

DISCOVERY LAND

Year 2 – Quarter 2

Winter 2024-25

Elementary Curriculum



A Message from Kris Smoll

Dear Leaders,

Welcome to a new quarter! Over the next few months, we have the honor of studying and celebrating the life of Jesus, as we walk through the exciting book of Matthew. It is made clear through these chapters that the Jesus we love and serve is caring, powerful, and all-knowing. Each week, as you prepare to serve, I challenge you to pause and really think about the 4 Rights of the lesson. What do you know, think, and ultimately do with this lesson? Personalize these truths as you prepare to work with the students. Then after applying the lesson, ask yourself, “How do I feel through a biblical worldview lens?” God working in your own life first will ignite a fire in your soul to joyfully serve each week. Stay strong; your students need you to be a spiritual role model, prayer warrior, and cheerleader for them each week.

Looking forward to watching God use you to advance His Kingdom!

Kris Smoll
Executive Director of Discovery Land Global

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Understanding the Curriculum

Overview

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

The curriculum was developed to teach students:

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

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

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

Leaders

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

LEADER TIPS

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

Smaller classes may combine the DT Leader and Shepherd positions.

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

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

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

Elementary Program Overview

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

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

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

SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

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

Pre-Service Review Game

LEADER TIPS

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

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

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

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

Worship

Worship is designed to:

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

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

LEADER TIPS

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

Discover Time

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

LEADER TIPS

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

Bible Lesson

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

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

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

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

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

Suggested steps for preparing your Bible lesson:

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

End-of-Class Review Game

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

LEADER TIP

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

Classroom Resources

The following teaching tools are provided in the classroom:

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

Tracker Tickets

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

Currency Rate

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

Tracker's Treasures

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

Elementary Syllabus

Year 2 – Quarter 2

Topical Lesson: December 1, 2024

New Testament Flyover

- Know Right:** Jesus is real, alive, and powerful.
Think Right: John 14:6 (Top 12)
Do Right: I can have a personal relationship with Jesus.
Feel Right: I can feel confident that Jesus is real and is alive.

Lesson 1: December 8, 2024

Matthew 1

- Know Right:** God has a plan for Mary and Joseph.
Think Right: Jeremiah 29:11
Do Right: I will wait patiently for God's plan for my life.
Feel Right: I can feel hopeful knowing God has a plan for my life.

Lesson 2: December 15, 2024

Luke 2:1-20

- Know Right:** Jesus is born.
Think Right: John 3:16 (Top 12)
Do Right: I will celebrate God's gift of our Savior, Jesus.
Feel Right: I can feel joyful when I celebrate God's gift of our Savior, Jesus.

Topical Lesson: December 22, 2024

Jesus is worthy of our worship

- Know Right:** Jesus is worthy of our worship.
Think Right: John 14:6 (Top 12)
Do Right: I will worship Jesus.
Feel Right: I can feel joyful when I worship Jesus.

Lesson 3: December 29, 2024

Matthew 2

- Know Right:** God protects Jesus from King Herod.
Think Right: John 14:6 (Top 12)
Do Right: I will believe that Jesus can save me from my sin.
Feel Right: I can feel safe knowing Jesus can save me from my sin.

Lesson 4: January 5, 2025

Matthew 4:1-17

- Know Right:** Satan tempts Jesus.
Think Right: Psalm 119:11
Do Right: I will use God's Word to resist temptation.
Feel Right: I can feel confident when I use God's Word to resist temptation.

Lesson 5: January 12, 2025

Matthew 6:25-34

- Know Right:** Jesus teaches about worry.
Think Right: Proverbs 3:5-6 (Top 12)
Do Right: I will not worry, but instead I will trust God.
Feel Right: I can feel peaceful when I trust God.

Lesson 6: January 19, 2025

Matthew 7:24-29

- Know Right:** Jesus teaches about the wise and foolish builders.
Think Right: Proverbs 3:5-6 (Top 12)
Do Right: I will build my life on God's Word.
Feel Right: I can feel secure when I build my life on God's Word.

Lesson 7: January 26, 2025

Matthew 8:5-13

- Know Right:** The centurion believes in Jesus.
Think Right: Acts 16:31(Top 12)
Do Right: I will put my total faith in Jesus.
Feel Right: I can feel confident when I put my faith in Jesus.

Lesson 8: February 2, 2025

Matthew 9:35 – 10:4

- Know Right:** Jesus loves people and wants them to know Him.
Think Right: 1 Corinthians 15:58 (Top 12)
Do Right: I will tell people about Jesus.
Feel Right: I can feel joyful when I tell people about Jesus.

~~Lesson 9: (this lesson is not being used during this sequence)~~

~~Matthew 13:1-23~~

- ~~Know Right:~~** ~~Jesus teaches the parable of the sower.~~
~~Think Right:~~ ~~2 Peter 3:18a (Top 12)~~
~~Do Right:~~ ~~I will grow with Jesus.~~
~~Feel Right:~~ ~~I can feel excited when I grow with Jesus.~~

Lesson 10: February 9, 2025

Matthew 14:13-21

- Know Right:** Jesus feeds the 5,000.
Think Right: 1 Peter 5:7
Do Right: I will depend on Jesus for all of my needs.
Feel Right: I can feel satisfied when I depend on Jesus for all of my needs.

Lesson 11: February 16, 2025

Review Day (Basketball Championship)

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

Lesson 12: February 23, 2025: Testing Day

Quarter Overview

Year 2 – Quarter 2

Our journey through the Bible continues as we soar 1,400 years forward in time. The Israelites are living in their promised land of Canaan, now the country of Israel, where many generations have come and gone. They have continued to experience the glory and power of God, as well as His divine wrath. Some have walked in great faith, while most have walked in disobedience.

As the book of Hebrews tells us, those who walked in faith “were commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised. God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect.” (Hebrews 11:39-40)

Now the Israelites, while under the rule of the Roman Empire, are about to witness the event that split time in two and changed the world forever.

Our walk with Jesus through Matthew begins by looking back through Israel’s history. We recognize many heroes of our faith in the genealogy of Jesus’ earthly father, Joseph. As God promised through the ages, we find that Jesus was indeed a descendant of King David – a prophecy fulfilled. More importantly, we learn that Jesus is God’s gift to us, born to a virgin named Mary and sent by God to save us from our sin. This miracle from God was another prophecy fulfilled and proof that God has an incredible plan for His people.

When Jesus was born, God spoke again through His angel to some shepherds tending their sheep in the fields. The news was the greatest in history: the Savior of the world had been born in Bethlehem! When they heard what the angels proclaimed, the shepherds hurried to see the tiny Savior, and when they had seen Him, they celebrated and told others the Good News. For how could they not? We have the same Good News, so this season let’s celebrate God’s gift of our Savior, Jesus.

The miracle of Jesus’ birth was not welcomed by everyone. Although Magi from the east came to find and worship the Savior of the world, King Herod issued an order that all boys two years old and under be killed. But, as we’ve learned in the past, nothing can ruin God’s plan! God sent Jesus to Egypt to escape evil King Herod – another prophecy fulfilled. We witness how God protected His Son, Jesus, so He could grow up to save us from our sin.

As we wander into the desert, we find that Jesus was tempted by Satan during His forty-day-and-night fast. Just as Jesus conquered every one of Satan’s enticements with Scripture, we too must learn to use God’s Word to resist temptation.

One specific temptation Jesus taught His followers to resist was the temptation to worry. While the daily issues the followers of Jesus dealt with may be different from our own, the same basic principle from Jesus' famous Sermon on the Mount is true for all people, over all time: God is faithful, and His plan can be trusted. His followers have no need to worry. If we trust that His teachings are true, we will want to follow them. Then, no matter what is going on around us, we will know with certainty that He is in control, He loves us, and He will provide exactly what we need – though not necessarily what we want – at exactly the right time, according to His great plan. We can learn from this lesson that we should not worry, and instead we should trust God.

We find we have a choice to make when we learn from the wise and foolish builders. We can build our lives on the shifting sand of this world, and be destined for destruction, or we can build our lives on the Rock, the truth of God's Word, that will help us remain safe and secure. Jesus is our Rock, and our house will stand firm when He is our foundation, and we build our lives on His Word.

Jesus wants us to have faith in Him, believing even when we can't see. Once, long ago, a Roman centurion counted on Jesus when he was in need, and Jesus rewarded his great faith from afar. Jesus wants us to have the same faith; the question is, will you put your total faith in Him?

When we have come to know Jesus and have faith in Him, we understand that those who don't are lost, they have no hope, and are destined to eternal punishment. Yes, "the workers are few", but because Jesus loves people and wants them to know Him, we should live our lives telling people about Jesus.

(Lesson 9 is not being used during this sequence) *The parable of the sower depicts the important truth that people have a choice to grow with Jesus. Will people allow God's Word to penetrate their lives? Will the difficult times they experience be a reason for them to turn away from the truth? Will the temptations of this world cause them to become stagnant and wilt? Or will they make the choice to become productive for His Kingdom? Will we choose to grow with Jesus?*

Once we get to know Jesus, we understand that we should rely on Him to meet all of our needs. Jesus fed the 5,000 with five loaves of bread and two fish. Whether He provides what's needed for our daily existence or helps us through our major struggles in life, we should always remember that Jesus cares for us. We can depend on Jesus for all of our needs.

This is our Jesus. He is the promised Messiah for whom the Israelites were waiting. He is the one who loves us so much that He took our punishment so that we might be saved. As we walk with Him through the book of Matthew, let's meditate on His Word and marvel at His wonders so that through each lesson, we might become more like Him.

On Track Map – December 1, 2024

Topical Lesson: New Testament Flyover

Know Right:	Jesus is real, alive, and powerful.
Think Right:	“Jesus answered, ‘I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.’” John 14:6 (Top 12)
Do Right:	I can have a personal relationship with Jesus.
Feel Right:	I can feel confident that Jesus is real and is alive.

GET READY!

It’s amazing to know that Jesus is real, alive, and powerful. His life, death, and resurrection are real events that actually happened. He is God the Son, and it’s incredible to think that He knows each of us and wants to have a personal relationship with us. His grace saves us and sustains us. Let’s commit to pursuing Jesus and spending time with Him, not out of duty but out of reverence, awe, and love.

Pray: Pray Psalm 119:129-133 over your students. Ask God to do something amazing in their lives as they seek after Jesus.

Read: Review the books of Luke and Acts to get an overview of the NT timeline.

Know Right: Jesus is real, alive, and powerful

GET SET!

Lead Teacher’s Notes:

- This is a fast-moving flyover of the New Testament. Being well prepared will help you to focus on drawing kids into the lesson as you bring the NT to life.
- Often restate, “Jesus is real, alive, and powerful” throughout this lesson.
- For younger students, skip Jesus being tempted.

Creative Ideas for the Bible Lesson:

1. For each subtopic within the lesson, have a sword drill so students can compete to find the right book and chapter. Write the references noted within the lesson on your whiteboard in advance. Cover each

one with a piece of paper and remove the paper to reveal each reference as you do the sword drill. Also have students point to a picture on the timeline that matches each subtopic.

2. Use timeline pictures to teach the lesson. Have students hold the pictures as you teach, hang pictures on a clothesline in your room, or add arrows to your classroom timeline. Before adding another picture, quickly go back and review from the beginning of the timeline, so students can confidently talk through the NT when you are finished. (see appendix)
3. Create a timeline by making simple items from LEGO bricks such as a manger, temple with a person in it, Jesus talking with people, etc.
4. Give each student a tub of Play-Doh. After you've covered each topic, give them 30 seconds to a minute to mold something that represents that portion of the timeline. Award one Tracker Ticket to the student with the best piece of art. (This idea works best with older students.)

GO!

Pre-Service Review Game and Worship

Worship Leaders will lead students in a review game followed by worship. Details are in the appendix.

Discover Time: Real, Alive, Powerful!

Goal: To build confidence in who Jesus is – **real, alive, and powerful.**

Location: Open space

Supplies:

- Tracker Tickets

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Similar to the game “Rock, Paper, Scissors”, we will have a competition called “Real, Alive, Powerful” to reinforce who Jesus is in the New Testament. He is real (hands over heart), alive (hands up), and powerful (make muscles).
2. Have students practice several times shouting the words as they do the motion for each word, so they are confident with the motions.
3. Have two leaders at the front of the room – Leader #1 (the DT Leader) will lead the students and Leader #2 (a Shepherd or Lead Teacher) will strike a pose for each round. Leader #2 should stand with their back turned to the students.
4. Leader #1 should lead the students with confidence as they all shout, “Jesus is real, alive, and powerful. GO!” On “GO!”, students will quickly choose a pose and hold that pose.
5. Leader #2 will then quickly turn around striking a pose. All students whose pose matches Leader #2’s pose, are out and should move to the sidelines.
6. As each new round begins, have the students on the sidelines join in with Leader #1 by saying, “Jesus is real, alive, and powerful. GO!” before the remaining students do the next pose.
7. The last student standing receives three Tracker Tickets.
8. Have all students join back in and repeat the competition as time allows.
9. Optional: After a while, allow a student with good leadership abilities to either lead the challenge as Leader #1 or strike the pose as Leader #2.

Bible Lesson Introduction

Lead Teachers ~ Connecting the DT to the Lesson: What is Jesus like? He is real, alive, and powerful! Let's check the facts in our Bible to discover where and when He proved that He is real, alive, and powerful. Are you ready? Let's go!

Pray: Challenge a student to open the class in prayer. Encourage them to stand tall and to be confident as they pray. (Tip: If you have a youth leader in the class, have them lead the class in prayer once a month as a role model for the students.)

Find It: Today we are going to quickly talk through the books of Luke and Acts. To get ready for our adventure, open your Bible to the book of Luke.

Timeline: Point to the timeline and explain that we will be learning some of the main points of the whole New Testament today.

Introduction to the Bible Lesson:

For the past six months, we have learned about the Israelites in the Old Testament. Today our journey through the Bible continues as we soar 1,400 years forward in time. The Israelites are living in their promised land of Canaan, now the country of Israel, where many generations (kids, parents, grandparents, great-parents, great-great-grandparents, etc.) have come and gone. They have continued to experience the glory and power of God, as well as the consequences of their sin. Some of the people have obeyed God and stayed close to Him, but most have turned from God and chosen to sin over and over again.

Now the Israelites, while under the rule of the Roman Empire, are about to be introduced to the promised Savior who they have been waiting for a long, long, long, long time. His name is Jesus. Who is Jesus? Was He really real and powerful, and is He still alive today? Let's learn about when He was born and what happened as He grew up.

Scripture Outline: Luke and Acts

Jesus is born (Bible timeline picture: Jesus is born)



Read Luke 2:8-11

Recap: People were waiting a very, very, very long time for this promised Savior. God promised the people way back in the Old Testament (*point back to Adam and Eve on the timeline*) that He would send a Savior, someone to rescue people from sin and death. He said He would do it, and He did! God always keeps His promises. The shepherds ran to Bethlehem and there, lying in a manger, was a real, living baby. His name was Jesus, and He was God the Son. What Top 12 verse reminds us that Jesus was God's one and only son? *Recite John 3:16.* Jesus was God's one and only son.

Jesus grows up (Bible timeline picture: Jesus at the temple)



Read Luke 2:41-42

Recap and paraphrase of Luke 2:43-47: Many times we hear about Jesus as a baby and we hear about what happened when He was a grown man, but what about all of the time in between? Jesus was a real, regular kid. Do you remember how old He was when He was at the temple listening to the teachers and asking questions? (He was 12) When Jesus was 2, 5, 10, 12, 16, 18, 21, and 30, He lived a regular life doing chores, working, and having parents just like us, but He never sinned. He always perfectly did what God the Father wanted.

