

DISCOVERY LAND

Year 3 – Quarter 4

Runners Curriculum

Adapted for use in Africa



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A Note About Curriculum Adaptations

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



A Message from Kris Smoll

Dear Leaders,

Thank you for serving!

At times we may feel tempted to be content with the children we already have in our ministry 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 children will hear about Jesus. 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 children 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 children. No matter your role or the age of the children you work with, 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 children:

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

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

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

Leaders

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

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

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

Runners Program Overview

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

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

These pieces provide a developmentally appropriate balance of free play and activities that engage children in learning the main point of the lesson or an On Track Map objective.

SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

-:20	Volunteers ready and prepared to welcome children as they arrive
-:15	Coming In Time
:20	Clean Up
:25	Large Group Time
:35	Bible Lesson
:45	Craft or Activity
:55	Snack & Lesson Review
:60	Review Activity
:65	Parents pick up children

Coming In Time

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

Clean Up

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

Large Group Time

Large Group Time is designed to:

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

LEADER TIPS

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

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

Bible Lesson

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

Suggested steps for preparing your Bible lesson:

1. Pray for God's direction and leading. Also spend time praying for your children by name.
2. Read the Scripture from your Bible. This curriculum is developed on the foundation of God's Word and the teaching of His truth by the Holy Spirit. It is critical that all leaders read the Scripture passage before reading the Bible Lesson Outline. Curriculum may contain errors, but the Bible is inerrant.
3. Read the curriculum.
4. Plan your lesson.
5. Make your lesson come alive with props, pictures, or actions, utilizing the creative ideas in the curriculum.
6. Practice the lesson so you can "Bring the Bible to Life" with excitement in your voice and good eye contact with your children.
7. Teachers should always have their Bibles open during the entire lesson, so children know the account is coming from the Bible. Due to a limited amount of time and the value we place on teaching children that the narratives come directly from the Bible, please do not read the lesson from a Bible storybook.

Craft or Activity

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

LEADER TIPS

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

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

Snack and Lesson Review

LEADER TIPS

Check for allergies before offering food to a child!

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

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

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

Review Activity

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

Runners Syllabus

Year 3 – Quarter 4

Lesson 1

2 Kings 5:1-15a

Know Right:

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

Think Right:

Acts 16:31 (Top 12)

Do Right:

I will tell others about our great God.

Feel Right:

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

Lesson 2

2 Kings 20:1-7

Know Right:

King Hezekiah confidently prays.

Think Right:

Acts 16:31 (Top 12)

Do Right:

I will pray about all things.

Feel Right:

I can feel loved knowing God hears my prayers.

Lesson 3

Jonah 1 - 3

Know Right:

Jonah makes choices about obedience.

Think Right:

Acts 16:31 (Top 12)

Do Right:

I will obey God.

Feel Right:

I can feel peaceful when I obey God.

Lesson 4

2 Chronicles 34

Know Right:

King Josiah finds God's Word.

Think Right:

Acts 16:31 (Top 12)

Do Right:

I will learn God's Word.

Feel Right:

I can feel happy when I learn 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:

Proverbs 3:5-6 (Top 12)

Do Right:

I will live my life God's way.

Feel Right:

I can feel peaceful 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:

Proverbs 3:5-6 (Top 12)

Do Right:

I will ask God for wisdom.

Feel Right:

I can feel excited 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: Proverbs 3:5-6 (Top 12)

Do Right: I will trust in God's power.

Feel Right: I can feel peaceful when I trust in God's power.

Lesson 9

Daniel 6

Know Right: Daniel is thrown into the lions' den.

Think Right: Proverbs 3:5-6 (Top 12)

Do Right: I will trust God.

Feel Right: I can feel loved when I trust God.

Lesson 10

Esther 1-10

Know Right: Esther courageously risks her life by doing what is right.

Think Right: Proverbs 3:5-6 (Top 12)

Do Right: I will do what is right.

Feel Right: I can feel safe knowing God helps me when I do what is right.

Lesson 11

Review Day

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

Think Right: Acts 16:31 and Proverbs 3:5-6 (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 learning 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 trust 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 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:	"Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved - you and your household." Acts 16:31 (Top 12)
Do Right:	I will tell others about our great God.
Feel Right:	I can feel excited 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 Naaman that God could heal him. As we prepare to lead our children, 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 children in your class. Ask God to give you the ability to lead with love, biblical accuracy, and with excellence 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 tell others about our great God.

GET SET!

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

Creative Teaching Supplies:

- Paper bag puppet of Naaman with Band-Aids (or Elastoplast or bandage) attached to it (*save for next week*)
- Paper bag puppet of a little girl with a broom attached
- Paper bag puppet of Elisha
- Optional: use empty 2-liter bottles to hold up the bags as you teach the lesson

GO!

Coming In Time

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

Clean Up

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

Large Group Opening Time

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Who should we believe in to be saved from our sin? (Jesus!) Let’s recite Acts 16:31 with actions.

“Believe (point to head) in the Lord Jesus (point to the palm of each hand) and you (point both hands out) will be saved (both arms go up) – you and your household (both arms above head to make a point).” Acts 16:31

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

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

Bible Lesson

Today, we are going to learn about a man who had leprosy. Leprosy is having very painful sores all over your body. Have you ever had a sore on your body? How do you feel when you have sores on your body? *Make a sad face as you rub your arm or leg.* Let’s look in the Bible and find out what happens to this man. His name was Naaman. *Open your Bible.*

This is Naaman. *Show Naaman puppet.* This young girl was a servant to Naaman’s wife. *Show girl puppet.* She did jobs for Naaman’s wife, like maybe cleaning the house, collecting water, and washing

clothes. The young girl loved God! She could see that Naaman was sick, and she knew someone who could help him get better. Should the young girl tell Naaman? (Yes) The young girl told Naaman how to find a man who could help him get better. His name was Elisha. Elisha loved God. Naaman listened to the young servant girl and went to find Elisha.

Elisha loved and obeyed God. *Show Elisha puppet.* Elisha told Naaman about God's great power! He told Naaman to wash himself in the river seven times, and God would heal him.

How many times should Naaman wash himself in the river? (Seven times) Help me count to seven. *Have Naaman dunk seven times as you count with the children.* Naaman listened to Elisha and when he came out of the water, the sores were all gone! *Pull off the Band-Aids.* God showed His great power to Naaman when He healed him!

God used a young servant girl to tell Naaman about God's great power! Is our God great? (Yes!) Let's be excited when we tell others about our great God this week! *Show excitement in your voice.*

Verse Review Time

Let's stand up and practice our verse, Acts 16:31, with actions.

"Believe (point to head) **in the Lord Jesus** (point to the palm of each hand) **and you** (point both hands out) **will be saved** (both arms go up) – **you and your household** (both arms above head to make a point)." **Acts 16:31**

Tracker Skit

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

Tracker: Hi, friends! Wow, that was amazing! God healed Naaman.

Teacher: Yes, our God is great!

Tracker: Hey...let's all pretend to be Naaman and dunk up and down seven times. *(have children stand up and then move up and down seven times)*

Teacher: That was fun. When Naaman washed himself seven times, he was healed by God.

Tracker: Does that mean, if I dunk in my bathtub seven times, all my "owies" will go away?

Teacher: No...God was teaching Naaman to trust in His great power. Naaman obeyed God by doing what Elisha told him to do. Tracker, you need to pray and trust God to heal your "owies." He will heal you in His perfect time.

Tracker: That's right, our God is great!!!! I love Him so much. How about you, kids? Do you trust in our great God?

Teacher: We all love our great God. Let's make a big sign that tells everyone that our God is great and hang it in our window (or on our wall)! Are you ready kids? Let's go to our tables and get ready to do something super special.

Tracker: Bye, kids! I'm going to go tell all my friends that our God is great!

Craft or Activity

Supplies:

- Banner with "Our God is Great!" written in large bubble letters (see Resources Booklet) (or hand write bubble letters on construction/manilla paper)

- Squares of tissue paper or construction paper in multiple colors
- Glue sticks

Instructions:

1. Say: Today, you are going to decorate a BIG banner that says, "Our God is Great!" Everyone will help cover it with confetti squares. When we are done, we will hang it in the window (or on the wall), so everyone can see it.
2. Children will remain focused on the project if supplies are constantly in front of them. A leader should be at each table eager to assist children when glue or paper squares are needed.
3. Continually talk with children about who they can tell about our great God (grandparents, friends, cousins, the doctor, people at the grocery store, etc.).
4. When completed (preferably before children are picked up), hang the banner in the window (or on the wall) so everyone can see it.

Snack and Lesson Review

Verse Activity: Our Bible verse can be found in Acts, chapter 16, verse 31. Let's all clap three times when I say, "Acts 16:31," and then put our hands in our lap. Acts 16:31! *Children clap three times and then put their hands in their laps. After hands are in laps, say Acts 16:31.*

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

Review questions to ask during snack:

1. Did Naaman have painful sores on his skin called leprosy, or did he have a broken arm? (He had painful sores called leprosy)
2. Did the young servant girl tell him about God? (Yes)
3. How many times did he have to wash himself in the river? (Seven)
4. Did Naaman believe in God's great power when he was healed? (Yes)

Review Activities

Option 1:

Supplies:

- Wordless Book-colored ball-pit balls (or colored bottle tops/caps)
- Wordless Book-colored buckets
- Fun praise music

Instructions:

1. Roll ball-pit balls on the floor.
2. Challenge children to quickly pick up the balls and place them in the matching buckets as the music plays.
3. Review the Wordless Book key words as children place balls in matching buckets.

Option 2: Have Tracker visit and review the Bible verse with the children.

Lesson 2

2 Kings 20:1-7

Know Right:	King Hezekiah confidently prays.
Think Right:	“Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved - you and your household.” Acts 16:31 (Top 12)
Do Right:	I will pray about all things.
Feel Right:	I can feel loved 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. Pray that His Word will be taught accurately, and praise Him that we can freely share the Good News with our children.

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!

Teacher's Note: Take time to think like a two-year-old. What makes them smile, laugh, and stay focused? As you prepare, think like a two-year-old by selecting different learning styles that will bring your lesson to life. When teaching with props and different expressions in your voice, you will be amazed how long a two-year-old will sit and learn in class. Know your lesson and set your expectations high for your children to learn.

Creative Teaching Supplies:

- Naaman puppet (from last week's lesson)
- King Hezekiah (action figure with a red "boil")
- Small bed (or a bench) and/or blanket for King Hezekiah
- Band-Aid (or Elastoplast or bandage).
- Optional: Additional Band-Aids (one per child; write "pray" on each one; pass them out at the end of the lesson to help children remember it.)

GO!

Coming In Time

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

Clean Up

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

Large Group Opening Time

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sometimes we make up pretend friends and they can be fun, but Jesus is not pretend - **He is real and alive!** The Bible tells us to believe in Him, so we can be saved from our sin. Let's say our Bible verse, Acts 16:31, with actions.

"Believe (point to head) **in the Lord Jesus** (point to the palm of each hand) **and you** (point both hands out) **will be saved** (both arms go up) – **you and your household** (both arms above head to make a point)." **Acts 16:31**

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

Bible Lesson

Last week, we learned how powerful God is. Naaman had painful sores on his skin called leprosy, and God healed him! *Point to the puppet from last week.* This week, we are going to hear about a king who was very sick. Let's look in our Bible and find out what happens...

