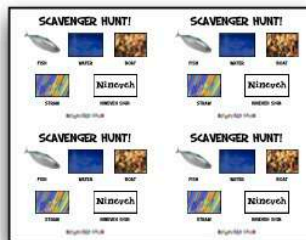
**Elementary
Timeline Arrows**



**Lesson 1
Grade Signs**



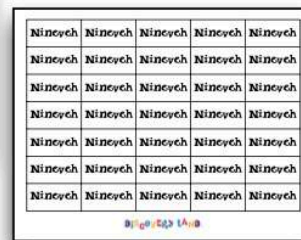
**Lesson 2
Scrabble Letters**



**Lesson 3
Scavenger Hunt List**
(enough for 4 students)



**Lesson 3 - Scavenger
Hunt Station Signs**



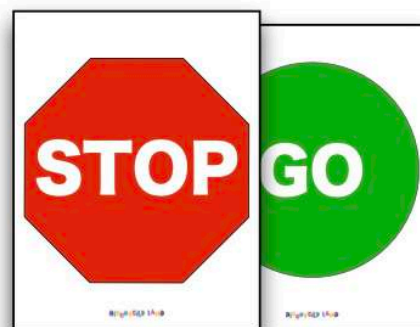
**Lesson 3
Nineveh signs**
(enough for 35 students)



Lesson 3 - Treat Pass
(enough for 8 students)



**Lesson 4
Scripture Hunt**
2 Peter 3:18a



**Lesson 5
Stop & Go Signs**
(8.5x11 and 11x17)



**Lesson 6 - Kindergarten
One Way Challenge Cards,
Envelopes, and Station Signs
(RED)**



**Lesson 6 - 1st & 2nd Grade
One Way Challenge Cards,
Envelopes, and Station Signs
(BLUE and/or PURPLE)**



**Lesson 6 - 3rd-5th Grade
One Way Challenge Cards,
Envelopes, and Station Signs
(GREEN, YELLOW, and/or ORANGE)**



**Lesson 9
Tagged Out sign**



**Lesson 11 - Feel Right posters
(half sheet - enough for 2
students or postcard size -
enough for 4 students)**



**Get on Track Lesson:
When Tragedy Happens
Sample Parent Letter**

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 9:28* 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*)

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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 18:31*, 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.


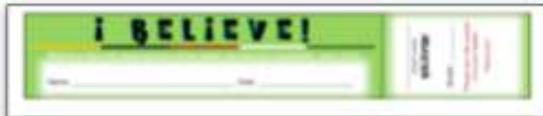
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To assist you with presenting the Gospel and beginning to disciple a child, the DL program provides the *Believe It or Not?* booklet, the *Now What's Next?* booklet, and the *I Believe* bookmark.

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

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