Jesus is tempted (Bible timeline picture: Temptation in the desert)



Read Luke 4:1-4

Recap: When Jesus grew up, He was actually tempted to sin, just like you. What does this mean? Let's say your parents leave the room or possibly leave you at home alone. Wanting to steal money, watching something bad on your computer screen, or wanting to take food that your mom said you couldn't have are all examples of being tempted. Jesus didn't have a computer, but Satan knew that he could tempt Jesus with other things. Satan knew if Jesus sinned, Jesus could never be the Savior of the world. Did Jesus sin? (No) He was real, alive, and powerful and walked away from temptation and did what was right.

Optional: Ask students, "Have you sinned?" Review the Wordless Book.

Jesus is caring (Bible timeline picture: Jesus cares for the people)



Read Luke 4:38-39

Recap: Jesus loved, taught, and cared for people. He listened to them, talked with them, and when they were sick, He healed them. Wouldn't it be amazing to be in the crowds of people and actually hear the voice of Jesus teaching? Or, if you were sick, wouldn't it be amazing to feel the hand of Jesus touching you and then watching your body become cured of the illness? Jesus really cared for people. He is real, alive, and powerful.

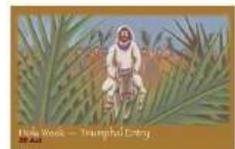
Jesus teaches (Bible timeline picture: Jesus teaches)



Paraphrase of Luke 15-18:

Jesus wanted everyone to know about His Father, God. He taught people through parables or stories that would help people believe and grow to be more like Him. What verse teaches us to grow and learn God's Word? *Have students recite 2 Peter 3:18a.*

Celebrate Jesus (Bible timeline picture: Holy Week – Triumphal Entry)



Read Luke 19:37-38

Recap: When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the people were happy and praised Him. They sang, waved palm branches, and shouted with joy. But there was a group of people who were not happy. They hated Jesus and didn't believe He was the promised Savior that God sent. They tried to trick Him and eventually lied about Him. This led to a group of people wanting to kill Him.

Crucifixion

Paraphrase of Luke 22-23:

Their evil plan was successful. People believed them and made fun of and laughed at Jesus. They beat Him, and then the Roman soldiers took Jesus and nailed Him to the cross, put a spear in His side, and then Jesus died. Jesus never sinned. He didn't deserve to die; it wasn't fair. The Bible tells us in Hebrews 9:22b, "...without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness." This means, it wasn't by accident that Jesus died; His death on the cross was God's way to rescue us from sin and death.

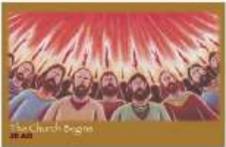
Resurrection (Bible timeline picture: Jesus' death and resurrection)



Read Luke 24:1-12

Recap: Did Jesus stay dead? No! On the third day, Jesus came back to life! We can read in the Bible that many people saw Him, He ate food, He talked, and He walked around. He did this for 40 days, and then He ascended to heaven (Acts 1). This means He went up to heaven as His disciples watched. Jesus was alive then, and He is still real, alive, and powerful today!

The Church Age (Bible timeline picture: The Church begins)



Paraphrase of Acts 2:

After Jesus left, He gave someone very special to the church, which is the group of people who believed in Him. He gave them the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is God the Spirit, and He's real, alive, and powerful, too. He lives inside anyone who has made a personal decision to believe in Jesus. *Review the Wordless Book.* The church served others and taught many about Jesus. They were a family, and they loved each other and took care of each other.

Stephen (Bible timeline picture: Stephen, the first martyr)



Paraphrase of Acts 6:8 - 7:60:

Stephen was part of the church, and he courageously told others about Jesus. He was not ashamed to tell the truth of the Good News of Jesus. Some people were excited about what Stephen said, and others became very angry at him. They threw stones at him and killed him.

Read Acts 7:54-60

Optional: Paraphrase this passage for younger students.

Recap: What happened to Stephen was wrong, but, even at the end of his life, he prayed this prayer for those who were hurting him: "Lord, do not hold this against them." One of the men who hurt him was named Saul. Saul hated Christians and wanted them destroyed.

Paul (Bible timeline picture: Saul to Paul - conversion)



Paraphrase of Acts 9:

God answered Stephen's prayer, and God revealed Himself to Saul with a bright light. After hearing the Good News of Jesus, Saul's whole life changed. Instead of wanting to hurt Christians, he became a Christian who wanted to tell others about Jesus! Saul's name was changed to Paul, as he transformed into a new person who truly loved God. Paul believed that Jesus was real, alive, and powerful.

Return of Christ (Bible timeline picture: Revelation - Jesus will return)



Our last picture is of Jesus coming back. Most of us know John 14:2. Let's say it together. *Recite John 14:2 with the class.* Does anyone know what John 14:3 says? Let me read it from my Bible.

Read John 14:3

Recap: He's coming back! Jesus is alive, and He is coming back and will take those who believe in Him to heaven. This will be an amazing day! We don't know the year, day, or time, but in the Bible, it talks about this incredible day. Until then, keep serving our real, alive, and powerful God.

Conclusion

Occasionally we hear about people questioning if Jesus is real. There is no doubt, as we study the New Testament, that He was a real human - He had a body just like ours, He ate food, He talked with people, and He died on the cross. He is so powerful – He healed people, He rose again from the dead, and He is coming back.

Do Right and Feel Right

How does it make you feel to know that Jesus is real, alive, and powerful? *Refer to the Feel Right poster.* Jesus is amazing, but have you ever talked with Jesus? What would you talk about? For those who have never talked with Him, maybe you need to start off and tell Him you want Him to save you from your sins and be the leader of your life. This is a big deal. Just think about how God changed Saul to Paul after he encountered Jesus. Jesus can change you, too! For those who have made this decision, do you talk to Him every day? Do you listen to Him as you read your Bible? Do you worship Him as you sing? This is how you grow in your relationship with Him. This week let's think of practical ways you can grow in your relationship with Jesus.

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

The DT Leader or Shepherd will lead students in a review game. Game ideas are in the appendix.

1. What is Jesus like? (Real, alive, and powerful)
2. Who announced the birth of Jesus? (Angels announced it to the shepherds)
3. How old was Jesus when He was at the temple listening to the teachers and asking questions? (He was 12)
4. Was Jesus ever tempted? (Yes)
5. Did Jesus sin? (No) *For older students: Why is this important? (Because He had to be perfect – without sin – to be our Savior)*
6. How do you know Jesus rose again? (Many saw Him, He ate food, He talked with people)
7. What did God give to the church/those who believe in Him? (The Holy Spirit)
8. Saul's name was changed to _____ after he became a Christian. (Paul)
9. Who believed in Jesus and was killed/stoned for his faith? (Stephen)
10. Is Jesus coming back? (Yes!)

Lesson 1 – December 8, 2024

Matthew 1

Know Right:	God has a plan for Mary and Joseph.
Think Right:	“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” Jeremiah 29:11
Do Right:	I will wait patiently for God’s plan for my life.
Feel Right:	I can feel hopeful knowing God has a plan for my life.

GET READY!

Has God ever asked you to do something that made you feel uncomfortable or even scared? God often invites us into uncomfortable situations as part of His bigger plan and uses these situations to show us His mighty love and power. How incredible that God included Mary to be part of His big plan to bring our Savior, His Son, into the world! Like Mary, we can feel hopeful knowing that God has a perfect plan for our lives.

Pray: During the week, pray for emotional, spiritual, and physical protection over the students in your class. Ask God to give them a deep desire to know and study His Word for their full life. Also pray that parents will make it a priority to coach their children spiritually every day.

Read: Matthew 1

Know Right: God has a plan for Mary and Joseph

Our walk with Jesus through Matthew begins by looking back through Israel’s history. We recognize many heroes of our faith in the genealogy of Jesus’ earthly father, Joseph. As God has promised through the ages, we find that Jesus was indeed a descendant of King David – a prophecy fulfilled. More importantly, we learn that Jesus is God’s gift to us, born to a virgin named Mary and sent by God to save us from our sin. This miracle from God was another prophecy fulfilled and proof that God has an incredible plan for His people.

GET SET!

Lead Teacher's Notes:

- Please refer to the Children's Ministry Resource Bible: page 1187-1189 (read commentary notes).

Creative Ideas for the Bible Lesson: *We encourage teachers to use both of these creative ideas.*

1. Create a biblical family tree and fill it in as you talk. Highlight how each person waited for Jesus, the greatest gift ever. Use square pieces of paper on your whiteboard to create the tree. Connect squares (family tree) with marker lines. Add additional symbols next to key people, such as stars around Abraham, a red rope by Rahab, grain by Boaz and Ruth, a crown by King David, etc. When you come to the name of Jesus, design His box to look like a special gift. To save time before students arrive, write names under the paper, or on the back of the paper, so you just need to reveal the names.
2. As you read off names in the lesson, have students stand up if they recognize the person and allow them to share one fact about that person. Refer to the timeline as needed.

GO!

Pre-Service Review Game and Worship

Worship Leaders will lead students in a review game followed by worship. Details are in the appendix.

Discover Time: Wait for it...

Goal: To experience the feeling of **waiting**.

Kindergarten: Chalk Wall

Supplies:

- Sponges for all students
- Buckets of water
- Portable whiteboard, dry erase marker, and eraser

Setup instructions: The chalk wall should be covered in chalk art when the class arrives. Jeremiah 29:11 should be written on the portable whiteboard.

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Have students arrive at the chalk wall to notice that it is already covered with chalk art.
2. Have students clean the chalk wall with wet sponges.
3. Encourage students to sit down and **wait** for the chalkboard to dry.
4. As they are **waiting**, have students learn Jeremiah 29:11. Have students read the verse out loud; then erase a word from the whiteboard. Every time they recite the verse, erase another word. They should be reading the words that are on the board and reciting from memory the ones that have been erased.
5. Continue to highlight that you are **waiting**. Talk about whether **waiting** is easy or hard.
6. As soon as the chalk wall is completely dry, have students race to cover the wall with words or pictures that remind them of Jeremiah 29:11. If you have multiple services, do not erase the chalk art after you are finished. The following class will clean them for you.

1st Grade: Food Station

Supplies:

- Mixing bowl, measuring cups, large spoon, baking pans (for each group)
- Ingredients for cookies (tip: pre-measure ingredients into containers)
- Recipe cards (use recipe below or your favorite recipe from home) (see appendix)
- Oven
- A volunteer to bake the cookies while students are in class

Note: *If there are more than ten students in your class, provide enough supplies so each group of approximately ten students can make their own batch of cookies.*

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Inform students that their DT activity today is to make cookie dough.
2. Have students take turns stirring, adding ingredients, and scooping the dough onto the pan.
3. Throughout the activity, continually highlight how long they will need to **wait** for their turn to help, and remind them that they each play an important part in a bigger plan.
4. As students prepare to leave the DT, highlight again how long they will need to **wait** before they get their cookies. (A volunteer will bake the cookies while students are having their Bible lesson.)
5. Near the end of class, you (the DT Leader) should pick up the cookies and take them back to the students in the classroom.
6. When you arrive back to the classroom, encourage students to celebrate that the **wait** is over. Then pray and thank God for the snack and allow students to enjoy the delicious cookies they **waited** so patiently for.

Chocolate Chip Cookies

1 cup butter, softened	2 large eggs
3/4 cup granulated sugar	2 1/4 cups flour
3/4 cup packed brown sugar	1 tsp. baking soda
1 tsp. vanilla extract	1 tsp. salt
	2 cups chocolate chips

Preheat oven to 375° F. Mix butter, granulated sugar, and brown sugar in a mixing bowl until creamy. Add eggs and vanilla extract and stir well. Mix in flour, salt, and baking soda. Fold in chocolate chips. Drop rounded tablespoons of dough onto ungreased baking sheet, keeping them two inches apart. Bake for 9-11 minutes or until edges are golden brown. Cool on baking sheet for two minutes; remove to cool completely.

Alternate option: Divide class into groups of five to six students and cut the recipe in half. This will not require students to wait as long as preferred, but it will keep students engaged.

2nd Grade: Mission Station – The Mission Lesson is in the appendix.

3rd Grade: Water Station or large open space

Supplies:

- Four air pumps
- Ten balloons (water-balloon size or small balloons) in four different team colors (note: make sure to use quality balloons; if they are too thin, they may break while trying to put them on the air pumps)
- Tracker Tickets

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Divide students into four colored teams.
2. Students will relay to the air pumps (twenty feet from the team) and pump up their balloon until it bursts. The next runner on the relay must **wait** until it pops before they relay out to burst another balloon.
3. The Teacher and Shepherd should highlight the words "**wait** for it" during the relay handoff and as the balloons are being pumped up.
4. First team to pop all their balloons wins two Tracker Tickets each!
5. Repeat if time permits, continually highlighting the word **wait** throughout this DT.

4th Grade: Sand Station**Supplies:**

- Bell
- Shovels
- Tracker Tickets

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Have students find a partner.
2. The team that builds the tallest sand sculpture will receive five Tracker Tickets.
3. Ring a bell every few minutes while the students are working.
4. Each time the bell rings, the students must freeze and **wait** until the bell rings again.
5. Have fun with this by making students **wait** so long they begin to feel discomfort in their frozen position. Remember, the key word of this DT is **wait**.
6. After the bell rings, students can continue to build. The bell should ring often so the word **wait** is really highlighted.

Optional: If a student moves when they should be frozen, give them a five second penalty after the bell rings.

5th Grade: Art Station**Supplies:**

- Shrinky Dink plastic sheets (cut into ornament shapes and punch a hole in advance, making sure to round the corners)
- Fine tip permanent markers and colored pencils
- Thin red Christmas ribbon (so the art can be hung on a Christmas tree)
- Oven
- A volunteer to assist with baking the Shrinky Dinks and inserting ribbons

Advanced planning: Make sure to test this with your oven, so you know how long they need to be baked.

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Students will work on a Jeremiah 29:11 Shrinky Dink art piece to hang on their Christmas tree. Encourage students to be artistic and to take their time as they work on the project.
2. Highlight how great it will look after you shrink the artwork, but they will need to **wait** until after class to see the end product.
3. The assigned "baker" should make sure a ribbon is attached to each piece of art after baking.
4. When the end product arrives in the class, highlight that it was "worth the **wait**!"

Bible Lesson Introduction

Lead Teachers ~ Connecting the DT to the Lesson: In our Discover Time today, there was one key word; what was it? (Wait) Is waiting always easy to do? Why or why not? How did you feel when you had to wait? In our Bible lesson, we are going to learn about people who had to wait a long time to understand God's plan for their lives. This plan was so big that it even impacts our lives today.

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

Pray: *This is the most important step to start your lesson. Challenge a student to open your class with prayer. Encourage them to stand up and pray with confidence, asking God to help each student in the class to learn something new today.*

Find it: Our lesson today is from Matthew, chapter 1. Matthew is the first book of the New Testament. Let's all open our Bibles to Matthew 1. *Be sensitive to new students who are still learning to navigate their Bibles; ask your Shepherd to help any students that need it.*

Timeline: *The timeline is woven into the lesson today.*

Introduction to the Bible Lesson:

For the next couple of weeks, we are going to be studying the book of Matthew. Guess who wrote the book of Matthew. (God used/inspired Matthew to write this book) Who was Matthew, and why did he write this book? (He was a tax collector who became a disciple of Jesus) People hated Matthew when he was a tax collector. His life changed when he met Jesus, and he actually became one of Jesus' disciples! Matthew was writing to the Jewish people to prove Jesus is the Messiah and to help people understand the Kingdom of God.