Open your Bible. In the Bible, God teaches us about King Hezekiah. *Show King Hezekiah lying in bed and/or covered with a blanket.* The king loved God very much. But something very sad happened to King Hezekiah. He had a sore on his body called a boil. *Put a Band-Aid on the sore.* The sore was so

bad, he was told he was going to die.

King Hezekiah cried. Do you think he kept crying and crying and crying? (No, He stopped crying to pray) What do we do with our hands when we pray? (Fold them) What do we do with our eyes? (Close them) What should we do with our head? (Put it down) We do this because we want to think about God and be respectful to Him.

King Hezekiah prayed, and God heard his prayer. God hears all our prayers, too. When we ask Him for something, He answers with yes, no, or wait. *Point to three fingers as you say each word. Repeat several times.*

God heard the king's prayers and answered with a "Yes!" *Take the Band-Aid off.* God healed the king. *Cheer!*

We can pray all the time because God hears all our prayers!

We can pray when we are happy. *Have children make happy faces.*

We can pray when we are sad. *Have children make sad faces.*

We can pray when we are sick. *Have children pretend to cry.*

God hears all our prayers, just like He heard King Hezekiah's prayers.

Verse Review Time

Let's stand up and practice our verse, Acts 16:31, with actions.

"Believe (point to head) **in the Lord Jesus** (point to the palm of each hand) **and you** (point both hands out) **will be saved** (both arms go up) – **you and your household** (both arms above head to make a point)." **Acts 16:31**

Tracker Skit

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

Tracker: Hi, friends! Wow, we sure do have a great God!

Teacher: I know. I love knowing that our great God hears all our prayers!

Tracker: Praying is talking to God. I love talking to God. I talk to Him all the time. I talk to Him when I wake up and before I go to bed. I also talk to Him all during the day.

Teacher: Tracker, that is awesome! God loves it when we talk to Him.

Tracker: Last night, I was scared when my mom put me to bed. I hugged my teddy bear really tight and then I thought, I should pray! So Teddy and I prayed, and we felt so much better.

Teacher: That is awesome, Tracker. We can pray to God about anything.

Tracker: And guess what! After I prayed, I fell right to sleep.

Teacher: That is so exciting! Let's all remember to pray this week.

Tracker: Bye, friends! See you next week!

Craft or Activity

Supplies:

- A poster of hands put together in prayer or a picture portraying the same. (see Resources Booklet)
- Watercolor paints
- Paint brushes
- Spill proof water cups (or add a few drops of water to each paint color to avoid water tipping over)

Instructions:

1. Children will use watercolors to paint a picture of praying hands.
2. As children paint, repeat “God hears my prayers” as you point to the words on the activity sheet.

Snack and Lesson Review

Verse Activity: Our Bible verse can be found in Acts, chapter 16, verse 31. Let’s all clap three times when I say, “Acts 16:31,” and then put our hands in our lap. Acts 16:31! *Children clap three times and then put their hands in their laps. After hands are in laps, say Acts 16:31.*

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

Review questions to ask during snack:

1. Was Hezekiah a queen or a king? (A king)
2. Did he have a broken leg? (No)
3. Did he have a bad sore on his body? (Yes)
4. Does God hear all our prayers? (Yes)
5. How does God answer our prayers? (Yes, no, or wait)

Review Activities

Option 1**Supplies:**

- Wordless Book-colored ball-pit balls (or colored bottle tops/caps)
- Wordless Book-colored buckets
- Fun praise music

Instructions:

4. Roll ball-pit balls on the floor.
5. Challenge children to quickly pick up the balls and place them in the matching buckets as the music plays.
6. Review the Wordless Book key words as children place balls in matching buckets.

Option 2

Have Tracker visit and review the Bible verse with the children.

Lesson 3

Jonah 1 - 3

Know Right:	Jonah makes choices about obedience.
Think Right:	"Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved - you and your household." Acts 16:31 (Top 12)
Do Right:	I will obey God.
Feel Right:	I can feel peaceful 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 children 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 that at the right time, your children will be eager and ready to receive Christ as their personal Lord and Savior.

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!

Creative Teaching Supplies:

- Plastic bottle made into a fish
- Toy boat
- Small Jonah action figure (or make one out of a clothes pin; must fit inside the boat and the fish)
- Water for the boat (aquarium or bowl filled with water)
- Alternate idea: use a flannel board with flannel pieces

GO!

Coming In Time

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

Clean Up

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

Large Group Opening Time

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

1. “The B-I-B-L-E”
2. “Bigger than Big”
3. “God is Good to Me”

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Let’s stand up and say Acts 16:31.

“Believe (point to head) in the Lord Jesus (point to the palm of each hand) and you (point both hands out) will be saved (both arms go up) – you and your household (both arms above head to make a point).” Acts 16:31

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

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

Bible Lesson

Last week, we learned about King Hezekiah. He was really sick! What did the king do? (He prayed and asked God to heal him) This week we are going to learn from the Bible about a man named Jonah. *Open your Bible.*

This is Jonah. *Show Jonah.* God told Jonah to go to a far-away town called Nineveh. The people in Nineveh were doing bad things. *Thumbs down.* Even though they were doing bad things, God wanted Jonah to tell the people that He loved them. Should Jonah obey God and go to Nineveh? (Yes) We should always obey God! Let’s find out what Jonah did.

Jonah did not want to go to Nineveh. So, Jonah bought a ticket to go on a ship to a different city. *Show*

boat in the water. Put Jonah in the boat.

While Jonah was on the boat, a big storm came. *Stir the water.* The other men on the boat thought the boat was going to sink. The men knew Jonah was disobeying God, so they said the big storm was Jonah's fault!

The men decided to throw Jonah into the sea! *Put Jonah in the water.* The storm stopped. Oh no, what about Jonah? God sent a big fish to swallow him. *Place Jonah in the plastic bottle made into a fish.*

Do you think Jonah liked being in the belly of a big fish? (No) Jonah was in the belly of the big fish for three days! *Count with them...1 - 2 - 3!*

Jonah prayed and asked God to forgive him for not obeying. After Jonah prayed, the big fish spit him out onto land. *Take the man and throw him on the floor.* Where do you think Jonah went when the big fish spit him out onto dry land? Jonah obeyed God and went to Nineveh. God wants us to obey!

Let's cheer that Jonah obeyed! *Cheer!* He went to Nineveh and told the people to stop doing bad things and obey God. *Cheer!*

Verse Review Time

Let's stand up and practice our verse, Acts 16:31, with actions.

"Believe (point to head) **in the Lord Jesus** (point to the palm of each hand) **and you** (point both hands out) **will be saved** (both arms go up) – **you and your household** (both arms above head to make a point)." **Acts 16:31**

Tracker Skit

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

Tracker: Hi, friends!

Teacher: Tracker, did you like the Bible lesson today?

Tracker: I sure did. I love BIG FISH. Wasn't it amazing? That big fish just gobbled up Jonah and put him in his tummy. Yikes, Jonah should have obeyed!

Teacher: Kids, do you obey your parents? God wants us to obey the first time our parents ask us to do something. Did Jonah obey the first time? (No, he didn't)

Tracker: This kinda reminds me of a time when I didn't obey the first time. My mama told me to clean up ALL the toys on my bedroom floor, because my bedroom was super messy.

Teacher: Did you clean up your toys?

Tracker: Well, I was going to...and then my very favorite TV show was on. I was going to clean up my room after my show, but...I forgot. That night I went into my room, and it was super dark, so I couldn't see a thing. I stepped on my favorite truck and broke it. That made me feel so sad. I learned my lesson. (*hangs his head down*) I need to obey the first time!

Teacher: God wants us to obey Him and our parents.

Tracker: Yes, I know. If I would've obeyed the first time, I would still have my favorite truck.

Teacher: That is so true, Tracker. But more importantly, if you had obeyed your mom, you would have pleased God.

Tracker: Bye, boys and girls! I need to go and obey my parents!

Craft or Activity

Supplies:

- Activity sheet with Jonah and "O...is for obey" (see Resources Booklet)
- Dry circle-shaped cereal

- Liquid school glue
- Small paper plates (filled with glue)
- Q-tips (earbuds/cotton swabs)

Instructions:

1. Children will glue cereal to the large “O” on their activity sheet.
2. As they work, remind them of the importance of obeying (being kind to their brothers and/or sisters, obeying mom and dad, picking up their toys, etc.).
3. Have children ask their parents to hang their project on the refrigerator or kitchen cupboard at home to remind them to obey, just like Jonah.

Snack and Lesson Review

Verse Activity: Our Bible verse can be found in Acts, chapter 16, verse 31. Let’s all clap three times when I say, “Acts 16:31,” and then put our hands in our lap. Acts 16:31! *Children clap three times and then put their hands in their laps. After hands are in laps, say Acts 16:31.*

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

Review questions to ask during snack:

1. Did God tell Jonah to go to Nineveh? (Yes)
2. Did Jonah obey the first time and go to Nineveh? (No)
3. Did Jonah get on an airplane or a big boat? (A big boat)
4. What happened when Jonah was on the big boat? (A big storm came)
5. What swallowed Jonah? (A big fish)
6. Did Jonah obey God after the fish spit him out? (Yes)

Review Activities

Supplies:

- Wordless Book-colored pipe cleaners
- Large colanders (one for every four children)
- Fun praise music



Instructions:

1. Have children sit at a table.
2. As the music plays, have children poke pipe cleaners into an upside-down colander.
3. As the children work, talk about the Wordless Book pipe cleaners and what each color represents.

Lesson 4

2 Chronicles 34

Know Right:	King Josiah finds God's Word.
Think Right:	"Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved - you and your household." Acts 16:31 (Top 12)
Do Right:	I will learn God's Word.
Feel Right:	I can feel happy when I learn 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: Pray that God will give you a clear and accurate understanding of Scripture as you prepare to serve. Ask God to give the children in your classroom a desire to listen to and love His Word their entire lives.

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 learning God's Word.

GET SET!

Teacher's Notes:

- To gain the attention of a child, use their name as you give examples, or add in a physical motion for all children to participate in.
- Love the children who God has placed in your care. Specifically encourage each child as they walk through the door and as they leave the classroom. Be their biggest cheerleader.
- As children grow older, they often ask, "How do you know the Bible is true?" There are many ways to know that the Bible is true: fulfilled prophecies in the Bible, the number of manuscripts that can be cross referenced, and excavation sites and artifacts that provide evidence that many of the events, people, and places mentioned in the Bible really existed - such as the city of Jericho. This means, if you jumped on an airplane and headed to Israel, you would find evidence that God's Word is true.
- For young children, when you open your Bible and say, "God's Word is truth", you are laying the foundation for this discussion by reminding them that God's Word is true.

Creative Teaching Supplies:

- Crown
- Bible
- Alternate idea: use a flannel board and flannel pieces

GO!

Coming In Time

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

Clean Up

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

Large Group Opening Time

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Who should we believe in to be saved from our sin? (Jesus!) Let’s recite Acts 16:31 with actions.

“Believe (point to head) in the Lord Jesus (point to the palm of each hand) and you (point both hands out) will be saved (both arms go up) – you and your household (both arms above head to make a point).” Acts 16:31

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

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

Bible Lesson

Last week, we learned about Jonah. Did Jonah obey God the first time? (No) Did Jonah obey God after the large fish spit him out? (Yes!) Jonah obeyed God and went to Nineveh to tell everyone about the one true God.

Open your Bible. In the Bible, God tells us about good kings who loved and obeyed God. *Thumbs up.* He also tells us about bad kings who didn't obey God. *Thumbs down.* Today we are going to learn about a good king. His name was King Josiah. Josiah was a child when he became king! He was only eight years old! Can you count to eight? *Count to eight with the class.*

Select a boy and put a crown on him. King Josiah found something very special while he was king. What do you think he found? (He found a Bible) *Give King Josiah a Bible.* What do you think he did when he found a Bible? (He read it right away) King Josiah listened and obeyed everything God said.

Point to your Bible. God tells us in the Bible that King Josiah loved God and obeyed Him. So, he read the Bible to all his people. The people listened and decided to love God, too.

King Josiah was a good king who learned the truth from God's Word. *Have children cheer for God!*

Verse Review Time

King Josiah believed in God. Let's stand up and practice our verse that talks about believing in God, Acts 16:31.

"Believe (point to head) **in the Lord Jesus** (point to the palm of each hand) **and you** (point both hands out) **will be saved** (both arms go up) – **you and your household** (both arms above head to make a point)." **Acts 16:31**

Tracker Skit

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

Prop: Bible

Tracker: Hi, friends! I love reading my Bible! Everything in the Bible is true!

Teacher: That's right, Tracker! Everything in the Bible is true. That means it's not made up - it really happened. Whenever I have a problem or question that I don't know, I go to God's Word, the Bible, and find the answer!

Tracker: I have a red Bible at home. What color is your Bible?

Teacher: (hold up Bible) I have a _____ (insert color) Bible. Kids, what color is your Bible at home?

Tracker: My mom reads me the Bible every night from her green Bible. I love hearing about all the great things God did.

Teacher: Good for you, Tracker! God wants us to know Him more and more. That reminds me of the green page from the Wordless Book. Green is for growing.

Tracker: The grass in my backyard is green, and it grows a lot! Maybe that is why my mom's Bible is green.

Teacher: You are right. When we read God's Word, it helps us to grow and understand who God is.

Tracker: I am going to go make some popcorn and get ready for Bible time with my mom! Bye, friends! Have a great week growwwwing to be more like Jesus.

Craft or Activity

Supplies:

- Activity sheet with a Bible and "King Josiah learns from God's Word. _____ learns from God's Word!" (see resource booklet)
- Crayons

Instructions:

1. Say: Can you learn from God's Word just like King Josiah? (Yes) Raise your hand if you have a

- Bible. What color is your Bible?
2. Review colors as you point out objects in your classroom that are the same color. For example, "Who has a red Bible, like this red chair?"
 3. Give children crayons based on the color of their Bible.
 4. As children color, talk to them about King Josiah and/or have them recite Acts 16:31.

Snack and Lesson Review

Verse Activity: Our Bible verse can be found in Acts, chapter 16, verse 31. Let's all clap three times when I say, "Acts 16:31", and then put our hands in our lap. Acts 16:31! *Children clap three times and then put their hands in their laps. After hands are in laps, say Acts 16:31.*

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

Review questions to ask during snack:

1. Was King Josiah the king we learned about today? (Yes)
2. Was King Josiah a child or an old man when he became king? (He was an eight-year-old child)
3. Did King Josiah love God? (Yes)
4. What did King Josiah find? (The Bible)
5. What did King Josiah read? (The Bible)
6. Is everything in the Bible true? (Yes)

Review Activities

Supplies:

- Twenty or more Bibles
- Treasure box
- Song "Trust in the Lord" (this song is preparing children for the new verse next week)

Instructions:

1. Hide twenty or more Bibles in your classroom.
2. As they listen to the music, have children search for Bibles, so they can find them like King Josiah did.
3. Once all Bibles are found, place them in a treasure box.
4. Then say, "The Bible is God's Word."
5. Hide Bibles again and repeat as time permits.

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!

Have you ever struggled with God’s plan for your life? Do you believe that He is weaving together every challenge and every joy for your good and for His glory? Before serving this week, take time to talk with God; let Him know that you trust Him with your entire life.

Pray: Pray that the children in your class will seek and hunger to know God and His plans for their lives. Ask God to provide them with Christian friends who will hold them accountable, encourage them, and challenge them to grow spiritually.

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!

Teacher’s Notes:

- Please remember to use the Five Count to gain the children’s attention in class. This is the same method that is used in all grades in DL. When you use the same and consistent method to get children’s attention, you will be surprised how much faster they will respond. To use the Five Count, start with 1 and work your way up to 5. On average, children should be quiet by 3.

Creative Teaching Supplies:

- Bible
- Crown 1 (for King Josiah from last week)
- Crown 2 (for King Nebuchadnezzar)
- Pictures of doctor, mom, missionary, fire fighter, football player

GO!

Coming In Time

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

Clean Up

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

Large Group Opening Time

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

1. “Bigger than Big”
2. “My God is so Big”
3. “God is Good to Me”

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

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

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

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

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

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

Think Right Verse: We have a new verse this week! You can find it right in the Bible. *Hold up the Bible.* This verse reminds us to trust in the Lord with all our heart. *Have children listen carefully as you read the verse from your Bible. We want them to know that the verse comes directly from the Bible, God’s Word!* Now, let’s try to say the verse together and you can follow me as I show you the actions.

“Trust in the Lord (point up) with all your heart (hands over heart) and lean not (shake finger) on your own understanding (point to head); in all your ways acknowledge Him (point up), and He (finger stays pointing up) will make your paths straight (arms come straight down from elbows like “robot arms”).” Proverbs 3:5-6

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

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

Bible Lesson

Last week, we heard about King Josiah. *Hold up the crown from last week and a Bible.* Remember how King Josiah loved reading the Bible? *Open your Bible.* King Josiah knew the Bible was the truth. In the Bible, we learn about many people who loved God, just like King Josiah. But, after Josiah was no longer the king, there were many people who chose not to obey the one true God. These people sinned. The word “sin” means they said bad things and did bad things. They chose to be very mean.

That was sad. *Have children make a sad face.*

Hold up the second crown. King Nebuchadnezzar was another king that didn't love or trust in God. *Make a sad face.* King Nebuchadnezzar was mean and took away people from their homes to a different country. This made them sad, but God loved them. God had a special plan for the people who trusted in Him. Do you think the people trusted in God? Do you trust in God?

God loves you and has a plan for your life. Maybe God wants you to be a doctor (*show picture of a doctor*), or maybe a mom (*show picture of a mom*). Or maybe He wants you to be a missionary (*show picture of a missionary*), or a firefighter (*show picture of a firefighter*), or even a football player (*show picture of a football player*). Because God loves us, we can trust Him with all the plans He has for our life. When we trust Him, God will "make (our) paths straight". This means He will help us to do what is best for us when we are small and when we are grown up. This reminds me of a special verse we are memorizing, Proverbs 3:5-6.

Verse Review Time

Let's stand up and practice our new verse, Proverbs 3:5-6.

"Trust in the Lord (point up) **with all your heart** (hands over heart) **and lean not** (shake finger) **on your own understanding** (point to head); **in all your ways acknowledge Him** (point up), **and He** (finger stays pointing up) **will make your paths straight** (arms come straight down from elbows like "robot arms")." **Proverbs 3:5-6**

Tracker Skit

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

Props: *stuffed zoo animal, fire truck, toy hammer*

Tracker: *Hi, friends! I am soooo excited that God loves me so much, and He has a plan for my life!*

Teacher: That is true, Tracker. God knows everything about you. He knows the color of your eyes, your hair color, and even your favorite food. He even knows what you will be like when you are twenty-five years old.

Tracker: *Wow, that is super old!!!*

Teacher: God has a plan for your life! I wonder what you will do when you grow up? Maybe work in a zoo? (*hold up a stuffed animal*) Or be a fireman? (*hold up a toy fire truck*) Or maybe a construction worker? (*hold up a hammer*)

Tracker: *Or be a famous soccer player or own a cheese factory!*

Teacher: I don't know what you will be when you grow up, but I do know it is very important to trust and obey God.

Tracker: *Yes, you are so right! I'm so excited to know that God has a plan for my life. That is so exciting! Boys and girls, let's say "Thank You" to God for having a plan for our lives. (Have children and Tracker say, "Thank You, God!") Bye, kids!*

Craft or Activity

Setup instructions: During the skit, lay out an activity sheet with all four pre-cut objects at each place.

Supplies:

- Activity sheet with pictures of a soccer coach, a doctor, a pastor, and a teacher and "God has a plan for _____." (see Resources Booklet)
- Pre-cut pictures that match each job (soccer ball, stethoscope, Bible, and books) (see Resources Booklet)
- Small plastic zipper bag (one per child)

Instructions:

1. Say: Did you know that God has a perfect plan for each of us? We might be a doctor, a farmer, a soccer coach, a pastor, a missionary, a veterinarian, or a teacher. No matter happens, we can always know that God has a plan for us. Let's play a matching game!
2. Hold up each picture and help children match the object to the person who might use it in their job.
3. Allow children to repeat as time allows.
4. Leaders should write each child's name on their activity sheet.
5. Send pictures home with each child in a plastic zipper bag along with the activity sheet.

Optional idea: Have children use glue sticks to attach the pictures to their activity sheet.

Snack and Lesson Review

Verse Activity: Our Bible verse can be found in Proverbs, chapter 3, verses 5-6. Let's all clap three times when I say, "Proverbs 3:5-6", and then put our hands in our lap. Proverbs 3:5-6! *Children clap three times and then put their hands in their laps. After hands are in laps, say Proverbs 3:5-6.*

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

Review questions to ask during snack:

1. Was King Josiah a good king? (Yes)
2. Was King Nebuchadnezzar a bad king? (Yes)
3. Did all the people in the Bible obey God? (No)
4. What is the most important thing God wants us to do? (Trust Him)
5. Is everything in the Bible true? (Yes)

Review Activities

Supplies:

- Muffin tins (you can also use tins, egg/apple trays or dig small holes on the ground) (tape a circle of Wordless Book colored paper to the bottom inside of each opening) (one for every two children).
- Wordless Book colored pom-poms (or colored bottle tops/caps)
- One bowl for each table

**Instructions:**

1. On each table, have a bowl filled with Wordless Book pom-poms.
2. Have children work with a partner to match colors, as you talk about what each color means.
 - **Gold:** God loves you so much He made a place called heaven. (John 3:16, John 14:2)
 - **Dark:** Sin is anything we think, say, or do that is against God. (Romans 3:23)
 - **Red:** Jesus died for our sins. (Hebrews 9:22b)
 - **White:** We can ask Jesus to wash away our sin and make us clean. (Acts 16:31)
 - **Green:** We can grow and learn more about Jesus. (2 Peter 3:18a)

Lesson 6

Daniel 1:1-20

Know Right:	Daniel refuses the king's food.
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 live my life God's way.
Feel Right:	I can feel peaceful 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 children just like "Daniel" in your class. Pray for the children in your class by name, knowing that they will walk through difficult trials throughout their lives.