Remember in the previous quarter when we talked about the Israelites? The one thing they were promised was that they would someday receive the most incredible gift from God. This gift would be a Savior who would save them from their sin. The Israelites were waiting for the promised Savior.

Scripture Outline: Matthew 1

Genealogy of Jesus

Paraphrase of Matthew 1:1-17:

Give a snapshot of the genealogy of Jesus: Mention names that students have studied: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Boaz and Ruth, Rahab, King David, King Solomon, etc. After each name, point out how they were waiting for God's plan – the arrival of Jesus, the promised Savior.

Why did Matthew write down all these names? Why is it critical to prove to the Jewish people that Jesus was truly the Messiah who could save them from their sins? Matthew was writing this book to the Jewish people as evidence that Jesus was the Messiah they were waiting for.

Isn't it amazing how much God had everything planned out perfectly, so Jesus, the perfect gift, could save His people from their sin?

Mary and Joseph

Read Matthew 1:18

Recap: While Mary and Joseph were engaged, an angel told Mary that God would do a miracle in her. He would use Mary to bring His Son into the world, without using a man as the baby's father.

Note: If questions come up about this, please direct students to talk to their parents and highlight that this was a miracle that we can't fully understand.

How would you feel if you were Mary? *Refer to the Feel Right poster.*

An angel appears

Read Matthew 1:19-23

Recap: An angel later appeared to Joseph in a dream, telling him that the child Mary carried would be called Jesus, for He would save His people from their sin. Sin is anything we think, say, or do that is against God. Have you ever sinned? Sin is a big deal to God because it separates you from Him. God is perfect and holy, but yet He loves you, even though He knows you sin in words, actions, or even your thoughts. That is why God sent Jesus to be our Savior. Without God's perfect Son, Jesus, we would be forever separated from Him for eternity.

This is what all the people in the Old Testament were waiting for. *Point to the Old Testament timeline.* They were waiting for a Savior who could forgive them and save them from their sin. This was huge!

Gospel

Why is it so important that we are forgiven from our sins? *Explain the Gospel message with the Wordless Book.*

How do we know this is all true? Let's look back at verse 22 and compare it to Isaiah 7:14. This is what is called prophecy. The definition of prophecy: What God tells us about the future. God said it, and it came true.

The people had to wait a long, long time — much longer than we had to wait in our DT — but God always keeps His promises.

Notice what they would call Him: Immanuel. Immanuel means "God with us."

Joseph is obedient

Read Matthew 1:24-25

Recap: So, what would you do if you were Joseph? How do you think he felt? *Refer to the Feel Right poster.* Why do you think he would feel that way? Joseph obeyed the angel and took Mary as his wife.

Conclusion

It's amazing how God used so many people to create such an amazing plan, so we can be saved from our sin.

Do Right and Feel Right

Just like God had a plan for all the people we talked about today, He has a plan for your life. Remember how I said that God's big plan still impacts us today? His plan is still for Jesus to be our Savior. There are many in this world who do not believe that Jesus is who He says – the Son of God, the Savior of the world. We, however, have learned about Jesus' genealogy, His birth, and other prophecies that were fulfilled by His birth. We can confidently believe that God loves us and sent His Son, Jesus, to save us from our sin, so we can trust in Him and live our lives with eternal hope. Do you personally believe this is true? Have you ever asked Jesus to be the Savior of your life? Let's pause and think about this. Can you think of the time in your life you stopped and prayed, "Jesus, I know I am a sinner, and I need you to save me from the punishment of my sin"? If not, would you like to today? *Give students an opportunity to respond or meet with a leader in the hallway to discuss this decision.*

If you have already done this, I challenge you to tell others about Jesus during this Christmas season. A great way to start is by asking, "Why do you really celebrate Christmas?" Listen carefully to their answer, and then tell them why you celebrate Christmas.

Let's all bow our heads and think of a specific person who you could tell about Jesus this Christmas season. Now spend just a few moments individually praying and asking Jesus to give you the chance to do this.

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

The DT Leader or Shepherd will lead students in a review game. Game ideas are in the appendix.

1. Who wrote the book of Matthew? (Matthew, a tax collector who became one of Jesus' disciples)
2. Why did Matthew include the genealogy (family history) of Jesus? (To prove to the Jewish people that Jesus was the promised Messiah, the gift they had been waiting for)
3. What did Mary and Joseph name the baby? Why? (They named Him Jesus; the angel told them to name Him Jesus because He would save His people from their sin)
4. What does Immanuel mean? (God with us)
5. Why is it important that Jesus was sent to us? (So we can be saved from our sin)
6. What Bible verse reminds you that God has a plan for your life? (Jeremiah 29:11)
7. Advanced question: How can you use this lesson to prove that God's Word is true? (You can show people that the prophecies about Jesus' birth really did come true, which proves they were from God)

Lesson 2 – December 15, 2024

Luke 2:1-20

Know Right:	Jesus is born.
Think Right:	“For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16 (Top 12)
Do Right:	I will celebrate God's gift of our Savior, Jesus.
Feel Right:	I can feel joyful when I celebrate God's gift of our Savior, Jesus.

GET READY!

What would Christmas be like without gifts? Sad, right? But what would life be like without the greatest gift of all, our Savior, Jesus Christ? With that in mind, we can't help but remember the significance of His arrival to the earth. Jesus, the greatest gift of all, came to save us! As we study the Scripture and the lesson, let's ask God to help us communicate this truth clearly to our students, so they can fully comprehend the true meaning of Christmas.

Pray: As you prepare to serve, ask God to give you a clear understanding of Scripture and that the students will truly celebrate Jesus.

Read: Luke 2:1-20

Know Right: Jesus is born

When Jesus was born, God spoke again through His angel to some shepherds tending their sheep in the fields. The news was the greatest in history: the Savior of the world had been born in Bethlehem! When they heard what the angels proclaimed, the shepherds hurried to see the tiny Savior, and when they had seen Him, they celebrated and told others the Good News. For how could they not? We have the same Good News, so this season let's celebrate God's gift of our Savior, Jesus.

GET SET!

Lead Teacher's Notes:

- Please refer to the Children's Ministry Resource Bible: page 1189 (Lesson: The Conception and Birth of Jesus); page 1202 (The Life of Jesus); page 1279 (Lesson: Jesus' Birth Announced to the Shepherds).

Creative Ideas for the Bible Lesson:

1. Use action figures, cardboard boxes, and sheets to create hillsides to reenact the lesson.
2. Older Students: Give students a blank piece of paper and have them list all the new things they learn today while you teach the class. The longer the list, the better chance they will have in winning a prize at the end of class. At the end of class, give each student a ticket for each item they listed. Call out a number or do a drawing with the tickets.
3. Teach students that Bethlehem still exists today by using a map or an online map.

GO!

Pre-Service Review Game and Worship

Worship Leaders will lead students in a review game followed by worship. Details are in the appendix.

Discover Time: Good News!

Goal: To give students the opportunity to **celebrate** and share the Good News of Jesus with people in our community.

Kindergarten: Food Station

Supplies:

- Iced sugar cookies
- Edible decorating markers
- Tags with “Jesus is the reason we celebrate Christmas! John 3:16” (see appendix)
- Colorful Christmas bags
- Ribbon or string to attach tags to bags
- Hand washing supplies

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Students will decorate Christmas cookies for the fire department or police officers in your community.
2. Make sure all students wash or sanitize their hands thoroughly before you begin.
3. After decorating, wrap up each cookie in colorful Christmas bags and attach the tag.
4. Have students stop and pray for the person who will be receiving the cookie.
5. Select a few students (call parents in advance) to deliver snacks during the week.

Alternate Idea: Make refrigerator cookies. With multiple services, one class can mix the dough, shape it into logs, wrap, and place in the refrigerator. The next class can slice and bake the cookies.

1st Grade: Play-Doh® Station

Supplies:

- Large banner on roll paper with “Celebrate Jesus! Luke 2” (written in large bold letters)
- Star cookie cutters
- Ladder (to take picture)
- Camera
- Optional: Printer (to print picture for students to take home)

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Talk to students about the huge opportunity they have to tell others that we should **celebrate** Jesus this Christmas season.
2. Roll out the large banner on the floor and have students make as many stars as possible out of Play-Doh in different colors to place on the banner.
3. Near the end of Discover Time, have students lay down around the banner (faces near the banner) and take a class picture.

Optional Ideas: Print pictures so students can take one home and use it to tell others why they **celebrate** Jesus. Post the picture on your children’s ministry social media page.

Alternate Ideas: Have students cut out stars from construction paper (draw the stars on the paper in advance) and glue to the banner. Or, have students glue star shapes (that have been cut in advance) to the banner.

2nd Grade: Water Station**Supplies:**

- Ball-pit balls (amount should be based on the size of your water area - the more the better; place balls in the water)
- Gutter pieces that spell “Jesus” (or use yard sticks or rulers to form boundaries for the letters)
- Large banner on roll paper with “Celebrate” in bright bold letters (to place above the word Jesus)
- Ladder (to take picture)
- Camera
- Optional: Printer (to print picture for students to take home)
- Tracker Tickets

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Divide students into five teams and assign each team a letter.
2. Students will relay to the water, pick up two balls and place them in their letter.
3. After five minutes, the team with the most balls in their letter will win three Tracker Tickets each.
4. After the letters are filled, roll out the “**Celebrate**” banner, have the students create a fun human border around “**Celebrate** Jesus” and take a picture from a ladder.

Optional Ideas: Print pictures so students can take one home and use it to tell others why they **celebrate** Jesus. Post the picture on your children’s ministry social media page.

3rd Grade: Mission Station – *The Mission Lesson is in the appendix.*

4th Grade: Art Station

Supplies:

- 9 oz. clear plastic cups (two per student)
- Multi-colored tissue paper cut into 1-inch squares
- Small paper tag with “Celebrate Jesus, the Light of the World, this Christmas season!” (see appendix)
- School glue (in small bowls or portion cups, thinned with water)
- Paint brushes
- Battery operated tea light candles (two per student)
- Tables with red and green tablecloths
- Optional: ribbon or twine (to attach the tag) and fine tip markers

Instructions for DT Leader:

1. Students will create two nightlights for residents of a local nursing home.
2. Students will apply glue to the outside of each cup with a paint brush and then attach tissue paper.
3. The paper tag can be glued to the cup, or it could be tied around the cup with ribbon or twine. If attaching the tag with ribbon or twine, have students write their name on the back of the tag.
4. Deliver to a local nursing home before Christmas.

5th Grade: Chalk Wall

Supplies:

- Buckets of colorful chalk
- Black roll paper (place on the floor to look like a sidewalk)
- Pieces of chalk that students can take home (one per student)

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Students will work individually or with a partner on this project.
2. Challenge students to design a drawing of “Celebrate Jesus!” with chalk on either the Chalk Wall or the “sidewalk.”
3. The student with the best design will win five Tracker Tickets.
4. At the end of Discover Time, pass out a new piece of chalk to each student and challenge them to repeat this design on their sidewalk at home to remind their neighbors to celebrate Jesus (no matter how cold or hot it is outside).

Alternate Idea: Have students create their design on poster boards using colorful markers. Hang the finished posters around your children’s ministry space as a reminder to celebrate Jesus during the Christmas season.

Optional: If students take a picture of their home artwork and bring it the following week or post it online, give them five Tracker tickets the following week.

Bible Lesson Introduction

Lead Teachers ~ Connecting the DT to the Lesson: How important is it to tell others about Jesus? Do you think there are people in your town who do not know the real truth about Jesus? Why is it important that others should know about Him? What would life be like without Jesus? We would not have a Savior who could forgive us for our sin and give us eternal life. We would have to take the punishment for our own sin! This is why we should celebrate Jesus and tell others about Him!

Kindergarten: Today in your DT, you shared the true meaning of Christmas by making snacks to give to others. Do you remember what was written on the tag that we attached to the snacks?

1st-2nd: Today in your DT, you made a fun “Celebrate Jesus” banner, and we took your picture with it. Who are you going to share your picture with (printed picture or picture shared on social media)? Is there a friend or family member you want to share it with? As you show them the picture, tell them why you celebrate Christmas. If your friend asks you, “Why should I celebrate Jesus”, what would you say?”

3rd: *Please develop a transition to the Bible lesson relating to the current Mission Lesson.*

4th: Today in your DT, you made a candle for people in a local nursing home. By doing this they will be reminded of the true meaning of Christmas. Why is this important?

5th: Are you willing to take the challenge to go home and create some chalk art on your sidewalk to tell people to celebrate Jesus? Be bold and go big!

Today in our lesson, we will hear about some men who saw the newborn Jesus and then boldly spread the Good News to others.

Pray: *Have students think of a word that describes God (give a few sample words, if necessary). Tell students we are going to start our class with a huge prayer of worship to God. As the teacher, open the class by saying, “God, You are _____,” then allow time for students to say, “God, You are _____.” Close the prayer by asking our amazing God to teach everyone something new today.*

Find it: *Is Luke in the Old Testament or the New Testament? (NT) Write the verse reference Luke 2:1 on the board and have students open their Bibles to Luke 2:1. Teach that the reference is the verse’s address in the Bible. Remind students that Luke is the book, the first number, 2, is the chapter, and the second number, 1, is the verse. Younger students and visitors may need assistance. A more advanced class may use the Sword Drill method.*

Timeline: *Where would you find Jesus being born on the timeline? Have students point to the correct answer.*

Introduction to the Lesson:

God’s angel told Joseph that Mary would have a Son, and they should name Him Jesus because He would save His people from their sin. God would be Jesus’ real father, but Joseph would be Jesus’ earthly father. Joseph and Mary lived in a town called Nazareth. Let’s find out what happened.

Scripture Outline: Luke 2:1-20

A census is taken

Paraphrase of Luke 2:1-3:

The country of Israel had been taken over by the Roman leaders. The Roman emperor was Caesar Augustus. He was like their king. He ordered everyone in Israel to go to his hometown to be counted and register to pay taxes to the Roman government. This is called a census.

Joseph and Mary go to Bethlehem

Read Luke 2:4

Point to the Bible timeline as you teach the information below.

Recap: Mary was about to have her baby, the Savior of the world, who would give eternal life to people who believe in Him. (Acts 16:31) And, the Savior had to be born in Bethlehem. Why? Over 700 years before Jesus was born, the prophet Micah had said that the Savior would be born in Bethlehem. (Micah 5:2)

Bethlehem was also known as the city of David. Do you remember who David was? (He was the second king of Israel; He was the one who killed the giant Goliath) King David's hometown was Bethlehem. About 1,000 years before Jesus was born, God told David that the Savior would come from his family. Joseph and Mary were both from King David's family. That's why they had to go to Bethlehem, the city of David, to register for the census. Just as God had said, Jesus would be born into King David's family in the town of Bethlehem! God always does what He says He will do! Let's see what happened when Joseph and Mary got to Bethlehem.

Jesus is born

Read Luke 2:5-7

Recap: There was no room for Mary and Joseph in the inn. The only place that Joseph and Mary could find to spend the night was a shelter where the animals were kept. That's where Jesus was born – in a place where animals lived! Mary wrapped baby Jesus in cloths and put Him in a manger. A manger is a food trough for the animals. An animal food trough isn't a place for a baby, is it? But, in just a minute, you'll find out how God used this as a sign! Let's keep reading.

God's angel tells the shepherds about Jesus

Read Luke 2:8-12

Recap: The angel told the shepherds the Good News. It wasn't just good news; this was the best news ever! The Savior of the world had been born. He is the only One who can give eternal life to people who believe in Him.