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!

Teacher's Note: Did you know you are teaching a family-based curriculum? This is so important because it gives families opportunities to have spiritual conversations at home. Also, when children are picked up, take time to explain to parents/guardians why Tracker Jr. is important and how to use it throughout the week.

Creative Teaching Supplies:

- Crown
- Plastic vegetables (or pictures/ drawings of vegetables)

- Arrow with “God’s Way” written on it
- Alternate idea: use a flannel board and flannel pieces

GO!

Coming In Time

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

Clean Up

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

Large Group Opening Time

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Think Right Verse: I want to read a very important verse from my Bible. Listen very carefully.

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

Now, let’s stand up and say it together with our actions.

“Trust (2 fists in front of you) **in the Lord** (point up) **with all** (arms out) **your heart** (hands over heart) **and lean not** (shake finger) **on your own understanding** (point to head); **in all your ways** (hands back and forth in front of you) **acknowledge** (point to head) **Him** (point up), **and He** (finger stays pointing up) **will make your paths straight** (open hands start near ears and move downward out in front of you to make a path).” **Proverbs 3:5-6**

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

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

Bible Lesson

Do you remember learning about King Josiah? He became king when he was eight years old. He loved and obeyed God. *Thumbs up.*

But there were other kings who didn't obey God. *Thumbs down*. One king who didn't obey God was named King Nebuchadnezzar. He took people from their homes in Israel and moved them far-away to a different country. He made them serve in his palace. A palace is a huge house for the king.

Let's open the Bible to find out what happens. *Open your Bible*. Today we are going to learn about Daniel and his friends who were taken from their homes and brought to serve in the king's palace. Can you say 'Daniel'?

Do you think King Nebuchadnezzar picked weak men or strong and courageous men? (He chose strong and courageous men) *Have children make muscles*. Daniel was one of those men. Daniel loved God and followed God's way. *Thumbs up or show the arrow*. Do you love God and follow God's way? *Show the arrow*. This means you do what is right, such as obeying your parents, saying sorry if you did something wrong, being kind to your friends, and reading your Bible. Daniel followed God.

The king trained Daniel and his friends to be his servants. The king also wanted Daniel and his friends to eat his special, royal food, but Daniel knew it wasn't the food God had told them to eat. God told them to eat healthy food. *Show vegetables*. Daniel chose God's way by eating good food, rather than eating the king's food. When Daniel did things God's way, Daniel and his friends looked stronger and healthier than the men who ate the king's food. *Show muscles*. The king noticed that Daniel and his friends were strong. He continued to let them eat the food God told them to eat. *Show vegetables*. Let's all clap for Daniel and his friends. They followed God's way!

Verse Review Time

Let's stand up and practice our verse, Proverbs 3:5-6, with actions.

"Trust (2 fists in front of you) **in the Lord** (point up) **with all** (arms out) **your heart** (hands over heart) **and lean not** (shake finger) **on your own understanding** (point to head); **in all your ways** (hands back and forth in front of you) **acknowledge** (point to head) **Him** (point up), **and He** (finger stays pointing up) **will make your paths straight** (open hands start near ears and move downward out in front of you to make a path)." **Proverbs 3:5-6**

Tracker Skit

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

Tracker: Hi, friends! What was the name of the man we learned about today? I forgot.

Teacher: Boys and girls, do you remember? *(if needed, coach children to respond "Daniel")*

Tracker: That's right, Daniel. Daniel and his friends loved God and wanted to do things God's way! That is what I want to do...I want to follow God's way.

Teacher: That's a good plan, Tracker.

Tracker: I am going to help my friend clean his room.

Teacher: Is that doing things God's way? What do you think, boys and girls? Do you think helping others is doing things God's way? Yes!

Tracker: Then I want to go to my grandma's house and help her pick apples.

Teacher: That is so helpful. You are doing things God's way, when you help others.

Tracker: And last night I was sassy at bedtime. I need to ask my mom and dad to forgive me.

Teacher: That is great, Tracker. I'm glad you're doing things God's way.

Tracker: Yeah...I can't wait to do things God's way! Bye, boys and girls!

Craft or Activity

Supplies:

- Activity sheet with “_____ chooses God’s way, just like Daniel!” and a road maze that will go to a church with a Bible on it; next to the road there should be a fruit tree, a vegetable garden, water, and Daniel (see Resources Booklet)
- Small cup of dry, circle-shaped cereal for each child – *check for allergies*

Instructions:

1. Pass out activity sheets and a small cup of cereal to each child.
2. Write each child’s name on their activity sheet.
3. Say: Daniel chose to do things God’s way. Will you? Follow the road with your finger and see if you can get to church. When we are at church, we learn about doing things God’s way.
4. After children trace the road with their fingers, have them place cereal pieces on the road.
5. As children are doing the activity, talk about today’s Bible lesson and have them find the fruit tree, the vegetable garden, the water, and Daniel. The key to making this activity work is the leader talking with the children at the table.
6. After children have filled the road with cereal, allow them to eat the cereal.

Optional: Instead of using cereal, have children use small cars to drive on the road.

Snack and Lesson Review

Verse Activity: Our Bible verse can be found in Proverbs, chapter 3, verse 5-6. Let’s all clap three times when I say, “Proverbs 3:5-6”, and then put our hands in our lap. Proverbs 3:5-6! *Children clap three times and then put their hands in their laps. After hands are in laps, say Proverbs 3:5-6.*

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

Review questions to ask during snack:

1. Did Daniel love God? (Yes)
2. Did Daniel and his friends eat the king’s food? (No)
3. What did Daniel and his friends eat and drink? (Good food and water)
4. Is everything in the Bible true? (Yes)

Review Activities

Supplies:

- Muffin tins (you can also use tins, egg/apple trays or dig small holes on the ground) (tape a circle of Wordless Book-colored paper to the bottom inside of each opening) (one for every two children)
- Wordless Book-colored pom-poms (or colored bottle tops/caps)
- Small bowls (fill with pom-poms; one for every two children)

Instructions:

1. Have children work with a partner to place pom-poms into the matching-colored muffin cups.



2. As children work, talk about what each color means.

- **Gold:** God loves you so much He made a place called heaven. (John 3:16, John 14:2)
- **Dark:** Sin is anything we think, say, or do that is against God. (Romans 3:23)
- **Red:** Jesus died for our sins. (Hebrews 9:22b)
- **White:** We can ask Jesus to wash away our sin and make us clean. (Acts 16:31)
- **Green:** We can grow and learn more about Jesus. (2 Peter 3:18a)

Lesson 7

Daniel 2

Know Right:	Daniel asks God for wisdom to interpret Nebuchadnezzar's dream.
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 ask God for wisdom.
Feel Right:	I can feel excited 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 children understand the importance of seeking God's wisdom.

Pray: Pray that God will give you a clear understanding of Scripture and that the Holy Spirit will move in powerful ways in your classroom.

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!

Creative Teaching Supplies:

- Picture of Daniel and his friends
- A puppet with a crown, laying in a bed (have another leader carry him into the classroom when you begin to talk about him)
- Pictures of a toy, a storm, and a sad face

GO!

Coming In Time

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

Clean Up

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

Large Group Opening Time

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Think Right Verse: Hmmm...I’m thinking about a verse that talks about trusting in the Lord. *Tracker should pop up and say Proverbs 3:5-6. Let’s say our verse with Tracker and do the actions.*

“Trust (2 fists in front of you) **in the Lord** (point up) **with all** (arms out) **your heart** (hands over heart) **and lean not** (shake finger) **on your own understanding** (point to head); **in all your ways** (hands back and forth in front of you) **acknowledge** (point to head) **Him** (point up), **and He** (finger stays pointing up) **will make your paths straight** (open hands start near ears and move downward out in front of you to make a path).” **Proverbs 3:5-6**

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

Bible Lesson

Last week we heard about Daniel and his friends. Daniel followed God’s way, not his own way! Let’s clap for Daniel! *Clap.* King Nebuchadnezzar didn’t trust God. *Thumbs down.* Today, we are going to hear more about Daniel and King Nebuchadnezzar.

Open your Bible. The Bible teaches us that King Nebuchadnezzar was sleeping. *Show the king sleeping.* Let’s pretend we are sleeping.

While King Nebuchadnezzar was sleeping, he had a dream. Do you ever have dreams? Sometimes dreams can be silly or scary. The king wanted to know more about his dream.

Daniel prayed and asked God for wisdom. God gave Daniel wisdom, so he could tell the king exactly what his dream was about and what it meant. *Point to your head.* Wow, only God can give us that kind of wisdom! Who can give you wisdom? (God!)

Let’s stop and pray, just like Daniel did, and ask God to give us wisdom. *Pray with the class.*

We are going to look at some pictures. Ready? Let’s see if you have wisdom.

Show picture of a toy. If someone took your favorite toy, what would be the wise thing to do? Grab it or ask politely to have it when they are done playing with it? Asking if you can play with it when they are done is the wise thing to do. If that is hard for you to do, remember you can always pray and ask God to

help you to do things with wisdom.

Show picture of a storm. You are getting ready for bed, and you hear a big boom of thunder. What would you do? Would you scream and cry, or would you call for your mom or dad and ask them to pray with you, or would you pray by yourself and ask God to help you not be afraid? Praying with your parents or by yourself are both wise things to do. Remember, God hears all our prayers!

Show picture of a sad face. Your friend is very sad. You could go play with another friend or you could give your friend a hug. Giving your friend a hug is the wise thing to do. Who can we ask for wisdom to help us make a wise decision? (God!) He gives us wisdom, just like He gave Daniel wisdom.

Remember that when you need wisdom, you need to pray like Daniel and trust that God will give you wisdom to make the right choice.

Verse Review Time

Let's stand up and practice our verse, Proverbs 3:5-6, with actions.

"Trust (2 fists in front of you) **in the Lord** (point up) **with all** (arms out) **your heart** (hands over heart) **and lean not** (shake finger) **on your own understanding** (point to head); **in all your ways** (hands back and forth in front of you) **acknowledge** (point to head) **Him** (point up), **and He** (finger stays pointing up) **will make your paths straight** (open hands start near ears and move downward out in front of you to make a path)." **Proverbs 3:5-6**

Tracker Skit

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

Tracker: Hi, friends! This morning I ate my oatmeal and drank my milk, so I would be ready to learn today!

Teacher: That is great! Kids, did you eat breakfast today?

Tracker: My yummy oatmeal helped me listen very carefully to every word you said.

Teacher: That is great. Let me ask you a question. What was the name of the man you heard about today? He was a very wise guy.

Tracker: Hmmmm.... kids can you help me? His name was Da... *(have children shout out "Daniel")*

Teacher: Excellent job!

Tracker: I think Daniel was a pretty cool dude. I have a feeling his breath smelled like carrots. Ha, ha, ha...

Teacher: Daniel did like his veggies. Tracker, what did Daniel pray and ask God for?

Tracker: Now that is a tough one. He asked God for wis... *(have children shout out "wisdom")*

Teacher: You are doing great, Tracker!

Tracker: Thank you...and thank you to all my friends who are helping me.

Teacher: It makes me feel so happy to know that I can pray and ask God for wisdom, especially in the times when I don't know what to do.

Tracker: I'm glad God can give us wisdom! Bye, boys and girls!

Craft or Activity

Supplies:

- Activity sheet with a happy face and a sad face and “I will ask God for wisdom” (see Resources Booklet)
- Pre-cut pictures (eight per child) showing wise and unwise choices, such as dumping toys on a friend, fighting over a toy, being mean, laughing at a friend, picking up toys, comforting a friend, sharing, helping with a Band-Aid (see Resources Booklet)
- Small plastic zipper bags (one per child)

Instructions:

1. Show children the happy and sad faces on their activity sheet.
2. Talk about making wise choices with friends and family as you talk about each picture. Have children place the card on the correct face.
3. Repeat as time permits.
4. Send activity sheets and cards (in a plastic zipper bag) home with children.

Optional ideas: Have children use glue sticks to glue the pictures to the correct side of their activity sheet. Or, play as a game at each table. Leader will hand out pictures to the children, and then talk about each situation before the child places their picture on the game board.

Snack and Lesson Review

Verse Activity: Our Bible verse can be found in Proverbs, chapter 3, verse 5-6. Let’s all clap three times when I say, “Proverbs 3:5-6”, and then put our hands in our lap. Proverbs 3:5-6! *Children clap three times and then put their hands in their laps. After hands are in laps, say Proverbs 3:5-6.*

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

Review questions to ask during snack:

1. Did Daniel love God? (Yes)
2. Did the king have a dream? (Yes)
3. Did God give Daniel wisdom to know the king’s dream? (Yes)
4. Can we ask God for wisdom? (Yes)
5. Is everything in the Bible true? (Yes)

Review Activities

Supplies:

- Twenty or more Bibles
- Treasure box
- Song “Trust in the Lord”

Instructions:

1. Hide twenty or more Bibles in your classroom.
2. Have children search for the Bibles while listening to music.
3. Once all Bibles are found, place them in a treasure box.
4. Then say, “The Bible is God’s Word.”
5. Hide the Bibles again and repeat as time permits.

Lesson 8

Daniel 3

Know Right:	Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego are thrown into the fiery furnace.
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 in God’s power.
Feel Right:	I can feel 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, and to cause clear comprehension of the Scripture that is being taught so it causes life transformation.

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!

Teacher’s Note: Spend extra time studying your lesson so you can bring it down to a two-year-old level. This means you should not read the lesson from the curriculum, but you should know it so you can bring the Bible to life for your children. 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 a powerful God? How will the little ones in your class know that you really believe in a powerful God?

Creative Teaching Supplies:

- Pictures of Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego, and a furnace
- Crown
- Wordless Book
- Hula hoop (you can also use a hose pipe or a stiff rounded clothesline wire) with red streamers attached

GO!

Coming In Time

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

Clean Up

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

Large Group Opening Time

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

1. "My God is so Big"
2. "Bigger than Big"
3. "God is Good to Me"

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Can you say Proverbs 3:5-6? Let's try to say it in a soft voice. Now let's say it in a loud voice.

"Trust (2 fists in front of you) **in the Lord** (point up) **with all** (arms out) **your heart** (hands over heart) **and lean not** (shake finger) **on your own understanding** (point to head); **in all your ways** (hands back and forth in front of you) **acknowledge** (point to head) **Him** (point up), **and He** (finger stays pointing up) **will make your paths straight** (open hands start near ears and move downward out in front of you to make a path)." **Proverbs 3:5-6**

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

Bible Lesson

Last week, we heard that Daniel prayed and asked God for wisdom. Did God give Daniel wisdom? (Yes) This week, we are going to hear more about Daniel's friends.

Open your Bible. From the Bible, God teaches us about three of Daniel's friends. Their names were Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. *Show picture.* They loved and obeyed God, just like Daniel. *Thumbs up.* Remember King Nebuchadnezzar? *Show crown.* King Nebuchadnezzar didn't worship God. *Thumbs down.* The king had a huge golden statue made. It was taller than your house! The king ordered everyone to bow down and worship the golden statue! Wait - in the Bible God tells us that we shouldn't worship anything or anyone but God! If the people worshiped the statue, they were going

against what God says, and that is called sin. *Show the dark page of the Wordless Book.* Who came and died for our sin? (Jesus died for our sin) *Show the red page of the Wordless Book.*

The three friends said they would only worship the one true God. This made the king really mad. The king took the three friends and put them in a very, very hot fiery furnace! *Show picture or have three children stand inside of the hula hoop, raise the hoop so you see the red "flames."* But guess what, God sent someone from heaven to protect the three friends! *Add one more child inside the hula hoop.* When the king looked into the fiery furnace, he counted: 1, 2, 3, 4! There were four people in the fiery furnace! The king knew that only God's great power could have sent someone to protect all three friends! *Put the hula hoop down and have the four children walk out, count and celebrate God's great power! Have children clap.*

Could the statue keep the friends safe? (No) Did God keep the friends safe? (Yes) Just like the three friends, we need to trust in God's great power!

Verse Review Time

Let's stand up and practice our verse, Proverbs 3:5-6, with actions.

"Trust (2 fists in front of you) **in the Lord** (point up) **with all** (arms out) **your heart** (hands over heart) **and lean not** (shake finger) **on your own understanding** (point to head); **in all your ways** (hands back and forth in front of you) **acknowledge** (point to head) **Him** (point up), **and He** (finger stays pointing up) **will make your paths straight** (open hands start near ears and move downward out in front of you to make a path)." **Proverbs 3:5-6**

Tracker Skit

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

Tracker: Hi, friends! I love talking about how great and powerful our God is.

Teacher: So do I. Our God is so big and strong and awesome!!!!

Tracker: I really liked our Bible lesson today.

Teacher: It was a good lesson. Kids, did you like our Bible lesson today?

Tracker: I am so glad that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego didn't bow down to the statue! That would have been super silly.

Teacher: Yes, they obeyed God, and God protected them, even in that hot furnace!

Tracker: Yikes...that furnace was super, super, super hot! But God protected them.

Teacher: I'm happy to believe in the same God as Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego – the one true God!

Tracker: Me, too! God can show His great power to us today, just like He did to the three friends!

Teacher: Yes, every morning, when the sun rises, we can see God's great power.

Tracker: Yes, and at night we also can see it in the stars in the sky. God shows His great power all the time! Boys and girls, do you think you can look for God's great power today, when you go home?

Teacher: That sounds like a great idea!

Tracker: I can't wait to look for God's great power...I'm going to run home right now and start to look. Bye, friends!

Craft or Activity

Supplies:

- Cardstock activity sheet with four men in a furnace and “_____ can trust in God’s power...just like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the fiery furnace.” (see Resources Booklet)
- Strips of red, orange, and yellow tissue paper
- Glue sticks
- Crayons

Instructions:

1. Say: How many people were in the furnace? (Four) Let’s count to four. Let’s make a fire in the furnace by gluing red, orange, and yellow tissue paper in it.
2. Children will add tissue paper flames to the furnace with glue.
3. If they have time, children can also color the furnace with crayons.

Snack and Lesson Review

Verse Activity: Our Bible verse can be found in Proverbs, chapter 3, verse 5-6. Let’s all clap three times when I say, “Proverbs 3:5-6”, and then put our hands in our lap. Proverbs 3:5-6! *Children clap three times and then put their hands in their laps. After hands are in laps, say Proverbs 3:5-6.*

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

Review questions to ask during snack:

1. Did the three friends love and obey God? (Yes)
2. Did the three friends bow to the statue? (No)
3. Did God protect the three friends in the fiery furnace? (Yes)
4. Is God great and powerful? (Yes)
5. Is everything in the Bible true? (Yes)

Review Activities

Supplies

- Beanbag
- Song “Trust in the Lord”

Instructions:

1. Children will pass a beanbag while sitting in a circle and listening to the song “Trust in the Lord.”
2. When the music stops or the song ends, clap for the person holding the beanbag. Then have all children and leaders recite Proverbs 3:5-6.
3. Repeat as time permits.

Lesson 9

Daniel 6

Know Right:	Daniel is thrown into the lions' den.
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.
Feel Right:	I can feel loved when I trust 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: God's Word instructs us to teach children from infancy so they are wise for salvation. Pray for the children in your class that they will comprehend who God is, fall in love with Him, and will have child-like faith throughout their lives. For some of the children in your class, you may be the only person praying for them this week. Pray whole-heartedly with passion and by name for the children God brought to your class.

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 trust God.

GET SET!

Teacher's Note: As you teach the lesson, remember that trust is having complete confidence in God. Teach God's Word with confidence, so your children can understand they can trust in God. During the lesson, children should be sitting with their hands in their laps and paying attention. Be patient as you lovingly coach children who may be new to a structured learning environment about how to sit and listen. If a new child is distracted, have a leader sit next to the child.

Creative Teaching Supplies:

- Crown
- Toy lion

- Picture of Daniel in the lions' den
- Alternate idea: use a flannel board and flannel pieces

GO!

Coming In Time

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

Clean Up

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

Large Group Opening Time

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Think Right Verse: What verse tells us that we can trust in the Lord? Is it Proverbs 3:5-6? Let's stand and say it with our actions.

"Trust (2 fists in front of you) **in the Lord** (point up) **with all** (arms out) **your heart** (hands over heart) **and lean not** (shake finger) **on your own understanding** (point to head); **in all your ways** (hands back and forth in front of you) **acknowledge** (point to head) **Him** (point up), **and He** (finger stays pointing up) **will make your paths straight** (open hands start near ears and move downward out in front of you to make a path)." **Proverbs 3:5-6**

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

Bible Lesson

We have learned about many kings from the Bible. Some kings were good and loved God (*thumbs up*), while others were bad (*thumbs down*). *Open your Bible.* In the Bible, God teaches us about another king named Darius. *Show crown.*

King Darius really liked Daniel, so he put Daniel in charge of his kingdom. Some people didn't want

Daniel to be the leader. They became jealous of Daniel. Being jealous means that you are unhappy when someone has something you really want. Being jealous is a sin. What color of the Wordless Book reminds us of sin? (Dark)

The men that were jealous of Daniel tricked King Darius into making a new rule. The new rule said that people had to pray to King Darius and not to God. Anyone who prayed to God would be thrown into the lions' den! That's not a good rule, that's a bad rule. *Thumbs down*. If Daniel prayed to God, he would be thrown into the lions' den with the hungry lions! *Show toy lion*. Let's all make a sound like a lion. *Roar!*

The jealous men knew that Daniel often prayed during the day to the one true God. *Make praying hands*. One day, they looked (*hold your hand over your eyes to search*) and saw Daniel praying. When they caught Daniel praying, they went right to the king. Even though the king liked Daniel, he had to follow the rule. So, he had to throw Daniel into the lions' den! Oh no! *Show picture of Daniel in the lions' den or show toy lion*. What do you think the lions sounded like? *Have children roar*. What do you think happened to Daniel? Do you think Daniel trusted God to take care of him?