The angel gave the shepherds a sign to know who the baby was: He would be wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger! Then...

The angels praise God

Read Luke 2:13-14

Recap: A large group of angels said words of praise to God because He loved people so much that He sent His one and only Son to be our Savior. Let's find out what the shepherds did after they heard this Good News!

The shepherds see Jesus and tell others about Him

Read Luke 2:15-20

Recap: When you hear about Jesus and how He is the Savior to the world, do you get excited? I mean, really think about it...His birth was the **biggest deal ever!** How bold are you about telling others about Jesus? Or is this lesson today just a "story" to you – something that connects with Christmas, but doesn't really have much meaning? If you are a Christian, you need to get pumped up! This is the season we **celebrate** our Savior!

Conclusion

The information that God's angel had told the shepherds was true. There was a baby wrapped in cloths lying in a manger. The shepherds went to see Him, and then they told others the Good News that this baby was the Savior.

Do Right and Feel Right

Have you heard the Good News that God loves you so much that He sent His Son, Jesus, to be your Savior? *Review the Gospel using the Wordless Book.* Do you feel loved by God because He did this for you? Have you asked Jesus to forgive your sin? Have you made Him the leader of your life? If you have, do you tell others the Good News about Him? How does it make you feel knowing you can tell them about Jesus? Let's say John 3:16 together to remember exactly what God has done for us. *Recite John 3:16.*

Is there anyone who wants to ask Jesus to forgive their sins and be their leader? If you would like to talk more, let's go to the hallway while the rest of the class plays a review game. *Take these students aside and go through the Wordless Book or the Believe It or Not booklet. Make sure they understand and then give them the opportunity to pray for salvation.*

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

The DT Leader or Shepherd will lead students in a review game. Game ideas are in the appendix.

1. Why did Joseph and Mary go to Bethlehem? (To be counted for the census)
2. Where did the prophet Micah say the Savior would be born? (Bethlehem)
3. What happened to Mary after they arrived in Bethlehem? (Her baby was born)
4. How did Mary care for Jesus after He was born? (She wrapped Him in cloths and laid Him in a manger)
5. Why did Mary have to put Jesus in a manger? (There was no room for them in the inn)
6. Whom did God's angel tell that the Savior had been born? (The shepherds in the fields)
7. What sign did God give the shepherds? (They would find the baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger)
8. What did the shepherds do after they found baby Jesus the Savior? (They told others about Him)
9. Why did God send His Son, Jesus, to be born? (To be the Savior who gives eternal life to people who trust in Him as the leader of their lives)
10. Do you feel loved because God did this for you?

On Track Map – December 22, 2024

Topical Lesson: Jesus is worthy of our worship

Know Right:	Jesus is worthy of our worship
Think Right:	“Jesus answered, ‘I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.’” John 14:6 (Top 12)
Do Right:	I will worship Jesus.
Feel Right:	I can feel joyful when I worship Jesus.

Suggested Schedule:

- :15 – Pre-Service Review Game begins (20 minutes)
- :05 – Discover Time (have a leader available to inform late students where to go)
- :20 – Classroom Lesson (25 minutes)
- :45 – Worship – “We will worship Jesus”
- :60 – Return to classrooms
- :65 – Parents pick up students

GET READY!

There are so many opportunities to worship God during the Christmas season! As we prepare to serve, let's take time to worship the one true God who sent His only Son to be the Savior of the world.

Pray: Ask God to reveal Himself to your students this week, as they take time to think about who Jesus is. Pray specifically for visiting students who have never heard the truth of who Jesus is. Pray that their ears and hearts will be open to the truth of God's Word.

Read: 1 John 4:14, Matthew 2:1-2, Luke 11:1, John 8:12, Matthew 1:23

Know Right: Jesus is worthy of our worship

GET SET!

Creative Ideas for the Lesson:

On a table in front of your class, have a prop for each word hidden under a bright colorful wrapped box. As you explain different words, open or reveal the prop. Throughout the lesson, constantly refer back to different words that you studied. *Prop ideas are written in the lesson.*

GO!

Pre-Service Review Game and Worship

Worship Leaders will lead students in a review game followed by worship. Details are in the appendix.

Discover Time: Who is Jesus?

Goal: To introduce students to different **names** and **attributes** of Jesus.

Kindergarten: Art Station

Supplies:

- Washable ink pads in multiple colors
- Wet wipes
- Mini cardstock poster with “Jesus is the Light of the World!” along with a design that looks like a string of lights without the bulbs (one per student) (see appendix)

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. When students arrive, inform them that there are many names or words that describe Jesus. These words help us better understand who He is and why we should worship Him. One of these words is “Light.” Jesus is the Light of the World!
2. Tell students that today they are going to make a mini poster to hang by their bed, so they can worship Jesus as they go to bed each night.
3. Students will use their fingerprints to create little light bulbs along the string of lights on their poster.

1st Grade: Box Station

Supplies:

- Two sets of boxes, each with twenty different names or characteristics of Jesus: Light, Rock, Teacher, King, Lord, Creator, Savior, Shepherd, Beginning, Father, Friend, Holy, Just, Righteous, the Word, Prince of Peace, Counselor, Mighty God, Immanuel, Messiah (print one set on green paper and one set on red paper) (see appendix)
- Tracker Tickets

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. When students arrive, inform them that there are many names or words that describe Jesus. These words help us better understand who He is and why we should worship Him.
2. Divide students into two teams.
3. Teams will stack boxes to the ceiling. The first team to complete their box tower will get three Tracker Tickets per person.
4. Repeat as time permits.

Box stacking tips: Stack boxes in a corner (the corner acts as a brace for the box tower). Lift the stack of boxes from the bottom and put the next box on the floor at the bottom of the stack. That new box becomes the bottom of the stack. Continue adding boxes to the bottom of the stack.

2nd Grade: Play-Doh Station

Supplies:

- Cards with names or characteristics of Jesus (enough cards so there is one card per student): Light, Rock, Teacher, King, Lord, Creator, Savior, Shepherd, Beginning, Father, Friend, Holy, Just, Righteous, the Word, Prince of Peace, Counselor, Mighty God, Immanuel, Messiah, Healer, Forgiver, Comforter, All-Powerful (see appendix)
- Camera

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. When students arrive, inform them that there are many names or words that describe Jesus. These words help us better understand who He is and why we should worship Him.
2. Students will each receive a card. Each student will use Play-Doh to create their 3-D word. Words should fill the table to create a jumbo Play-Doh poster of the names of Jesus. For longer words, leaders should assist as needed.
3. Near the end of Discover Time, have students sit or stand around the tables and take a picture looking down from the top of a ladder. If possible, print pictures and return to students by the end of class.

3rd Grade: Water Station

Supplies:

- Multiple sets of foam letters (floating in the water)
- Starting line
- Four cones
- Poster with names or characteristics of Jesus: Light, Rock, Teacher, King, Lord, Creator, Savior, Shepherd, Beginning, Father, Friend, Holy, Just, Righteous, the Word, Prince of Peace, Counselor, Mighty God, Immanuel, Messiah (see appendix)
- Tracker Tickets

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. When students arrive, inform them that there are many names or words that describe Jesus. These words help us better understand who He is and why we should worship Him.
2. Divide class into four teams.
3. Have teams stand by their cones behind the starting line.
4. Teams will relay to the water to collect letters, one at a time.
5. The team that spells out the most names of Jesus, without repeating, will earn three Tracker Tickets each.

4th Grade: LEGO Station

Supplies:

- Green LEGO boards
- Poster with names and characteristics of Jesus: Light, Rock, Teacher, King, Lord, Creator, Savior, Shepherd, Beginning, Father, Friend, Holy, Just, Righteous, the Word, Prince of Peace, Counselor, Mighty God, Immanuel, Messiah (see appendix)
- Tracker Tickets

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. When students arrive, inform them that there are many names or words that describe Jesus. These words help us better understand who He is and why we should worship Him.
2. Divide class into two teams.
3. Assign the Teacher and Shepherd to be the team captains.
4. Captains should form a team huddle and make up a game plan with the kids on how to design the most names.
5. The team that spells out the most names of Jesus, without repeating, will earn three Tracker Tickets each.

5th Grade: Sand Station

Supplies:

- Cards with names or characteristics of Jesus (enough cards so there is one card per student): Light, Rock, Teacher, King, Lord, Creator, Savior, Shepherd, Beginning, Father, Friend, Holy, Just, Righteous, the Word, Prince of Peace, Counselor, Mighty God, Immanuel, Messiah, Healer, Forgiver, Comforter, All-Powerful (see appendix)
- Water (sand should be wet)
- Camera

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. When students arrive, inform them that there are many names or words that describe Jesus. These words help us better understand who He is and why we should worship Him.
2. Students will each receive a card. Each student will use wet sand to create a 3D word – either mounding up the letters to make bubble letters or digging them out and creating mounds around the letters. The size of the letters depends on the size of your sand station.
3. Words should fill the sand area to create a jumbo sand display of the names of Jesus.
4. Near the end of Discover Time, have students sit or stand around the sand and take a picture looking down from the top of a ladder. If possible, print pictures and return to students by the end of class.

Bible Lesson Introduction

Lead Teachers ~ Connecting the DT to the Lesson: When you think about Jesus, what words pop into your mind? *Have students shout out names or words that describe Jesus.* Today, we are going to open our Bibles and find different words that describe Jesus and specific names given to Him. This will help you understand how great Jesus is, so you can better worship Him this Christmas season.

Pray: When we pray we can tell God how great He is by describing Him: “God you are all-powerful, the Prince of Peace, my Rock and Savior.” When you do this you are worshiping as you pray. *Challenge a student to open your lesson with prayer. Encourage them to speak clearly and confidently as they pray to the one and only true God.*

Find it: The Bible is divided into two parts. What are the two parts? (OT and NT) Where can we learn about the birth of Jesus? (NT) Let’s open our Bibles to the book of Matthew, the first book in the NT.

Timeline: On the Bible timeline, you can see where the birth of Jesus fits into the big picture of the Bible. Then, as you can see on the timeline, Jesus grew up and did many wonderful things.

Introduction to the Bible Lesson:

Many times, at Christmas, we remember Jesus as a baby. Can you imagine if on your birthday your family would display all your baby pictures and only talk about you as a baby? That would be kind of odd! During Christmas, people often do the same thing with Jesus' birthday. This Christmas, let's remember that Jesus was a baby, but He is also so much more! This is why we celebrate and worship Him at Christmas.

Wait! What does "worship" mean? Worship means "telling God how much He is worth". Let's all say that together: "Worship means telling God how much He is worth." Here's how one book describes it: "to give my full attention to admiring God for who He is and appreciating what He does, concentrating with deep love and reverence on God; giving my greatest praise to Him alone." *Definition from the Children's Ministry Resource Bible.*

How do you fully focus on and worship Jesus? Step one, you need to really know who He is.

Scripture Outline

Who is Jesus, and why should I worship Him?

Jesus is the Savior

Read 1 John 4:14

Props: Jar 1 - clear water, Jar 2 - clear water that you will add black food coloring to, and a red cross that can rest between the two jars.

Teacher Tip: We will be using several Top 12 verses to describe our Savior. Encourage students to recite the verses as you talk through this section.

Recap: This verse tells us that Jesus didn't stay a baby. He grew up in Israel. Have you ever heard about this place in the news? Jesus was a kid just like you, but the one thing that made Him different was that He never sinned. Can you imagine never sinning? Show clean water in Jar 1.

In the Bible, God talks about how we have all sinned. What is sin? (Anything we think, say, or do that is against God) Add black food coloring to Jar 2. Sin destroys our relationship with God. God can't be near sin. What verse reminds us that we are sinners? (Romans 3:23) Separate the two jars.

God loves us, and He created a perfect place for us to spend eternity. This place is called heaven. What is not in heaven? (Sin) The punishment for sin is not being able to go to heaven, but God sent Jesus to rescue us from the punishment of our sin, so we could become part of His eternal family. Show red cross and place between the two jars. What verse tells us that Jesus died for our sin? (Hebrews 9:22b) Because Jesus died for our sin, He can be our Savior. Only He can save us from our sin.

In 1 John 4:14, it specifically tells us that Jesus is the Savior of the world! He came for the children in Kenya, China, Venezuela, and the USA. He came to be the Savior for all people around the whole world. He can save us from our sin, so we can have a relationship with God and go to heaven. But understand, this is a personal choice that only you can make. (Acts 16:31) Is Jesus your Savior?

Jesus is the King of Kings

Read Matthew 2:1-2

Prop: *Gold item (either paper, a crown, or a jar of water with yellow food dye)*

Recap: Jesus is also called the King. *Show gold item.* When we think about Christmas, we often think of Jesus as a small baby. But I think we should also focus our minds on Him as our King, also known as the King of Kings. If He is our Savior, He is also the King of our lives. He rules, and He makes plans for each of us. Why? He loves each one of us and wants the best for us. Isn't it great to know that the King of Kings knows us and loves us so much?

Jesus is the Teacher

Read Luke 11:1

Prop: *Green item (either paper, a green apple, or jar of water with green food dye)*

Recap: Jesus was also a Teacher. He taught the disciples how to pray and so much more. Why? Because He wanted them to know and do the will of God. Jesus loved to see people believe in the one true God and to make a decision to live 100% for Him. Jesus knew if people would do things God's way, their lives would be filled with spiritual blessings and their lives would please God. Jesus can still teach us today through the Bible. When we read our Bibles, we can continue to grow. What verse does that remind you of? (2 Peter 3:18a)

Jesus is the Light

Read John 8:12

Prop: *Flashlight*

Recap: In the dark, a light (*show flashlight*) gives clear direction, and it guides people. If you trust Jesus and allow Him to be the light of your life, He will guide you and give you clear direction through His Word. Start by asking Jesus to direct your life.

Jesus is God

Read Matthew 1:23

Recap: The angel said the baby would be called Immanuel, which means, "God with us." Wherever we go, whatever we do – good or bad, God will be with us.

Conclusion

There are many words that describe Jesus. Isn't Jesus awesome? Let's stop and think about all the names of Jesus. Close your eyes and try to recall all these names and think about how awesome our Jesus is.

Do Right and Feel Right

Did you notice we missed something today? (Worship) Can you guess what we are going to do now? We are not going to just sing a bunch of songs, we are going to worship our God – the God who sent His Son, Jesus, to earth! Let's go! *Lead students to the worship area and challenge them to truly worship God as they sing this morning and throughout this Christmas season. After worship, students should return to their classrooms for the End-of-Class Review Game and pick up.*

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

The DT Leader or Shepherd will lead students in a review game. Game ideas are in the appendix.

1. List names for Jesus. (God, Light, Teacher, King of Kings, Savior, etc.)
2. Is Jesus the only way to heaven? (Yes)
3. When we call Jesus our Savior, what does that mean? (He saved/rescued us from our sin)
4. Why should we be thankful that Jesus is called a Teacher? (He cares enough to teach us what is right and best for our lives)
5. Who should we be thinking about when we sing worship songs each week at church? (Jesus)
6. Why do you celebrate Christmas?

Lesson 3 – December 29, 2024

Matthew 2

Know Right:	God protects Jesus from King Herod.
Think Right:	“Jesus answered, ‘I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.’” John 14:6 (Top 12)
Do Right:	I will believe that Jesus can save me from my sin.
Feel Right:	I can feel safe knowing Jesus can save me from my sin.

GET READY!