God is so powerful; He sent an angel to hold the lions' mouths shut! The lions did not hurt Daniel at all! *Cheer!* Who kept Daniel safe? (God!) Daniel trusted God, just like we should trust God, even when it is hard. We can trust God always...when we are happy, sad, sick, mad, or afraid. We can trust God just like Daniel did.

Verse Review Time

Let's stand up and practice our verse, Proverbs 3:5-6, with actions.

"Trust (2 fists in front of you) **in the Lord** (point up) **with all** (arms out) **your heart** (hands over heart) **and lean not** (shake finger) **on your own understanding** (point to head); **in all your ways** (hands back and forth in front of you) **acknowledge** (point to head) **Him** (point up), **and He** (finger stays pointing up) **will make your paths straight** (open hands start near ears and move downward out in front of you to make a path)." **Proverbs 3:5-6**

Tracker Skit

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

Tracker: (*make sounds like a lion*)

Teacher: Is this Tracker or a lion?

Tracker: Ha, ha, ha...it's me, Tracker. Hi, friends! Wow, Daniel trusted God just like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego!

Teacher: Yes, they all loved, trusted, and obeyed God.

Tracker: The other night there was a big storm, and I was afraid. I called my mom into my room and asked her to pray with me, just like Daniel. After we prayed, I felt much better! I trusted God to keep me safe during the storm.

Teacher: That was a very good idea. Maybe next time you can try to pray by yourself.

Tracker: Yes, that is what my mom said, too. I will try that next time I am afraid. It's so good to know that God hears my prayers all the time.

Teacher: Kids, do you think you can pray and trust God like Tracker and Daniel? (*children answer*)

Tracker: Bye, boys and girls. Remember you can always trust God! See ya' next week.

Craft or Activity

Supplies:

- Cardstock with a lion's head and "I will trust God to protect me, just like Daniel" (see Resources Booklet)
- Brown and yellow strips of paper, cut into 1.5-inch pieces (about twenty pieces per child)
- Glue sticks

Instructions:

1. Children will attach strips of paper around the lion's face with glue to make the lion's mane.
2. As children work, ask them what sound a lion makes and who protected Daniel from the lions.
3. Remind children that we should trust God, just like Daniel did in the lions' den.

Snack and Lesson Review

Verse Activity: Our Bible verse can be found in Proverbs, chapter 3, verse 5-6. Let's all clap three times when I say, "Proverbs 3:5-6", and then put our hands in our lap. Proverbs 3:5-6! *Children clap three times and then put their hands in their laps. After hands are in laps, say Proverbs 3:5-6.*

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

Review questions to ask during snack:

1. Did Daniel pray to God? (Yes)
2. Were some of the men jealous of Daniel? (Yes)
3. Where did Daniel have to go? (Into the lions' den)
4. Did Daniel trust God to take care of him? (Yes)
5. Did the lions eat Daniel? (No, God protected him)

Review Activities

Supplies

- Beanbag
- Song "Trust in the Lord"

Instructions:

1. Children will pass a beanbag while sitting in a circle and listening to the song "Trust in the Lord."
2. When the music stops or the song ends, clap for the person holding the beanbag. Then have all children and leaders recite Proverbs 3:5-6.
3. Repeat as time permits.

Lesson 10

Esther 1-10

Know Right:	Esther courageously risks her life by doing what is right.
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 do what is right.
Feel Right:	I can feel safe knowing God helps me when I 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 children will truly seek God and do what is right no matter the cost, throughout their lives. Pray Proverbs 2:1-11 over your children each day of the week.

Read: Esther 1-10

Know Right: Esther courageously risks her life by doing what is right

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 do what is right.

GET SET!

Teacher's Note: We are covering an entire exciting book of the Bible in one class. 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 very prepared.

Creative Teaching Supplies:

- Props in a box: a beautiful dress and a crown
- Alternate idea: use a flannel board and flannel pieces

GO!

Coming In Time

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

Clean Up

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

Large Group Opening Time

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Think Right Verse: I love to hear you say Proverbs 3:5-6 as a group. Let's all say this verse together!

"Trust (2 fists in front of you) **in the Lord** (point up) **with all** (arms out) **your heart** (hands over heart) **and lean not** (shake finger) **on your own understanding** (point to head); **in all your ways** (hands back and forth in front of you) **acknowledge** (point to head) **Him** (point up), **and He** (finger stays pointing up) **will make your paths straight** (open hands start near ears and move downward out in front of you to make a path)." **Proverbs 3:5-6**

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

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

Bible Lesson

Today we are going to learn about a girl named Esther. Esther lived with her cousin Mordecai. One day there was a big announcement. The king was looking for a new queen. Women, including Esther, went to the palace where the king lived. They received special beauty treatments. This means they took special baths, made their hair look pretty, and so much more. *Show beautiful dress.* The women went to the king so he could decide who would be the new queen. Guess who the king chose as his new

queen? The Bible tells us that Esther was picked to be the queen. *Show crown.*

One day, one of the king's workers made a plan to hurt Esther's cousin Mordecai and all of Esther's family (the Jewish people). Her cousin Mordecai heard about this and told the whole family to pray. Do you think Esther was brave and would try to save her family? Esther asked her family to skip eating food and to pray for three days. Esther was brave, and she did what was right. She loved God and wanted to please Him. God heard their prayers and used Esther to save her family (the Jewish people) from harm.

Esther did what was right, even when it was hard. She trusted God. God protected her and saved her whole family. Should you do what is right? (Yes) Can you trust God?

Verse Review Time

Let's stand up and practice our verse about trust, Proverbs 3:5-6, with actions.

"Trust (2 fists in front of you) **in the Lord** (point up) **with all** (arms out) **your heart** (hands over heart) **and lean not** (shake finger) **on your own understanding** (point to head); **in all your ways** (hands back and forth in front of you) **acknowledge** (point to head) **Him** (point up), **and He** (finger stays pointing up) **will make your paths straight** (open hands start near ears and move downward out in front of you to make a path)." **Proverbs 3:5-6**

Tracker Skit

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

Props: *Tracker should be wearing royal clothing and a crown*

Tracker: Welcome, friends, to my royal palace. I'm King Tracker!

Teacher: Wow, you look handsome today!

Tracker: I always look handsome, because I am the king of our class...

Teacher: What do you do as a king?

Tracker: I tell people what to do for me. I say, "Go get me a cookie...bring me my toys...make my bed."

Teacher: That doesn't sound very kind. You sound like a mean king.

Tracker: *(mouth should drop open)* Are you kidding? "ME" a mean king? I am a handsome and perfect king...the king of our class!

Teacher: Well, king, you are being selfish.

Tracker: Me? You're calling me selfish?

Teacher: Yes, you are being very selfish and not choosing to do what is right. You are being a mean king. Do you want everybody here to think of you as a mean king?

Tracker: *(head should drop)* No... I don't want to be a mean king. I want to be the good king.

Teacher: A good king would do what is right and honor God. This means you would serve others cookies, share toys, and help pick up your bedroom. God wants you to do what is right and be helpful to others.

Tracker: I'm sorry, friends. Will you forgive me for being so mean?

Teacher: We sure will. *(give him a hug)* Tracker, are you ready to be a good king?

Tracker: Absolutely! Bye, friends. I'm going to go and do what is right, just like Queen Esther.

Craft or Activity

Supplies:

- Paper crowns (one per child)
- Jewel stickers

Instructions:

1. Allow children to pretend they are royalty as they make crowns to wear home.
2. As they work on their crowns, talk about the importance of doing what is right, just like queen Esther.

Snack and Lesson Review

Verse Activity: Our Bible verse can be found in Proverbs, chapter 3, verse 5-6. Let's all clap three times when I say, "Proverbs 3:5-6", and then put our hands in our lap. Proverbs 3:5-6! *Children clap three times and then put their hands in their laps. After hands are in laps, say Proverbs 3:5-6.*

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

Review questions to ask during snack:

1. Was the Queen's name Judy or Esther? (Esther)
2. Did the people pray and ask God to help them? (Yes)
3. Did Queen Esther do what is right? (Yes)
4. Can you do what is right? (Yes)

Review Activities

Supplies:

- Wordless Book-colored pipe cleaners (you can also use a thread/yarn, string or a rope)
- Large colanders (one for every four children)
- Fun praise music



Instructions:

1. Have children sit at a table.
2. As the music plays, have children poke pipe cleaners into an upside-down colander.
3. As the children work, talk about the Wordless Book pipe cleaners and what each color represents.

Lesson 11

Review Day

Know Right:	True wisdom comes from God's Word.
Think Right:	Acts 16: 31 and Proverbs 3:5-6 (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 children and leaders. It is so exciting to see how the children 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 God will give you a clear understanding of Scripture, creativity, and a fresh new excitement for teaching God's Word to children.

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!

Teacher's Note: As we take time to reflect on what your children have learned this quarter, remember that not all children attend on a regular basis. Because of this, review days are so important to catch children up on lessons they may have missed and to reinforce the lessons for those children who were in attendance.

Creative Teaching Supplies:

- Three paper bags with review props (*see lesson for details*)

GO!

Coming In Time

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

Clean Up

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

Large Group Opening Time

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Think Right Verse: Do you know a verse that talks about trusting God? Is it Proverbs 3:5-6? We can trust God when we are afraid, when we are sad, or when we need to make the right choice. Let's say our verse with actions.

"Trust (2 fists in front of you) **in the Lord** (point up) **with all** (arms out) **your heart** (hands over heart) **and lean not** (shake finger) **on your own understanding** (point to head); **in all your ways** (hands back and forth in front of you) **acknowledge** (point to head) **Him** (point up), **and He** (finger stays pointing up) **will make your paths straight** (open hands start near ears and move downward out in front of you to make a path)." **Proverbs 3:5-6**

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

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

Bible Lesson

Note: Make it exciting when you open each bag and as you review the lessons.

Bag 1: Naaman (water, action figure)

This reminds us of a man named Naaman. Naaman had leprosy, which means he had painful sores all over his body. A young servant girl told Naaman that a man named Elisha could help him get better. Elisha loved God. Elisha told Naaman to wash himself in the water seven times. Let's all count to seven. Naaman trusted God, and God made Naaman all better. Is our God great? (Yes!)

Bag 2: King Hezekiah (crown, pillow, medical items)

King Hezekiah had a sore on his body called a boil. The sore was so bad that he became very sick and was going to die. He was so sick and sad that he cried. Then he prayed and asked God to heal him. God answered his prayers and made him all better. God hears our prayers, just like He heard King Hezekiah's prayers.

Bag 3: Jonah (ship, large fish)

God asked Jonah to go to the city of Nineveh and tell the people to stop doing bad things. But Jonah didn't want to obey God, so he got on a ship to a different city. Because Jonah disobeyed, God sent a very big storm. The people on the ship knew that Jonah was not obeying, so they tossed him into the water. Do you remember what happened? (A big fish swallowed him) God kept him safe and had the fish vomit him out onto dry land. Jonah obeyed God and went to Nineveh. God wants us to obey!

Verse Review Time

Let's stand up and say our verse from earlier this quarter, Acts 16:31, with actions.

"Believe (point to head) **in the Lord Jesus** (point to the palm of each hand) **and you** (point both hands out) **will be saved** (both arms go up) – **you and your household** (both arms above head to make a point)." **Acts 16:31**

Tracker Skit

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

Tracker: Hi, friends! Wow, we've learned soooo much from the Bible!

Teacher: Tracker, what was your favorite lesson?

Tracker: Oh, that is a hard question! I loved hearing about Daniel and how God protected him in the lions' den. And then there was Jonah and the big fish. That taught me that I should obey God right away, rather than waiting.

Teacher: I loved the lesson about the little girl who told Naaman that our all-powerful God could heal him. Remember, he ended up washing himself in the river seven times. (*Tracker starts going up and down seven times*)

Tracker: Ha, ha, ha...I love dunking in the river. (*have Tracker keep going up and down*)

Teacher: You are so funny.

Tracker: I also learned Proverbs 3:5-6. Let's all say it together. (*say verse together*) That was amazing! I'm going to go tell my cousin about what I've learned! See ya' later.

Craft or Activity

Supplies:

- Activity sheet with "God gives me courage" in bubble letters and the following pictures: Jonah and the big fish, three friends in a furnace, and Daniel in the lions' den (see Resources Booklet)
- Watercolor paints
- Paint brushes
- Spill proof water cups (or add a few drops of water to each paint color)
- Optional: use crayons instead of watercolor paints

Instructions:

1. Say: We have learned so much from the Bible. Let's paint the pictures and then you can teach your family our Bible lessons when you get home today.
2. As children paint, table leaders should review each lesson.

Snack and Lesson Review

Verse Activity: Our Bible verse can be found in Proverbs, chapter 3, verse 5-6. Let's all clap three times when I say, "Proverbs 3:5-6", and then put our hands in our lap. Proverbs 3:5-6! *Children clap three times and then put their hands in their laps. After hands are in laps, say Proverbs 3:5-6.*

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

Review questions to ask during snack:

1. Can God heal sick people and make them all better? (Yes)
2. Is everything in the Bible true? (Yes)
3. Who was in the belly of a big fish? (Jonah)
4. Can you trust God? (Yes)

Review Activities

Supplies:

- Muffin tins (you can also use tins, egg/apple trays or dig small holes on the ground) (tape a circle of Wordless Book-colored paper to the bottom inside of each opening) (one for every two children)
- Wordless Book-colored pom-poms (or colored bottle tops/caps)
- Small bowls (fill with pom-poms; one for every two children)

Instructions:

1. Have children work with a partner to place pom-poms into the matching-colored muffin cups.
2. As children work, talk about what each color means.
 - Gold: God loves you so much He made a place called heaven. (John 3:16, John 14:2)
 - Dark: Sin is anything we think, say, or do that is against God. (Romans 3:23)
 - Red: Jesus died for our sins. (Hebrews 9:22b)
 - White: We can ask Jesus to wash away our sin and make us clean. (Acts 16:31)
 - Green: We can grow and learn more about Jesus. (2 Peter 3:18a)

On Track Map

Topical Lesson: Getting to know the book of Psalms

Know Right:	Psalms is a group of songs written to God.
Think Right:	"May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight." Psalms 19:14a
Do Right:	I will worship God.
Feel Right:	I can feel good about worshipping God any time.

GET READY!

This lesson is designed to introduce kids to the longest book in the Bible - Psalms. They'll learn some basics about the book, as well as some of 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 the children in your classroom will understand that the Bible is true.

Read: Psalm 19:14a

Know Right: Psalms is a group of songs written to God

GET SET!

Teacher's Notes: You will be using the words "psalms" and "songs" throughout the lesson. These words sound a lot alike and mean very much the same thing. Be conscious of articulating each word clearly each time you use it.

To keep the children from continually shaking their shakers, they should place them on the floor in front of them in between shaking times and place their hands on their knees.

Creative Teaching Supplies:

In advance, make shakers for each child by putting $\frac{1}{8}$ cup of dried beans or rice into small water bottles that are empty and dry. Secure the cap with packing tape.

GO!

Coming In Time

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

Clean Up

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

Large Group Opening Time

Worship Time: *All volunteers should assist children to the designated learning area for worship. Choose 2-3 worship songs to sing with the children. Options are in the Resources Booklet of the current curriculum.*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bible Lesson

I love my Bible. Hold it close to show how you cherish it. I love learning about what is in my Bible. Hold your Bible up and then open it just about in the middle - a little toward the front. Look, it opened to the book of Psalms.

Let’s look at this special book of the Bible called Psalms. Can you say “Psalms”? Have children repeat the word several times. Do you like to sing songs? I do, too. This whole book of Psalms (pronounce clearly) are all songs (pronounce clearly). We don’t know what the songs sounded like because we don’t have the music.

The songs in the book of Psalms praise and worship God and thank Him. But that’s not all! The Bible says to not just sing the songs; we can praise and worship and thank God with instruments, too.

Give each child a shaker and have them place it on the floor in front of them. They should put their hands on their knees in between shaking times.

I’m going to say something from the book of Psalms, and then I will pick up my shaker. When I pick up my shaker, you can pick up your shaker. While we shake, I want everyone to say, “Yes, God!” Then, when I put my shaker down, you put your shaker on the floor and your hands on your knees. Let’s practice doing that.

We’re going to use our shakers to praise and worship God using words from the book of Psalms:

- *Psalms says, “I will praise You as long as I live.” Pick up shaker and say together, “Yes, God!”*

- Psalms says, "Everything on earth will worship You." *Pick up shaker and say together, "Yes, God!"*
- Psalms says, "Give thanks to the Lord for He is good." *Pick up shaker and say, "Yes, God!"*
- Psalms says, "I love the Lord." *Pick up shaker and say together, "Yes, God!"*
- Psalms says, "I will follow God's commands." *Pick up shaker and say together, "Yes, God!"*
- Psalms says, "You are a wonderful God." *Pick up shaker and say together, "Yes, God!"*
- Psalms says, "You are my helper." *Pick up shaker and say together, "Yes, God!"*

We can do more than read verses that praise and worship God. We can make our own songs to praise and worship God! We can praise God wherever we are, whatever we're doing, whenever we want to.

Verse Review Time

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

Tracker Skit

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

Prop: Teacher will need a Bible.

Tracker: (enters singing, tune can be your own) God, You are so loving. God, you are so kind.

Teacher: You sure are in a good mood today, Tracker. What are you singing about?

Tracker: I was just thinkin' about how much God loves me ... and then I started singin'.

Teacher: That makes me really happy, Tracker.

Tracker: (starts to sing another song) I thank You for the trees and the streams and the fish, God. Thank You, thank You, thank You!

Teacher: Now what are you singing about, Tracker?

Tracker: Oh, we went camping the other day and everything we saw was awwwwwesome.

Teacher: Like what?

Tracker: There were so many big, giant trees, and there was a stream right by our tent, and I could see fish swimming in the bottom.

Teacher: Those are all things God made.

Tracker: I know. I learned that here in class.

Teacher: So why are you singing?

Tracker: 'Cuz I thought that would be a good way to tell God thank you.

Teacher: You're right - it is! Did you know there's a book in the Bible called Psalms? And it's all songs that people wrote to God. Some of them worship God and some of them say "thank you."

Tracker: Can you show me where it is?

Teacher: I sure can. (open Bible to Psalms)

Tracker: I'm writing songs to God, just like the songs in the Bible.

Teacher: You sure are. Well, you just keep on singing to God, Tracker. I'm sure He loves it when you sing praises and thanks to Him!

Craft or Activity

Supplies

- Six pictures of various things to thank God for

Advanced planning: Prepare six pictures of things to thank God for. These can be pulled from magazines or printed from free photo websites. Use pictures that depict things like a garden, all kinds of people, animals, food, a house, a church, doctors/medicine, a beach, or anything a little one might enjoy or associate with. Post these pictures in various parts of the room about your eye level, above the children's heads.

Instructions:

1. Have children huddle together in the center of the room.
2. Make a big deal about them crouching down all together.
3. Create a "thank you" sentence about one of the pictures, such as: "Thank You, God, for good food that makes us strong."
4. The children will look around at the pictures on the walls. When you say, "3, 2, 1... go!", all the kids will run to the picture that reminds them of what you said (picture of food).
5. Gather all of the children under that picture and have them repeat what you originally said, "Thank You, God, for good food that makes us strong."
6. Then have everyone go back to the huddle in the middle of the room. Call out a "thank you" sentence about another picture. Repeat with all of the pictures.
7. At the end, say: We praise and worship God when we thank Him for all the things He created and for taking care of us.

Snack and Lesson Review

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

Our Bible verse can be found in the book of _____, chapter _____, verse _____. Let's clap our hands _____ times and then put them in our laps. After hands are in laps, say the current Bible verse.

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

Review questions to ask during snack:

1. Did we learn about the book of Psalms or the book of Matthew today? (Psalms)
2. Is Psalms a book of stories or a book of songs? (Songs)
3. What can we use besides our voices to praise God? (Instruments, shakers, our hands to clap, etc.)
4. Who can praise God? (Everyone)
5. Name something you want to thank God for.

On Track Map

Topical Lesson: Tragedy

Know Right:	God is our help in times of trouble.
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 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 children. As you prepare, pray for God’s perfect peace to fill you and your children. 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 God will give you a clear understanding of Scripture and that the children in your class will feel the depth of God’s love for them this week, knowing that He is our help in times of trouble.

Read: Psalm 46

Know Right: God is our help in times of trouble

GET SET!

Teacher’s Note: This is a difficult lesson for two-year-olds. Due to the family-based curriculum (all age groups learn the same lesson), we will introduce a few basic concepts during this lesson and focus on going to God for help and comfort.

Creative Teaching Supplies:

- Feel Right poster (see Resources Booklet)
- Pictures of the following: a thunderstorm, a dark bedroom, and cracks in a road to represent an earthquake (see Resources Booklet)

Special Note for Directors and 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. The example is geared toward older children but may be of help to parents of younger children as well, as they learn how to navigate hard situations with their children both now and in the years to come.

GO!

Coming In Time

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

Clean Up

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

Large Group Opening Time

Worship Time: *All volunteers should assist children to the designated learning area for worship. Choose 2-3 worship songs to sing with the children. Options are in the Resources Booklet of the current curriculum.*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Note: For this Get on Track Lesson, we recommend reviewing and emphasizing Joshua 1:9 rather than the current Think Right verse.

This verse teaches us God will be with us wherever we go. Let’s stand up and say our verse with actions:

“Have I not commanded you? Be strong (show right muscle) **and courageous** (show left muscle). **Do not be terrified** (shake right pointer finger); **do not be discouraged** (shake left pointer finger), **for the Lord** (point up) **your God** (other pointer finger up) **will be with you wherever you go** (open hands start near ears and move downward out in front of you to make a path).” **Joshua 1:9**

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

Bible Lesson

Do you ever feel sad or scared? *Use the Feel Right poster to show children examples of scared and sad faces.* Did you know that God promises to always be with us, no matter what?