This week we will learn about how God protected Jesus from King Herod. It was all part of God's plan for Jesus to rescue us! As children of God, rescued from sin, we can feel safe – for eternity! Let's thank God for His deliverance.

Pray: Pray that students will understand how God protects them both physically and spiritually.

Read: Matthew 2

Know Right: God protects Jesus from King Herod

The miracle of Jesus' birth was not welcomed by everyone. Although Magi from the east came to find and worship the Savior of the world, King Herod issued an order that all boys two years old and under be killed. But, as we've learned in the past, nothing can ruin God's plan! God sent Jesus to Egypt to escape evil King Herod – another prophecy fulfilled. We witness how God protected His Son, Jesus, so He could grow up to save us from our sin.

GET SET!

Lead Teacher's Notes:

- Please refer to the Children's Ministry Resource Bible: page 1189.

Creative Ideas for the Bible Lesson:

1. Create a LEGO scene as you teach the lesson.
2. Have students or other classroom leaders wear costumes to assist you in teaching. Or invite parents to help act out your lesson (make sure to notify your ministry leader, so they can be screened before helping in your classroom).
3. Have students listen for how many times God protected Jesus during this lesson. When they hear of His protection, have them clap or ring a bell to highlight this point. Optional: The first student to do this will receive a Tracker Ticket.

4. Rotate in actors of King Herod and Joseph throughout the lesson. Have them share their perspective of the lesson at specific times. Joseph can really highlight God's protection.
5. Use a map to show where Joseph, Mary, and Jesus traveled.

GO!

Pre-Service Review Game and Worship

Worship Leaders will lead students in a review game followed by worship. Details are in the appendix.

Discover Time: Art Fest!

Goal: To have students create posters to remind others that **Jesus is the Savior of the world.**

Option 1

Kindergarten – 5th Grade: Large open space

Note: *In larger churches, classes should do this activity separately: (Kindergarten and 1st Grade: Water Station (shared space), 2nd Grade: LEGO® Station, 3rd Grade: Art Station, 4th Grade: Box Station, 5th Grade: Open space*

Supplies:

- Poster board (full or ½ size) or 11x17 cardstock (one for each student or pair of students)
- Markers, crayons, paint, glitter, glue, and more!
- Create a few sample posters to inspire students; display on easels to make them look like very special art
- Flags from around the world (use real flags or find images of flags on the internet and print copies)
- Optional: Tracker Tickets or small prizes

Setup Ideas:

- If possible, create a fun “World Art Fest” atmosphere and play worship music as students design their posters.
- To ignite more creativity and focus, turn this DT into a “Poster Contest.” Award Tracker Tickets or small prizes to the top two posters of the day or from each class or grade.

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Students will create posters to remind your church family that **Jesus is the Savior of the world.**
2. Students can design a poster by themselves or with a partner.

Title ideas:

- a. Jesus is the Savior of the world!
- b. For God so loved the world!
- c. Jesus loves everyone!
- d. Celebrate Jesus, our Savior!

Drawing ideas:

- e. Draw a picture of a cross and an empty tomb with world flags around the edges.
 - f. Fill the poster with Bible verses or key words that support that Jesus is the Savior of the world (older students).
 - g. Draw a cross in the center, and around it write a personal testimony of how Jesus became their Savior.
 - h. Create a world map along with a cross and world flags.
 - i. Draw children around a picture of the world.
 - j. Draw colorful flags around a cross.
 - k. Write the names of different countries around a cross.
 - l. Make a huge heart around the title.
3. Challenge students to use verses, bright colors, and lots of creativity.
 4. Display the completed posters in the hallways and throughout your children's ministry space during the upcoming month.

Option 2

Kindergarten – 5th Grade: Large open space

Note: See Option 1

Supplies:

- Long piece of large roll paper (5'-6' long and 4' tall – the bigger the better!)
- Paint and paint brushes

Setup instructions:

- Prior to class, outline the words "**Jesus is the Savior of the world!**" with a pencil and assign colors to each word or letter.
- Depending on the number of students, several banners will need to be made.

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Have students paint the letters of the banner.
2. Towards the end of Discover Time, have all students sign their names around the words or make handprints.
3. Display the banner(s) in a window, on a wall, or hang from the ceiling.

DT Leader Tip (for churches with multiple services): Please do not feel rushed to finish your banner. All services can work on the same banners. Adults should be assisting students, not painting the banner. Feel free to add shapes or stripes into your banners to make them more artistic. Use bright colors so people can easily read the words from a distance.

Bible Lesson Introduction

Lead Teachers ~ Connecting the DT to the Lesson: You did an excellent job working on your posters. *Highlight what you saw during the Art-fest.* It makes me very sad that many people in the world do not know the true meaning of Christmas. During our lesson today, I want you to really listen as we study the Scriptures in the Bible. That way, if someone asks you why you celebrate Christmas, you can confidently tell them what happened at the birth and also after the birth of Jesus. I pray that you can use this lesson to encourage someone who is afraid. Wait! What does being afraid have to do with Jesus and the Christmas season? Let's find out!

Pray: *Challenge your students to silently pray before you begin class. Guide them through topics such as: thanksgiving, confession, and a request that we will learn something new today. As a teacher, briefly pray to conclude.*

Find it: *Remind students that we are studying the New Testament this quarter. Write the verse reference on the whiteboard and then have students open their Bibles. Shepherds and DT Leaders should be available to help visitors who may need assistance finding verses in their Bibles.*

Timeline: We have been learning about God's incredible plan to send Jesus as our Savior. Are the lessons about Jesus in the Old Testament or the New Testament? (NT) Can you point to Jesus' birth on the timeline?

Introduction to the Bible Lesson:

Let's do a quick review. I will say a name and you tell me what pops into your head: *Mary, Joseph, angel, Jesus.* When I read Matthew 1:21, "He will save His people from their sins," how does this connect with Christmas? Let's continue to learn about Jesus by opening our Bibles to Matthew, chapter 2.

Scripture Outline: Matthew 2

Magi look for Jesus

Read Matthew 2:1-8

Recap: We don't know much about who the Magi were – the Bible doesn't say how many of them there were or exactly where they came from. We know that they were a group of men who were known to be very wise and to study many things, including the stars. They found Jesus by following a star. When we learn about them here in Matthew, we find out that King Herod is very interested in talking to them.

Why do you think King Herod met with the Magi secretly and why was he interested in Jesus? Do you think he really wanted to worship Jesus?

I can tell you what was really going on: King Herod commanded the Magi to go to Bethlehem to search for Jesus. Herod told the Magi he wanted to worship Jesus, but that was a lie. Herod's plan was to kill Jesus! But can God's plan be overcome? (No!) Let's find out how God's plan came to be.

Older students: Did you know verse 6 is a quote from the OT prophet Micah, given approximately 700 years earlier? (Micah 5:2)

Follow the star

Read Matthew 2:9-12

Recap: The star led the Magi to Jesus, and they were overjoyed when they saw Him. These important people bowed down and worshiped Jesus, and they brought Him gifts of gold, incense, and myrrh.

Older students: From what we know about life in Jesus' time, we think that each of these gifts has a special meaning:

- Gold: Reminds us of the divinity of Jesus – that He was really God.
- Incense: Reminds us that Jesus was a holy (perfect) sacrifice for us.
- Myrrh: Reminds us of the suffering that Jesus would go through when He died for us.

All students: Notice how God protected the Magi by sending them home a different way.

God protects Joseph, Mary, and Jesus

Read Matthew 2:13-15

Recap: How do you think Joseph felt when he heard this? *Refer to the Feel Right poster.* Do you believe God can protect you? Why or why not?

Herod's response to being outwitted by the wise men

Read Matthew 2:16a

Recap: God's plan was for Jesus to be born, grow up, live as a man, and to save us from our sin. Not even an evil leader like King Herod could stop God's plan. He protected Jesus!

Skip Matthew 2:16b-18

God gives Joseph directions and protection

Paraphrase of Matthew 2:19-23:

God continued to lead Jesus to safety. He gave Joseph directions on where to go: first to Israel, then to Galilee, then to Nazareth, and Joseph obeyed.

Conclusion

So many times when we hear about Jesus being born we only think about a cute baby in a manger. As we read and study our Bible, we find out so much more about what God did to protect Jesus, so nothing would stop His plan for Jesus to be the Savior of the whole world.

Do Right and Feel Right

At times, when we feel afraid, we have a choice: we can choose to live in fear or turn to God. *Have students recite Joshua 1:9 or read the verse aloud to them.* Just as much as God protected Jesus, His Son, He can protect us, too, but not just physically. He can protect us from the punishment of our sin. It is amazing that when God protects us from the punishment of our sin, we can truly feel safe, not only in this world but for eternity. Can you recite John 14:6? This means Jesus is the only way to heaven. Do you believe this? *Opportunity to share the Gospel with students.*

If you made this decision, you should feel safe knowing you are God's child. God is with you, and He will protect you now and for eternity.

Older Students: *Have students pause, bow their heads, and think about what they learned today. Then encourage students to silently pray, thanking God for protecting and saving them from their sin, or to ask God to protect them from something specific they are dealing with right now.*

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

The DT Leader or Shepherd will lead students in a review game. Game ideas are in the appendix.

1. Where was Jesus born? (Bethlehem)
2. Who went to worship Jesus after He was born? (The Magi)
3. Who lied and wanted to kill Jesus? (King Herod)
4. Who protected Jesus? (God)
5. How did God protect Jesus? (God gave dreams to the Magi and Joseph, so the Magi went a different way home and Jesus' family escaped to Egypt)
6. How has God protected you? (He sent Jesus to save you from the punishment for your sin)
7. What is a good verse to recite when you are afraid? (Joshua 1:9)
8. Does everyone in the world need Jesus as their Savior? (Yes!)

Lesson 4 – January 5, 2025

Matthew 4:1-17

Know Right:	Satan tempts Jesus.
Think Right:	“I have hidden Your word in my heart that I might not sin against You.” Psalm 119:11
Do Right:	I will use God’s Word to resist temptation.
Feel Right:	I can feel confident when I use God’s Word to resist temptation.

GET READY!

This is a great lesson to remind us how important it is to teach students the Word of God. If you have memorized Scripture, you can probably think of times when God has brought it to mind to help you through difficulties in life. What an amazing tool God has provided us with! This week let’s inspire our students to see the value of hiding God’s Word in their hearts.

Pray: Ask God to give the students in your class minds that are quick to memorize and recall the Word of God. Pray that past students will recall Scripture and use it in times of temptation.

Read: Matthew 4:1-17

Know Right: Satan tempts Jesus

As we wander into the desert, we find that Jesus was tempted by Satan during His forty-day-and-night fast. Just as Jesus conquered every one of Satan’s enticements with Scripture, we too must learn to use God’s Word to resist temptation.

GET SET!

Lead Teacher’s Notes:

- What type of temptations do students face in the current year? Ask the students. Have a poster board on the wall outside the entrance to your children’s ministry and ask the question, “What is the biggest temptation for kids your age?” Have students write on the board as they walk in (no names needed). During worship, review the comments.

Creative Ideas for the Bible Lesson:

1. Every time you say, “it is written”, have students stand up as you read the quoted Scripture.
2. Assign the DT Leader and Shepherd to speak the words of Jesus and the devil.
3. Line up the temptations on the table in front of you: bread, LEGO scene of a high temple, a high mountain made from a pile of blocks covered by a towel. Start off the class by having them guess what lesson it is and what the Do Right point of the lesson should be.

GO!

Pre-Service Review Game and Worship

Worship Leaders will lead students in a review game followed by worship. Details are in the appendix.

Discover Time: Just use it!

Goal: To remind students to **use** the tools they already have.

Kindergarten: Water Station

Supplies:

- Mop
- Towels
- Rugs (on floor)
- Four colored cones with matching buckets (should be about six feet from the water area)
- Plastic drinking cups (one per student; should be off to the side, almost out of view)
- Tracker Tickets

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Divide students into four teams.
2. Challenge students to race to see which team can fill their bucket with water first. Point out the distance between the buckets and the water. The winning team members will receive three Tracker Tickets each.
3. Each team should form a line, from the water to the bucket, and get ready to pass the water to each other. Do not point out the cups. At this point, the students will only have their hands to transfer the water to the buckets.
4. Begin the race and encourage the students. Allow them to struggle with moving the water. (Yes, we know that this will make a huge slippery mess!)
5. After a while, stop the race. Say, “Wouldn’t it be easier if everyone had a cup for this race?”
6. Point out the cups and allow students to each **use** a cup as you restart the race.
7. Award the winning team members three Tracker Tickets each.
8. Before returning to class, ask students the following questions:
 - a. How much easier was the race when you **used** the cups?
 - b. Weren’t the cups there for you to **use** the whole time?
 - c. Why didn’t you **use** them from the start?
 - d. If we raced to fill the buckets again, would you forget about the cups and just **use** your hands again? Or would you **use** the cups from the start?

1st Grade: LEGO Station

Supplies:

- Small container with all the LEGO wheels (should be off to the side, almost out of view)
- Racetrack (piece of plywood held up on one end with a table or chair; for large classes, have multiple pieces of plywood or race in small groups)
- Tracker Tickets

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Students will be challenged to individually build the fastest car. The twist is that the wheels will be missing when the students first start to build. As soon as they begin to build, they should become frustrated as they realize there are no wheels. They can't be successful without the wheels!
2. After a few minutes, "notice" that the wheels have just been sitting to the side, not being **used**. Ask the students if they would like to **use** them. Once they agree to **use** them, let them finish their cars.
3. When the cars are finished, allow them to race. Award the winner five Tracker Tickets.
4. Before returning to class, ask students the following questions:
 - a. How much easier was it to build a fast car when you **used** the wheels?
 - b. Weren't the wheels there for you to **use** the whole time?
 - c. Why didn't you **use** them from the start?
 - d. If we built cars again, would you forget about the wheels and build your car without them? Or would you **use** the wheels from the start?



2nd Grade: Art Station (two options are given below)

Option 1: Bible bookmark

Supplies

- Cardstock bookmarks (Top 12 verses on one side and blank on the other) (see appendix)
- Fine tip markers in bright colors
- Fun, brightly colored ribbon (cut in advance into bookmark length)
- Hole punches in a clear box (one for every three to four students; should be off to the side, in view of students)

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Challenge students to design the front of their bookmark in a limited amount of time (approximately eight minutes). Show the blank side of bookmark. Share the following decorating ideas: write the year, draw a happy picture, write their name, make a fun line design, etc. Show the back side of the bookmark with the Top 12 verses. Explain that, after they are done, they will get a ribbon to add to their bookmark, so they can use it in their Bible.
2. Remind students time is short, so they will need to move fast.
3. Once students have finished their bookmarks say, "We need something to punch a hole in your bookmarks, so you can add your ribbon." Have students give suggestions on what to do. (Hopefully students will see the hole punches sitting off to the side.)
4. You (the DT leader) should eagerly say, "Wow, they were just sitting there. What a great tool we can **use!**"

5. Quickly hand out hole punches and have students punch their bookmarks and add their ribbons.
6. As students add their ribbons, highlight how helpful it was to have hole punches and **using** them helped get the project done.

Alternate Idea: Instead of having the hole punches off to the side, provide students with a roll of ribbon and have a clear box with scissors off to the side. They will need to notice the scissors and use them to cut the ribbon and complete their bookmark. In this case, you could either punch the holes in advance, or have one or two hole punches available for students to punch a hole in their bookmark.

Option 2: Pop Rocket Candy Experiment (Alert – practice in advance!)

Supplies:

- Pop Rocks (one package per team of four)
- Balloons (one per team of four)
- Small funnels in a clear box (one per team of four; should be off to the side, almost out of view)
- 16 oz. bottles of soda (one per team of four)

Note: You may want to do this activity outside if weather permits.

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Divide students into teams of four and give each team one bottle of soda, one package of Pop Rocks, and a balloon. Instruct students to listen carefully and follow the instructions for the experiment.
2. Have students fill their balloon very carefully with the Pop Rocks and make sure they don't drop a single rock.
3. As students struggle to fill their balloon, act as if you forgot that there is a box of funnels nearby. Ask if they would like to **use** the funnels, so they can just pour in the Pop Rocks. (This will speed up the process.) Highlight how much easier it is **using** the funnels and how you're glad you remembered to **use** them.
4. After balloons are filled with Pop Rocks, attach the balloon to the top of the soda bottle (with the cover removed) and allow the Pop Rocks to mix into the soda. This will cause a reaction, and the balloon will slowly fill.

3rd Grade: Chalk Wall

Supplies:

- Chalk
- Erasers (should be off to the side, almost out of view)
- Cards with pictures of temptations (stealing, being mean, disrespecting parents, saying bad words, fighting, cheating on a test, watching something bad on the Internet, etc.) (see appendix)
- Tracker Tickets

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Divide students into four teams.
2. Divide the chalk wall into four designated spaces. Outline where they can draw, so there is limited space.
3. Select one student from each team to look at the first temptation card and then draw the "temptation."
4. Encourage students to draw large, life-sized pictures of the



temptations. Bonus points will be given to teams with great pictures each round.

5. The team that guesses the correct word will receive a point.
6. Select a different student from each team to look at the next temptation card and then draw the “temptation.” At this point, students will begin to get frustrated that the large, life-sized pictures on the chalkboard take up all the space. Since there is no way to erase them, they cannot draw the next temptation.
7. After a few moments, “notice” that the erasers have just been sitting to the side, not being **used**. Ask students if they would like to **use** them. Once they agree to **use** them, allow them to erase the pictures and then compete to draw the next picture. Highlight that the erasers were there all along, they just didn’t **use** them.
8. As the competition continues, highlight how helpful it is to **use** the erasers.
9. At the end of Discover Time, the team with the most points will earn three Tracker Tickets each.

4th Grade: Mission Station – *The Mission Lesson is in the appendix.*

5th Grade: Play-Doh Station (*Alert – practice in advance!*)

Supplies:

- Ingredients for homemade playdough (water, flour, oil, salt, food coloring, glitter)
- Homemade playdough recipe cards (see appendix) (should be set off to the side, almost out of view)
- Bowl, measuring cups and spoons, and a large spoon (for each team)
- Plastic zipper bags (one per student)
- Permanent markers



Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Divide students into groups of six.
2. Students will be challenged to make their own homemade playdough. They will be given the ingredients without the recipe.
3. Allow students to brainstorm how to make homemade playdough.
4. After the students decide they don’t know how to make playdough, have a Shepherd point out the recipe cards.
5. Encourage students to **use** the recipe to make the playdough.
6. When finished, each group should divide their playdough into six balls, one for each student, and put in plastic zipper bags to take home.

Bible Lesson Introduction

Lead Teachers ~ Connecting the DT to the Lesson: What happened in your DT today? In the middle of your DT, did you discover anything that made your challenge any easier? When you found it, did you **use** it? Or did you just sit back and think how awesome it would be if you **used** it? I think we all jumped at the chance to **use** it.

We often have problems in our lives, but we forget to do the obvious: go to God's Word for help. We often know God's Word, but we often don't even think to **use** it. We forget to **use** the tools we already have. We get so wrapped up in what is happening in our lives that we don't seek God's help. In today's lesson, Jesus Himself not only knew Scripture, but He also **used** it.

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

Pray: Challenge a student to open your lesson with prayer. Encourage them to speak clearly and confidently as they pray to the one and only true God.

Find it: Write the verse reference on the whiteboard and have students open their Bibles. Remember, visitors are often unfamiliar with how to use a Bible and may need assistance.

Timeline: Inform students that we will be teaching a lesson that is pictured on the timeline. Challenge students to listen carefully and when they figure it out to quickly point to it. The first person to figure out this challenge wins a Tracker Ticket.

Introduction to the Bible Lesson:

We recently celebrated Christmas. Jesus was far more than just a baby. He grew up and became a man. Isn't it amazing to think that Jesus had legs, arms, and hair, just like you? He even had to make choices not to sin. What is sin? (Anything we think, say, or do that is against God) Do you have to make decisions about sinning? This brings us to the beginning of our Bible lesson.

Scripture Outline: Matthew 4:1-17

The temptation begins

Read Matthew 4:1

Recap: Jesus enters a time of fasting that Satan uses to tempt Him. Fasting is choosing to give extra attention to God by not eating.

What is temptation? Temptation is when someone or something tries to draw us into doing something that goes against God. Is Satan real, and can he really tempt us today? (Yes) This is the reason we are studying this part of the Bible today. We want you to be able to "stand firm" against temptations in your life. And yes, Satan is real. Refer to Ephesians 6:12.

Jesus is human

Read Matthew 4:2

Recap: How would you feel if you hadn't eaten for forty days and nights? *Make sure students understand that Jesus was human.* Since He hadn't eaten, He was very hungry. He was both physically and emotionally exhausted.

Temptation #1

Read Matthew 4:3-4

Recap: Since Jesus was very hungry, Satan tempted Jesus to get what He needed through him (Satan), instead of trusting in God.

But Jesus said, "It is written, man does not live on bread alone..." Jesus trusted that God would meet all His needs and responded to Satan with the truth of God's Word.

When tempted, Jesus always responded by quoting God's Word. Jesus didn't use His own thoughts or opinions. That's why memorizing God's Word accurately is so important because that is how Jesus conquered Satan. Do you memorize Scripture in order to use it against the devil? Remember our Discover Time activity? It is one thing to "have it" and another thing to **use** what you have. *If time permits, check out 1 Corinthians 10:13.*

Temptation #2

Read Matthew 4:5-7

Recap: Satan said, "Throw yourself from the highest point of the temple." Satan tempted Jesus by twisting the meaning of Scripture (Psalm 91:11-12).

Jesus said, "It is written, do not put the Lord God to the test." Jesus knew that Satan was misusing Scripture, and He answered Satan with God's truth.

Temptation #3

Read Matthew 4:8-11

Recap: Satan said, "Worship me, and I will give you the kingdoms of this world." Satan tempted Jesus with a shortcut to the will of God – a quicker way to try to make God's plan happen. Jesus said, "It is written, worship the Lord God only!" Jesus knew there were no shortcuts, and again He answered Satan with God's truth.

Summary of Matthew 4:1-11: Jesus resisted Satan's lies by using the truth of God's Word. Then, Jesus commanded the devil to leave, and he left Jesus alone. Then the angels came and attended Him.

What about you? Do you just memorize Bible verses to get awards or candy? Or do you memorize verses to **use** them? When you **use** them, do they help you feel free from Satan's temptations? They should! *Take time to go through some specific real-life situations using the examples below. Use the Top 12 verses to help students understand how they can **use** Scripture in the future.*

- Your friend told you to make fun of the new kid at school. What verse should pop into your head? (Mark 12:30-31)
- You have been told that nobody loves you. What verse should you remember? (John 3:16)
- Somebody told you that reading your Bible and going to church is boring and not necessary. What verse should you use? (2 Peter 3:18a)

Jesus begins His ministry

Paraphrase of Matthew 4:12-17:

What happened to Jesus after He overcame temptation? The Bible teaches us that He began teaching people about the Kingdom of heaven.

Conclusion

Before Jesus began to teach, He experienced the challenges of walking on this earth. When He faced those challenges, He clung to what He knew was truth, God's Word.

Do Right and Feel Right

As Christians, we know that temptations will still come our way, especially when we are tired and weak. Jesus experienced temptations and showed us very clearly how to conquer them. Let's stop and each think about a temptation that we face. What verse would you use to resist that temptation? Now let's each pray silently for a moment and ask God to help us remember this verse and resist the temptation to sin. *Allow time for all students to silently pray.*

We need to study, memorize, understand, and use the best tool ever, a tool we already have, God's Word, to defeat the enemy's attacks and walk away from sin. We can resist temptation, not with our own strength, but with God's truth. And, when we use the Word of God to resist temptation, we can feel confident!

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

The DT Leader or Shepherd will lead students in a review game. Game ideas are in the appendix.

1. Who tempted Jesus? (Satan)
2. When did Satan tempt Jesus? (When Jesus was hungry, after fasting for forty days and nights)
3. How did Satan tempt Jesus? (With food, by twisting Scripture, and with a shortcut to God's will)
4. What did Jesus do when Satan tempted Him? (He used God's written Word to resist temptation)
5. What happened after Satan tempted Jesus the third time? (Satan left Jesus alone, and the angels came and took care of Him)
6. Why do you memorize God's Word? Do you use it when you are tempted? Give an example.

Lesson 5 – January 12, 2025

Matthew 6:25-34

Know Right:	Jesus teaches about worry.
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 not worry, but instead I will trust God.
Feel Right:	I can feel peaceful when I trust God.

GET READY!

Has worrying ever overwhelmed you? Worry is the opposite of trusting God’s perfect plan. When we worry, it causes physical and mental stress, a lack of confidence, and an inability to focus. God makes it clear: we should not worry. We should trust in Him, knowing that He is an all-knowing, loving Father who is there to provide for us and direct our paths through life.

Pray: Pray for the students in your class who often experience anxiety, fear, or worry. Ask God to bring them to class this week with open hearts to learn and live out God’s Word.

Read: Matthew 6:25-34

Know Right: Jesus teaches about worry

One specific temptation Jesus taught His followers to resist was the temptation to worry. While the daily issues the followers of Jesus dealt with may be different from our own, the same basic principle from Jesus’ famous Sermon on the Mount is true for all people, over all time: God is faithful, and His plan can be trusted. His followers have no need to worry. If we trust that His teachings are true, we will want to follow them. Then, no matter what is going on around us, we will know with certainty that He is in control, He loves us, and He will provide exactly what we need – though not necessarily what we want – at exactly the right time, according to His great plan. We can learn from this lesson that we should not worry, and instead we should trust God.

GET SET!

Lead Teacher's Notes:

- Our lesson today covers the topic of worry. Worry causes a person to fear, freeze, and not take action. Worry causes us to imagine and replay negative scenarios – that haven't even happened – over and over in our heads, causing negative effects on our minds, bodies, and souls.
- By releasing their worries and trusting that God's perfect plan will be done in their lives, our students can become healthy, strong, and peaceful Christians.
- The first step in overcoming worry is having a personal relationship with God through Jesus. There are several opportunities to present the Gospel during this lesson.
- How can this Scripture be true? How can we say God provides when Christians have starved to death, been persecuted, and suffered? Rather than teaching that God will provide everything we need for a pleasant life, Scripture teaches us that God will provide everything we need to be able to accomplish His will for us each day.

Creative Ideas for the Bible Lesson:

1. Print photos of birds (see appendix) to show students examples of birds that God cares for. *This idea is written into the lesson.*
2. Bring in a pet bird and food, and a bouquet of beautiful flowers.
3. Have index cards ready for students to write out or draw out personal worries (end of lesson).
4. Ask your Shepherd or DT Leader to read portions of Scripture when you refer to them.
5. Write out Proverbs 3:5-6 on your whiteboard and circle key words in bright colors as you teach this lesson.

GO!

Pre-Service Review Game and Worship

Worship Leaders will lead students in a review game followed by worship. Details are in the appendix.

Discover Time: Don't worry; trust God.

Goal: To help students understand the word "trust".

Kindergarten: Sand Station

Supplies:

- Wet sand (make sure it's packy)
- Blindfolds (one per student)
- Buckets (one per student)
- Shovels (one per student)

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Ask students if they are willing to **trust** you as you guide them through a fun sand activity.
2. Blindfold all students. (All leaders should help with this.)
3. Once students are blindfolded, give each student a bucket and have them fill their bucket with sand. (Students will have to use their hands.)
4. Tell them you have something that will help them fill their buckets. Do they **trust** you to provide good things that will help them?
5. Hand out shovels and allow students to fill their buckets with sand.
6. Tell students it's time to flip their buckets to make a sandcastle. They can do it by themselves (blindfolded), or they can wait and **trust** you to flip it for them.
7. For each student that decided to **trust** you, pack the sand down tightly to make sure the sand will hold its shape and then flip the bucket. Have those students lift their buckets and remove their blindfolds.
8. For each student who didn't **trust** you, have them flip their bucket blindfolded, and then remove their blindfolds.
9. Point out how the "sandcastles" belonging to the students who **trusted** you for help are formed nicely, and some of the other ones are not. **Trusting** a leader definitely gave students a better chance of success!

1st Grade: Art Station

Supplies:

- 8.5 x 11 posters with "Don't worry, trust God!" in large bubble letters, along with Proverbs 3:5-6, birds, and flowers (see appendix)
- Fine tip markers, colored pencils, and/or crayons (check the resource to determine art supplies)
- Tracker Tickets

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Invite students to an art-fest where they will decorate a poster.
2. Tell students that three prizes will be given out at the end of DT. First place is five Tracker Tickets and will go to the student with the best artwork. Second prize is three Tracker Tickets and will go to a student who is very focused and working hard. Third prize is one Tracker Ticket and will go to a student who puts in a lot of effort. Ask students if they **trust** that you will actually give out the prizes.
3. As students color, have them share about times when they would need to remember to **trust** God and not worry, and they could think about Proverbs 3:5-6.
4. At the end of DT, choose the three winners and award the prizes. Highlight that the kids could **trust** you that prizes would be given out.

2nd Grade: Food Station

Supplies:

- Oven
- Baking sheets
- Parchment paper cut into squares
- Permanent marker (one per student)
- Cookbook
- Hot pads
- Canned cinnamon rolls (or other tested food that is simple to make)
- Hand washing supplies
- Parent volunteers to bake and frost the cinnamon rolls and deliver them to the classroom

Setup instructions: Preheat the oven BEFORE DT; this is essential because there will not be enough time to follow the preheating instructions during DT.

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Ask students if they have ever done any baking or cooking. Did they always follow the recipe or instructions carefully? It's important to get our instructions from a source we can **trust**, like a reliable cookbook or the maker of the product. That way we can be sure our food will turn out good.
2. Share a quick story (15 seconds) about a time you did not **trust** the instructions when making something, or you got your instructions from a source that was not **trustworthy**, and things didn't turn out right.
3. Say: Today we are going to make delicious cinnamon rolls. We can **trust** the instructions on the package because the makers of the cinnamon rolls wrote the instructions, and they know the best way to make them.
4. Divide students into groups of eight, and have students wash their hands. Then pass out parchment paper squares and markers. Have students write their name on their square. Then have groups carefully follow the instructions on the package. (Make sure you have enough pans, oven space, etc., so the instructions can be followed exactly.)
5. Ask students if they can **trust** the cooks of the kitchen to bake the rolls, add the frosting, and deliver the finished cinnamon rolls to your classroom.
6. If yes, head back to class for the Bible lesson. (This DT will go quick; use your early return time to jump start your lesson. The cinnamon rolls will be delivered at the end of class, so your lesson will not be interrupted.)