The Bible teaches us in the Old Testament (*point to Bible*) that God is always with us. God is our help, even when we experience something scary or sad. He loves us, and we can ask Him for help if we are ever sad or afraid. How do we ask God for help? (By praying and talking to Him)

Hold up picture of thunderstorm. A thunderstorm is sometimes scary. That's when there's a big storm outside with rain, lightning, and thunder. What does a thunderstorm sound like? *Coach children to make clapping sounds with their hands to mimic the sound of thunder.*

Is God still with us if there's a thunderstorm outside? (Yes!) If we ever feel afraid, we can go to God and ask for help.

Hold up picture of dark bedroom. Sometimes we don't like to be in the dark. It might feel scary. Can you close your eyes with me? When you close your eyes, it is very dark! We can't see anything!

Is God still with us when it is dark? (Yes!) If we ever feel alone, we can go to God and ask for help.

Hold up picture of cracks in the road. Have you ever felt an earthquake? It is when the ground shakes. Let's see if we can make the ground in our room sound like an earthquake. *Coach children to stomp on the ground loudly.*

Is God still with us if there's an earthquake shaking the ground? (Yes!) Even during an earthquake, we can go to God and ask for help.

We can go to God anytime to ask for help. He is very strong, and He promises that He is always with us! That makes me feel comforted.

Verse Review Time

Let's stand up and practice our verse, Joshua 1:9, with actions.

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong (show right muscle) **and courageous** (show left muscle). **Do not be terrified** (shake right pointer finger); **do not be discouraged** (shake left pointer finger), **for the Lord** (point up) **your God** (other pointer finger up) **will be with you wherever you go** (open hands start near ears and move downward out in front of you to make a path)." **Joshua 1:9**

Tracker Skit

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

Teacher: Boys and girls, let's see if Tracker is here today. Can you help me call him? 1, 2, 3, Tracker!

Silence for a few moments. Then Tracker should sniffle but remain hidden.

Teacher: Did you hear that? That sounded like Tracker... Is he crying? Tracker, do you want to talk about something?

Tracker should slowly come up.

Tracker: (Sniffles) Hi, _____. I'm just kinda sad...and I feel all alone!

WL: Oh, Tracker! I'm so sorry to hear that you're feeling sad and alone. But did you know that you're never really alone? God promises that He is always with us. He is our help, which means we can always go to Him.

T: Wow, _____! That is reeeeeeeally good news.

WL: You're right, it is good news! Whenever we go through hard times, or we feel scared, or we feel sad, we can remember to call out to God and know that He is with us, and He will help us. Do you know what it's called when we call out to God?

T: Yeah, that's called prayin'! I already learned that I can talk to God any time, anywhere. He always hears me.

WL: You're right, Tracker! God hears us when we pray, and He is with us all the time. How does that make you feel, Tracker?

T: It makes me feel a lot better. I feel comforted, and I know God loves me.

WL: God loves you very much, Tracker! See you next week!

T: Bye, friends! See ya next week!

Craft or Activity

Supplies:

- Activity sheet with "I can feel comforted when I go to God" and a simple smiley face (see Resources Booklet)
- Crayons

Instructions:

1. Say: God is our help! That means we can go to God any time. How can you feel when you go to God? Show me with your faces. (Happy, comforted, content)
2. Say: We can feel comforted when we go to God. Let's color a picture that helps us remember that we can go to God and feel comforted.
3. Have children color the smiley face.

Snack and Lesson Review

Verse Activity: Our Bible verse can be found in Joshua, chapter 1, verse 9. Let's all clap one time when I say, "Joshua 1:9", and then put our hands in our lap. Joshua 1:9! *Children clap one time and then put their hands in their laps. After hands are in laps, say Joshua 1:9.*

Pray: *Thank God for the snack and for being our help in times of trouble. Encourage children to fold their hands, bow their heads, and close their eyes. Remind them that praying is talking to God. Open prayer with, "Dear Heavenly Father" and close with, "...in Jesus' name, Amen."*

Review questions to ask during snack:

1. Who can we go to for help and comfort when sad or scary things happen? (God)
2. Is God always with me? (Yes)
3. Is God with me if I feel scared? (Yes)
4. Is God with me if I feel sad? (Yes)
5. Is God with me if I feel alone? (Yes)

6. How do I ask God for help? (By praying and talking to Him)
7. Who is our help? (God)

Review Activities

Supplies:

- Ball

Instructions:

1. Have children sit in a circle.
2. One at a time, you (the leader) will say, “_____ will go to God” (*insert the name of the child*), and then roll the ball to that child. Have the child roll the ball back to you.
3. Repeat this activity with each child.

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 children 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 the children in your class will love being part of the church throughout their lives.

Read: 1 Corinthians 12:27

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

GET SET!

Teacher's Note: Our goal this week is to teach a foundational principle to our children: the church is not a destination, but the people who believe in Jesus. God doesn't love the building or want to have a relationship with it, He loves the people.

Creative Teaching Supplies:

- Create an outline of a person and add in body parts as you teach the lesson
- Wordless Book

GO!

Coming In Time

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

Clean Up

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

Large Group Opening Time

Worship Time: *All volunteers should assist children to the designated learning area for worship. Choose 2-3 worship songs to sing with the children. Options are in the Resources Booklet of the current curriculum.*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bible Lesson

I love coming to church to be with my friends. But even when we are not at church, we can do many things to celebrate and worship God.

What can we do with our ears? *Point to your ears, then add ears to your outline.* We can listen to God’s Words from the Bible. You can ask someone in your family to read to you.

What can we do with our eyes? *Point to your eyes, then add eyes to your outline.* We can look for people who need help and help them. Or we can look out our window and thank God for making everything.

What can we do with our mouth? *Point to your mouth, then add a mouth to your outline.* We can sing praises to God, and we can tell others about Him. Let’s use our mouth to review the Wordless book colors. *Review the Wordless Book with children.*

What can we do with our hands? *Add hands to your outline.* We can clap and play musical instruments for God. *Have children clap their hands.* We can use our hands to pray, and we can also use our hands to help others. We can use our hands to hold someone’s hand when they are sad or scared. We can also use our hands to share something with a friend or someone in our family.

We can celebrate and worship God at church and when we’re at home. This brings glory to God. Our God is great, and He loves us so much!

Verse Review Time

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

Tracker Skit

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

Teacher: How are you feeling today, Tracker?

Tracker: Super-de-duper! It's a great day.

Teacher: Good, because I have a question for you.

Tracker: I'm ready. Give it to me!

Teacher: The question is: What is a church made from?

Tracker: (looks around) Ummm...bricks.

Teacher: No. Try again.

Tracker: (look around some more) Ummm...wood.

Teacher: No. Try again.

Tracker: Oh, boy! This is hard. Windows and doors?

Teacher: Nope.

Tracker: I give up. What's a church made out of?

Teacher: People!

Tracker: What do you mean?

Teacher: From the Bible, we learn that the church is the people who love Jesus.

Tracker: Sooooo, that means you're the church, and I'm the church 'cuz we follow Jesus?

Teacher: That's exactly right.

Tracker: That's so cool! I'm going to see if my mom knows what a church is made from. Bye!

Craft or Activity

Supplies:

- Activity sheet with "I can celebrate and worship God with my...eyes, ears, mouth, and hands" (see Resources Booklet)
- Pictures of eyes, ears, mouth, and hands (cut in advance; one set per child) (see Resources Booklet)
- Glue sticks

Instructions:

Children will glue on parts of the body as leaders review the lesson.

Snack and Lesson Review

Verse Activity:

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

Our Bible verse can be found in the book of _____, chapter _____, verse _____. Let's clap our hands _____ times and then put them in our laps. *After hands are in laps, say the current Bible verse.*

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

Review questions to ask during snack:

1. How can we use our hands for God?
2. How can we use our eyes for God?
3. How can we use our ears for God?
4. How can we use our mouths for God?

Review Activities

Supplies:

- Individual pictures of a hand, a mouth, an ear, an eye; lay pictures on the floor (see Resources Booklet)
- Painter's tape (or masking tape) (create a line using painter's tape about two feet away from the pictures for children to stand behind)
- Beanbags
- Note: for large classes, set up several stations with pictures and lines

Instructions:

1. Children will take turns tossing a beanbag.
2. If their beanbag lands on a picture, ask them how they can celebrate and worship God by using that part of their body.

Runners Printable Resources

Year 3 - Quarter 4



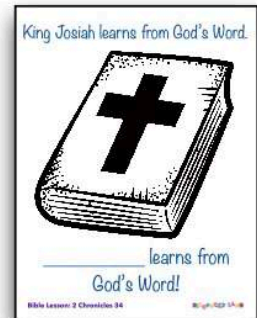
Lesson 1
Our God is Great banner



Lesson 2
God hears my prayers



Lesson 3
O is for Obey with Jonah



Lesson 4
King Josiah learns from God's Word



Lesson 5
God has a plan for ____
(page 2 is enough for three children)



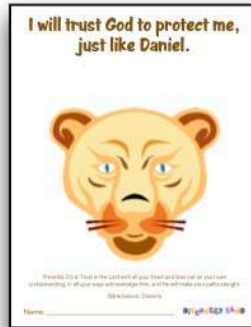
Lesson 6
Choose God's Way



Lesson 7
Ask God for Wisdom
(page 2 is enough for two children)



Lesson 8
Shadrach, Meshach, and
Abednego



Lesson 9
Daniel in the lions' den



Lesson 11
God gives me courage



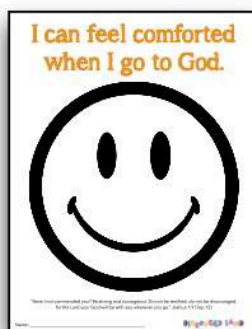
Get on Track Lesson
When Tragedy Happens
Feel Right poster



Get on Track Lesson
When Tragedy Happens
Creative Teaching Supply:
Pictures for lesson



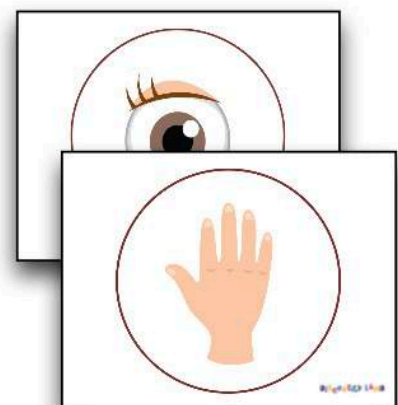
Get on Track Lesson
When Tragedy Happens
Parent Letter



Get on Track Lesson
When Tragedy Happens
I can feel comforted



Get on Track Lesson
The Church
I can celebrate and worship



Get on Track Lesson
The Church
Review Activity - body parts

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 9:28b** in your Bible.
 Have child put their name in the sentence, "Jesus died for _____'s sin."

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

DISCOVERY LAND

Coaching Kids For Salvation

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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


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

Adapted from CEF salvation training.


DISCOVERY LAND

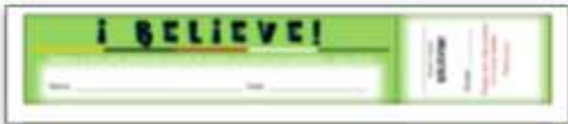
To assist you with presenting the Gospel and beginning to disciple a child, the DL program provides the *Believe It or Not?* booklet, the *Now What's Next?* booklet, and the *I Believe* bookmark.

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



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





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

Acknowledgements and Permissions

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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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