3rd Grade: Play-Doh Station

Supplies:

- Several colors of Play-Doh
- Cookie cutters, plastic knives, and/or other items for shaping the Play-Doh
- Tracker Tickets

Instruction for DT Leader:

1. Have students create a sculpture of a time they were worried. Be prepared to give examples if needed or allow students to briefly brainstorm and share ideas for their sculptures.
2. Give students a fixed amount of time to create their sculptures.
3. Have each student explain their sculpture to a leader as they are working on it. They should share whether they **trusted** God during that time and how that made them feel.
4. After hearing students' explanations (as they're working), each leader should choose a student with the best sculpture and explanation. The three students that were chosen should share their sculpture and explanation with the class.
5. Award these students five Tracker Tickets each.
6. Have students shout out, "Don't worry, **trust** God!" As they shout, they should smash their sculptures of worries!

4th Grade: Water Station

Supplies:

- Buckets (one per team)
- A variety of small objects – some that float and some that do not float (fill each bucket with an equal number of objects; contents of each bucket do not need to match the other buckets)
- Tracker Tickets

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Divide students into teams of four and give each team a bucket of objects.
2. Say: Today we are going to figure out which of the items in your buckets float and which items do not float. As a team, you will decide which objects you **trust** to float in the water. Any object that you do not **trust** to float should be set on the floor next to your bucket. Any object that you **trust** to float should stay in the bucket. Then we will test them. Your team will get one point for every **trusted** item that actually floats. But if you **trust** the wrong things and an object that you **trusted** to float actually sinks, your team will lose two points. Ready?
3. Give teams three minutes to sort their items. If they **trust** an item to float, it stays in the bucket. If not, it goes on the floor next to the bucket.
4. At the end of the three minutes, have all teams go to the water. One at a time, have each team test whether they **trusted** the right objects. Shepherd and Lead Teacher should help tally points. Keep all students engaged by having them cheer for the other teams. You could even have the other teams give a thumbs up if they agree or a thumbs down if they disagree with an object before they test it. Make it a fun competition.
5. Award two Tracker Tickets to the team with the most points.
6. If time permits, mix up the objects and divide them amongst the four buckets and do a quick speed challenge.

5th Grade: LEGO Station

Supplies:

- Tracker Tickets

Instruction for DT Leader:

1. Have students create a 3D LEGO scene of a time they were worried. Be prepared to give examples if needed or allow students to briefly brainstorm and share ideas.
2. Give students a fixed amount of time to create their scenes.
3. Have each student explain their scene to a leader as they are working on it. They should share whether they **trusted** God during that time and how that made them feel.
4. After hearing students' explanations, each leader should choose a student with the best display and explanation. The students that were chosen should share their scene and explanation with the class.
5. Award these students five Tracker Tickets each.
6. Have students shout out, "Don't worry, **trust** God!" As they shout, they should break apart their scenes of worries!

Bible Lesson Introduction

Lead Teachers ~ Connecting the DT to the Lesson:

Art, Play-Doh, and LEGO Stations: What things do you or kids your age worry about? Have you ever worried about the food you might eat, the clothes you wear, friends, having enough money, or a friend or family member being sick? Some of us are so blessed that we never have to worry about having enough food to eat or enough clothes to keep warm, but we worry about other things: people liking us or getting mad at us, passing a test, or doing something embarrassing. How do you feel when you worry? Refer to the *Feel Right* poster. Jesus tells us not to worry, but instead to trust in God and His perfect plan for our lives. This isn't always easy, so let's learn more about this as we study from our Bible.

Sand, Food, and Water Stations: Just like we trusted the _____ (*leaders [Sand], instructions [Food], objects [Water]*) and followed the plan, we can trust God's Word and the plan He has for us. After all, He made us and knows best!

Pray: Challenge a student to open the class in prayer. Encourage them to ask God to use this lesson to teach us to trust His plan and not worry.

Find It: Open your Bible to the book of Matthew in the New Testament. Let's look at chapter 6, verse 25. Be sensitive to new students who are still learning to navigate their Bibles; ask your Shepherd to help any students that need it.

Timeline: Jesus taught people about Himself and about what was true because He cared about them. Can you find a picture on our timeline with Jesus caring for people?

Introduction to the Bible Lesson:

Jesus was teaching large crowds of people. People loved to listen to Jesus talk and watch Him do miracles. He taught people how to be blessed, have true hope and joy, and avoid sin. Jesus knew that those who believe in Him would need to know how to live in this world to accomplish His perfect plan for their lives. He knew that at times people would go through difficult situations and struggles, so He taught people how to deal with those things. Some of the things He taught were about how to overcome anger and how to pray, and He also taught about the importance of loving our enemies, giving to the needy, staying married to the husband or wife we married, not looking at bad things (lust), and not letting money be more important than God. The people listened very carefully.

Jesus even taught about worrying. Even though Jesus taught on this long ago, He knew we would struggle with this even today. What is worrying? It's when you are in a situation or hear of a situation that makes you so fearful that you only think about that situation. Maybe you saw a scary accident and you keep thinking over and over, "What if the person dies?" or "What if I get in an accident like that?" Instead of doing that, you could pray for the person in the accident, and you could trust that God is always with you. Or maybe your family needs money. Instead of just worrying, you could trust God to help your parents find a job where they can earn the money they need, and they could meet new people and maybe even tell them about Jesus.

Scripture Outline: Matthew 6:25-34

God provides for the birds of the air

Read Matthew 6:25-27

Recap: God created you, He loves you very much, and He created a perfect plan for you. Because of this, He said He will take care of you, so you don't have to worry. Have you ever wondered how birds are fed? If God provides food for the birds, how much more will He provide for you? God wants you to trust Him by praying to Him and allowing Him to help you find solutions to your problems.

Did you know an average bird eats $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ of its weight in food each day? (Source: <https://sciencing.com/much-do-birds-eat-day-7435152.html>)

That means that, for their size, birds eat 6-7 times more than humans!

Do you see birds shopping at stores? No, the birds go out and look for food which God provides for them every day.

Show picture of a raven. Ravens eat 4% of their body weight in food each day. (Source: <https://www.allaboutbirds.org/news/how-much-do-birds-eat-each-day/>) If you weigh 100 pounds, that would be four pounds of food. That's a lot of food!

Show picture of a blue jay. Blue jays eat 10% of their body weight in food each day. For a person that weighs 100 pounds, that would be 10 pounds of food! But wait...

Show picture of a chickadee. Chickadees eat 35% of their weight in food! Can you imagine if you needed 35 pounds of food each day? No matter how much food each bird needs, God provides it! He knows what type of food and how much each bird needs, and He takes care of them. And His Word says that you are much more valuable than the birds!

Wait, what about people who don't get enough to eat? Does that mean God isn't taking care of them? (No!) Just like the other things we pray for, when we pray for food, sometimes God asks us to wait. Only He knows all the details of His perfect plan, and we can trust that, even when we are not getting what we prayed for right away, He hears us, and He will provide everything we need to accomplish His goals for us that day.

What happens when you worry? Does anything change? (No) In fact, worrying will only make things worse! When God tells us not to do something – like not to worry – and we do it anyway, what is that called? (Sin) And since sin always has consequences, we can be sure that worrying will not make things better – only worse!

God provides clothes

Read Matthew 6:28a

Recap: Have you ever worried about clothes? Why would a person do this? (Warmth, fashion, modesty, possibly because you want boys or girls to look at you more, being accepted, etc.) *For older students this could be a great discussion.* Have you ever been more concerned about that than about doing what God wants?

Read Matthew 6:28b-31

Recap: Have you ever seen a beautiful field filled with flowers? Have you ever seen a person in a field painting the flowers or worrying about the flowers, hoping their colors will look beautiful? No, God created them beautiful. The fields of flowers and plants are more beautiful than King Solomon (*point to the timeline*), who could have all the best clothes because he had so much money. God is good, and He can make all things beautiful.

Do you know how many flowering plants there are? Scientists have figured out that there are over 300,000 species of flowering plants! That's more than a quarter of a million different types of flowers! If God cared enough about flowers to take care of so many different types, surely He cares even more about taking care of us!

God gives us what we need to be able to do His will

Jesus reminds us not to worry about what we eat and what we wear. He doesn't want us to worry; He wants us to have faith and trust in Him for the things we need to be able to do His will. What verse teaches us to trust in God? (Proverbs 3:5-6) Let's see if anyone has it memorized. *Have a student recite the verse.*

Read Matthew 6:32-33

Recap: Even people today worry about money, food, clothes, and all the other troubles they have. God says this is something the pagans do. "Pagans" means people who don't believe in and worship the one true God. But Jesus said we should seek Him and His Kingdom first, and then He will take care of the rest. What does it mean to seek Him first? It means that the most important thing is to find out more about God and about what He has planned for our lives, and then to focus on doing those things. That's a great way to grow (*green page of Wordless Book*) to become more like Jesus, and it will help us to worry less and feel more peaceful. *Optional: Present the Gospel at this time using the Wordless Book.*

Conclusion

Today we learned why we don't need to worry and why worrying is sin. As Jesus taught, He knew that people would always have troubles on this earth. He cared for them and taught them what to do to live a life that honors God, even in the middle of hard situations.

Do Right and Feel Right

The first step to overcoming worry is to have a personal relationship with Jesus. God loves you very much and wants to become your Heavenly Father who helps you live each day. *Optional: Present the Gospel using the Wordless Book and give an invitation for salvation.* If you have already made this decision, how do you feel knowing your Heavenly Father is the King of Kings? *Refer to the Feel Right poster.*

What troubles are you tempted to worry about? *Optional: Have students write or draw these worries on an index card. See Creative Idea #3.* Would you be willing to give that worry to God and trust that He will help you? Instead of worrying, how about praying that God will provide a way out of that problem. Sometimes what seems like a problem to us is actually an important part of God's big plan, even though it can be hard for us to see that plan. So, it's important to remember that, just because we are having a hard time does NOT mean that God isn't hearing our prayers. He may just be asking us to "wait". Let's pray now: 1) Tell God what you are tempted to worry about, 2) Tell Him that you want to trust Him with your whole heart and not worry about it anymore, and 3) Ask Him to direct you in what to do next.

Now, it's time to begin to move forward, seeking God's will for your life. *Have students turn over their cards and write or draw what they can do to help overcome this problem or endure it patiently.*

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

The DT Leader or Shepherd will lead students in a review game. Game ideas are in the appendix.

1. Does worrying make things better or worse? (Worse)
2. What is a good verse to think about when you are tempted to worry? (Proverbs 3:5-6 or Matthew 6:33)
3. Why did Jesus talk about birds? (He takes care of the birds, and He wants to remind us that we are even more important to Him than the birds)
4. Why did Jesus talk about flowers? (He created beautiful flowers, and He wants us to know that He created us even more beautifully to accomplish His will. It's a reminder that God will provide for our needs.)
5. What should you do if you are tempted to worry about something? (Pray and ask God for help)
6. How can you feel if you trust God instead of worrying? (Peaceful)

Lesson 6 – January 19, 2025

Matthew 7:24-29

Know Right:	Jesus teaches about the wise and foolish builders.
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 build my life on God’s Word.
Feel Right:	I can feel secure when I build my life on God’s Word.

GET READY!

How do you build your life? Is it based on a solid spiritual foundation? As we take time to study God’s Word each week, our worldview begins to line up with God’s. Biblical truths become a normal part of our way of thinking. They form a solid foundation that helps us view the world through God’s eyes and make wise decisions for an unshakable life in Christ.

Pray: Ask God to place a burden on your students’ hearts to know and love God’s Word throughout their lives.

Read: Matthew 7:24-29

Know Right: Jesus teaches about the wise and foolish builders

We find we have a choice to make when we learn from the wise and foolish builders. We can build our lives on the shifting sand of this world, and be destined for destruction, or we can build our lives on the Rock, the truth of God’s Word, that will help us remain safe and secure. Jesus is our Rock, and our house will stand firm when He is our foundation, and we build our lives on His Word.

GET SET!

Lead Teacher’s Notes:

- “How do you know the Bible is true?” is a common question that students are often asked in school. This lesson needs to present historical and biblical evidence that the Word of God is truth, so our students can confidently answer this question.

Creative Ideas for the Bible Lesson:

1. Use sound effects (a rain stick, marbles or rocks pelting into a tin can for hail, pour water from one jar to another to sound like rushing water, a fan for wind, crashing blocks) and props (Bible, a large rock, shoes, and box of sand) to teach the lesson. *This idea is written into the lesson.*
2. Create a house of cards before students arrive. Have students cautiously enter the classroom, so nobody bumps the cards.

GO!

Pre-Service Review Game and Worship

Worship Leaders will lead students in a review game followed by worship. Details are in the appendix.

Discover Time: Scriptorium – A history of the Bible

Goal: To assist students in understanding how the Bible was written and developed into the Book we study each week.

Kindergarten – 5th Grade

Supplies:

- “Scriptorium – A history of the Bible” PowerPoint presentation slides (see appendix)
- “Scriptorium – A history of the Bible” leader text (see appendix)

Instructions:

1. Students will hear a “large group” interactive lesson on the historical edge of how the Bible came to be. The complete lesson is in the appendix. This presentation should feel like a special theater production.
2. We strongly recommend two animated people (who have rehearsed in advance) present this Discover Time activity. This should be fun, fast-paced, and students should be engaged during this presentation.
3. Due to the short Bible lesson, this Discover Time can go over by five minutes. Plan ahead and make sure it is done with excellence.

Note: A video is provided for training purposes for those who are presenting the lesson. Please make time to consult the video before teaching this lesson: <https://bit.ly/3LN8SFW>

Bible Lesson Introduction

Lead Teachers ~ Connecting the DT to the Lesson: It’s amazing how the Bible was made and how so many people sacrificed their lives so we can have this book. *Show them your Bible.* If you were asked at school, “How do you know the Bible is true?”, what would you say? (There is historical evidence the Bible is true) Let’s see what God wants us to learn today about the Bible!

Pray: *Challenge a student to open your class in prayer. Encourage them to stand up and pray with confidence, asking God to help each student in the class to learn something new today.*

Find it: Today we are going to continue in the book of Matthew, chapter seven, verse 24. *Challenge students to find the verse in the Bible. If you have a class of students who are familiar with their Bibles, challenge students to a “Sword Drill.” Always encourage students who find the verse first to assist other students as needed.*

Timeline: Where would you find lessons from Matthew on the timeline?

Introduction to the Bible Lesson:

In our past lessons, we have seen Jesus teaching many important truths to His disciples. He taught them how to pray and the importance of using Scripture to resist temptation. Today Jesus is teaching again. I want you to rest your head on the table, close your eyes, and imagine that you are with Jesus right now in the book of Matthew. The wind is gently blowing, and you are sitting on the soft green grass, right in front of Jesus.

When the students' eyes are closed and their heads are resting on the table, read Matthew 7:24-25 with great expression. As you read it, add sound effects. Then have students open their eyes and sit up.

What are these verses talking about? Let's dig deeper and study them, along with the rest of this parable. *Speak with excitement.* Are you ready to study God's Word today? Let's go!

Scripture Outline: Matthew 7:24-29

Building your house on the Rock

Read Matthew 7:24

Recap: Jesus is telling us how to be wise when we're making decisions about our life. That is pretty important! *Hold up your Bible.* He is saying that if we hear Jesus' Words and do what He says, we are like a wise builder. There are two ways a builder can build a house. *Hold up a large rock.* One way is to build on something really solid and sturdy like a rock. Let's continue reading to find out what happens when the builder builds a house on a solid and sturdy foundation.

Foundation on the Rock

Read Matthew 7:25

Recap: This verse isn't really talking about storms that we hear about on the news. It's talking about the hard times that we go through, such as:

- your parents getting a divorce,
- someone special in your life just died,
- you are being bullied,
- you feel anxious, or
- you are really sad about something.

When we read God's Word, we get to know Him. And when we do what God's Word says, when the storms of life come, we'll be ok. We won't fall apart! But what if we don't listen to God and do what He says? Let's keep reading to find out.

Foundation on the sand

Read Matthew 7:26-27

Recap: The Bible says if we don't listen to God and do what He says, that's like building on sand. *Hold up a box of sand and shake it back and forth.* That seems like a pretty foolish way to build, doesn't it? If we don't build our life on God's Word, our life will crash!

Older students: What does life look like when you feel like your life crashes? How would you prevent this? *Review specific verses students could use when storms come into their lives: Proverbs 3:5-6, Joshua 1:9, and 1 Corinthians 15:58.* What kind of foundation do you want to build your life on? What can we do if we're crashing? (Turn back to God and begin building our lives on Him) He always forgives and lets us start over.

Younger students: Do you ever have hard days? How can you know and do what the Bible says? (We can think about verses we have memorized) *Have students give specific examples with the Top 12 verses.*

Paraphrase of Matthew 7:28-29:

When the people heard Jesus say these things, they were amazed! They knew He was not like any other teacher they had heard before. He was a very, VERY special teacher.

Conclusion

Jesus was teaching how important it is to build our life on the Word of God, so we can have peace and joy and stand firm for Him during the difficult times of life.

Do Right and Feel Right

All of us build our lives on something. Most build their lives on the “wisdom” of the world. When storms come, and they always will come, those that have built on worldly wisdom will have devastation. As followers of Jesus, we must build our lives on the solid Rock, which is God’s Word. When we do this, we can feel secure, no matter what storms come into our lives.

So here is my question: If I looked at your life right now, would I find your life built on solid Rock or not? How would I know? If your life is not built on God’s Word, what are some practical ways you can start building a solid foundation for your life?

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

The DT Leader or Shepherd will lead students in a review game. Game ideas are in the appendix.

1. What book is the most important to study, memorize, and read? (The Bible)
2. Why is it so important? (Because it is God’s Word, and it will help us stand firm in the storms of life)
3. Explain what it looks like to “build your house on the Rock” (Rock = God’s Word). (When life’s storms come, your life will not fall apart)
4. Explain what happens when you do not “build your house on the Rock.” (When life’s storms come, your life will fall apart)
5. What are you building your life on?
6. Name some storms that happen in people’s lives. Give examples of how these storms are handled with God and without God.

Lesson 7 – January 26, 2025

Matthew 8:5-13

Know Right:	The centurion believes in Jesus.
Think Right:	“Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household.” Acts 16:31 (Top 12)
Do Right:	I will put my total faith in Jesus.
Feel Right:	I can feel confident when I put my faith in Jesus.

GET READY!

Do you place all your faith in Jesus? The first step is to believe in Jesus and be saved from your sin. The second step is to follow Him in everyday life by trusting that His way of doing things is best. As we study the lesson and Scripture passage, let’s ask God to use His Word to transform our lives.

Pray: Ask God to help you grow as a leader, both spiritually and in your practical leadership skills. Pray specifically that the students in your class will be receptive to the Word of God.

Read: Matthew 8:5-13

Know Right: The centurion believes in Jesus

Jesus wants us to have faith in Him, believing even when we can’t see. Once, long ago, a Roman centurion counted on Jesus when he was in need, and Jesus rewarded his great faith from afar. Jesus wants us to have the same faith; the question is, will you put your total faith in Him?

GET SET!

Lead Teacher's Notes:

- Please refer to the Children's Ministry Resource Bible: page 1202 (Life of Jesus — Map).
- This lesson talks specifically about hell. Hell is a real place and is talked about more in the Bible than heaven, so we are well aware of the consequences for our sins. When we talk about hell, we always need to remind students that God loves us so much that He sent His Son, Jesus, to rescue us from the penalty of our sins (John 3:16). Though we do not want to scare students into making a decision for Christ, we do need to present the reality of consequences for their sins and the blessing it is to be part of the family of God.

Creative Ideas for the Bible Lesson:

1. Recreate the scene with action figures.
2. Act out the lesson with costumes for the centurion and Jesus.
3. Give students a piece of paper and have them make a grid of eight boxes, like a comic book. As you teach the lesson, have students draw out major plot points. When you get halfway through, review what they have drawn so far, and then review again when you reach the end. Optional: As a review game, have students cut their timeline into squares and try to put it back together.
4. Key words/pictures: Write the key words (listed below) on half or full sheets of paper. For younger students, draw a picture to match the words. Mix up the papers and tape them along the border of the whiteboard. As you teach the lesson, explain the key word, and then put the papers in order of the story in the middle of your whiteboard. Occasionally review the lesson by using the key words.
 - Key words: Capernaum; centurion; servant; paralyzed; terrible suffering; heal; roof; under authority; soldiers; faith; Gentile; Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; kingdom of heaven; darkness, weeping, and gnashing of teeth; believed

GO!

Pre-Service Review Game and Worship

Worship Leaders will lead students in a review game followed by worship. Details are in the appendix.

Discover Time: Who wants to be a “Candyaire”?

(Similar to the game show “Who wants to be a Millionaire?”)

Goal: To challenge students to know and be confident in the “final answer.”

Kindergarten – 2nd Grade: K-2nd Grade Worship Area

Supplies:

- “Who Wants to be a Millionaire” soundtrack
- “Who Wants to be a Candyaire” PowerPoint presentation (K-2nd and 3rd-5th grade) (see appendix)
- Animated show host (must be prepared in advance)
- Two microphones (one for the host and one for the contestants)
- Stage decorated and set up like the game show
- Candy for prizes (variety of sizes of candy; fill stage with glass jars of candy or fun displays of candy)



Advertise this DT the week prior, so students are excited and prepared.

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Have all classes together, seated facing the stage for the “Who Wants to be a Candyaire” game show.
2. The host of the show will call up a student and ask a question. Use the provided PowerPoint presentation or make your own based on the Top 12, the On Track Map, and Lesson Review Questions from previous lessons.
3. If the contestant answers correctly, they will earn candy.
4. If the contestant wants to continue answering questions, they can take the chance to earn extra candy, if they continue to answer correctly. If the contestant answers incorrectly, they lose the candy, and another student should be selected to continue playing the game.
5. If the contestant doesn’t want to continue answering questions, they will keep the candy they earned, and another student should be selected to continue playing the game.
6. The host will often ask, “Is this your final answer?” to really challenge students to think about their answers. Do they truly believe what they are saying without question?
7. Make sure to keep the game fast paced, so students remain engaged and to make sure several students get turns answering questions.

3rd Grade – 5th Grade: 3rd-5th Grade Worship Area

Same activity as K-2nd Grade, but use the 3rd-5th grade PPT.

Bible Lesson Introduction

Lead Teachers ~ Connecting the DT to the Lesson: In our game today, the host kept asking, “Is this your final answer?” Often the question was answered with confidence, but at other times the contestant didn’t answer with confidence. How confident are you in what you believe about Jesus? Do you truly believe in Jesus? Do you really believe His Word is true? In our lesson today, we are going to hear about a man who not only knows who Jesus is, but he also believes in Him, and he has 100% faith in Him...and that was his final answer. Is Jesus your final answer? Let’s discover what this means in our Bible lesson today.

Pray: *Invite a student to open your class in a time of prayer. Ask God to bless and really challenge every student in the room to confidently believe in Jesus today.*

Find it: *Write the verse reference on the whiteboard and have students open their Bibles. Teach that the reference is the verse’s address in the Bible. Why is it important to actually look things up in the Bible for yourself? (So you can be confident that what we teach is actually true)*

Timeline: *Ask students in your class where you would find a lesson about the life of Jesus here on earth. Have students point to the NT portion of the Bible timeline in your classroom.*

Introduction to the Bible Lesson:

Today we are going to learn about a man who could confidently say, “Jesus is my final answer!” He believed in Jesus and His power. Let’s open our Bibles to Matthew 8.

Scripture Outline: Matthew 8:5-13

Faith in Jesus

Read Matthew 8:5-7

Recap: What is a Roman centurion? (A commander of the ancient Roman army) The Roman centurion’s servant was paralyzed. What does “paralyzed” mean? (Unable to move) The centurion showed his faith in Jesus when he asked Jesus to heal his servant. What does “faith” mean? (Total belief and trust in Jesus) Because of his faith, Jesus told the centurion that He would come and heal his servant.

Humility and faith

Read Matthew 8:8-9

Recap: The centurion showed great humility, as well as an understanding of Jesus’ authority and power. He knew that Jesus could heal his servant at His will. This means Jesus can do anything He wants at any time. That takes a lot of faith and an understanding of who Jesus is.

How much faith do you have in Jesus on a scale of 1 to 10? Do you really trust Him when you are in a crisis? At home? At school? Is He your final answer in life all week long?

Lead Teacher’s note: Give a short personal example of how you’ve demonstrated faith in your life.

Remarkable faith

Read Matthew 8:10

Recap: Jesus pointed out the centurion's remarkable faith. He said that there was no one else in Israel – not even the Israelites, God's chosen people – who had that kind of faith.

This is amazing because the centurion was a Gentile. A Gentile is someone who is not Jewish. The Jewish people or Israelites always looked down on the Gentiles. This statement that Jesus made about the Gentiles is very important because it shows that Jesus loves and values both the Jewish people and the Gentiles. He truly loves all people of the world, and He wants all people to understand and receive the gift of His salvation. Acts 16:31 is written for everyone! The centurion was a great example of what true faith in Jesus is all about.

Everyone needs to have faith in Jesus

Read Matthew 8:11-12

Recap: Jesus indicated that there will not only be Israelites that go to heaven, but there will also be Gentiles. Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob were all Jewish leaders. These leaders will be part of heaven, where people from all countries will gather someday. In contrast, those Israelites who didn't have faith in Jesus received their punishment.

When the Bible talks about darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, it refers to a place called hell. Hell is real, just as much as heaven is real. It is a place where people who choose not to believe in Jesus will go after they die. We can be thankful that God does not want anyone to go there, which is why He gave us the gift of Jesus. *Refer to Lessons 1-3.* We can choose to receive this gift and believe in Jesus, or we can choose to reject it. God loves us so much; He gives us a choice to believe or not (Acts 16:31). Our decision has an end result of heaven or a place where we will be separated from God forever. When we talk about the Wordless Book, we often talk about heaven and the importance of having our sin forgiven so we can go to heaven. The reality is, if you do not believe in Jesus, you cannot go to heaven. You need to be bold enough to say, "Jesus is my final answer."

Lead Teacher's note: You should give time for students to receive further counseling for salvation if they are not confident of their salvation.

The results of faith

Read Matthew 8:13

Recap: Can you imagine how pleased Jesus was to say "yes" to the centurion's request? The centurion made a statement about his belief, and Jesus demonstrated His power by healing the centurion's servant from a distance. Wow, isn't that amazing?

Conclusion

Jesus healed someone physically in this lesson, and He can also heal you spiritually. The question is, do you confidently believe in Him? Let's bow our heads. Think of the time when you personally told Jesus you believed in Him and needed Him to save you from your sin. Do you remember this time? If not, you can make this decision today by just praying and talking to Him. If you would like to talk to a leader, look at them right now, and they will take you to the hallway, so you can have some time to ask more questions. *Give remaining students a moment to pray silently; then close by praying aloud and thanking God for sending His Son to be our Savior.*

Do Right and Feel Right

When we face challenges in life, whether in friendships, losing a game, sickness, parents fighting, or getting divorced – to whom do we turn? In whom do we have faith? Is it in ourselves? Someone else? Something else?

The Roman centurion knew that there is only One who can meet our needs, whatever they are. That One is Jesus. He is the only One in whom we can have total faith. Jesus was the centurion's "final answer."

Having Jesus as your final answer begins with believing in Him and Him alone to save us from our sin. When we do this, we can truly feel forgiven. Is Jesus your final answer?

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

The DT Leader or Shepherd will lead students in a review game. Game ideas are in the appendix.

1. What kind of help did the centurion need? (He needed his servant to be healed)
2. Why was the servant healed? (Jesus healed the servant because of the centurion's great faith)
3. What does the word "faith" mean? (Total belief and trust in Jesus)
4. If a person has faith in Jesus, where will they be some day? (The kingdom of heaven)
5. What is the kingdom of heaven like? (It is a perfect place where there is no sin; many from all over the world will be there)
6. If a person does not have faith in Jesus, what will happen to them some day? (They will go to utter darkness where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth; this place is called hell)
7. Do you have total faith in Jesus? Is that your final answer?

Lesson 8 – February 2, 2025

Matthew 9:35 – 10:4

Know Right:	Jesus loves people and wants them to know Him.
Think Right:	“Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.” 1 Corinthians 15:58 (Top 12)
Do Right:	I will tell people about Jesus.
Feel Right:	I can feel joyful when I tell people about Jesus.

GET READY!

How excited are we to tell others about Jesus? Do we pray and ask God to send people to us who want to hear and know the truth? Let’s think about this as we study our lesson. Then, as we go about our week, let’s keep an eye out for those God may be sending our way!

Pray: Spend time thanking God for each student He has brought to your class and for the privilege of helping each one become a life-long follower of Jesus Christ.

Read: Matthew 9:35 – 10:4

Know Right: Jesus loves people and wants them to know Him

When we have come to know Jesus and have faith in Him, we understand that those who don’t are lost, they have no hope, and are destined to eternal punishment. Yes, “the workers are few”, but because Jesus loves people and wants them to know Him, we should live our lives telling people about Jesus.

GET SET!

Lead Teacher's Notes:

Basic evangelism skills are woven throughout this lesson. Teach students to not only share their testimony, but also to be prepared for rejection. When rejection happens, remind students not to be disappointed, but to be patient. Their job is to share and pray. God will continue to work in that friend's life.

Creative Ideas for the Bible Lesson:

1. Use pictures of key words such as harvest, crowds, sheep, and shepherd.
2. Throughout your lesson ask, "Why would Jesus do this?"
3. Teach half of your lesson with students having their eyes closed or covered.
4. Draw out the faces of the disciples and put their names underneath. Cover the faces with pieces of paper. As you read their names in the lesson, uncover their faces. Then ask the students which of the disciples they have heard of. Keep the faces up in your classroom so that in future lessons you can refer back to those faces as a reminder.

GO!

Pre-Service Review Game and Worship

Worship Leaders will lead students in a review game followed by worship. Details are in the appendix.

Discover Time: Now I see!

Goal: To challenge students to recognize what it is like to be in a “dark” world and to challenge the “seeing guide” to understand their responsibility to those in the “dark”.

DT Leader Tip: Coach the “seeing guides” as needed to make sure they are being good leaders!

Warning! Watch for students who peek. Give one warning, then disqualify them from earning the cookie, candy, or Tracker Tickets.

Kindergarten: Food Station

Supplies:

- Blindfolds (one for every two students)
- Bowl or box filled with random items including small balls, pencils, rubber bands, paper clips, crayons, coins, etc. (one for every two students and one for the DT Leader)
- Individually sealed/packaged cookies – *check for allergies* (one per student; should be in the bowl or box with the random items)
- Napkins and wipes



Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Have students sit at a table.
2. Divide students into pairs.
3. Blindfold one student in each group. The student without a blindfold will be the “seeing guide” to help the blindfolded student to collect the specific items as requested by you (the DT Leader).
4. Once students are blindfolded, you will hold up one item from your bowl or box. The seeing guides should guide their partner using only verbal instructions to collect the specific item you held up.
5. Repeat activity with different items, ending with the packaged cookies.
6. Have students remove their blindfolds, and then all students should enjoy their cookie.

1st Grade: Play-Doh Station

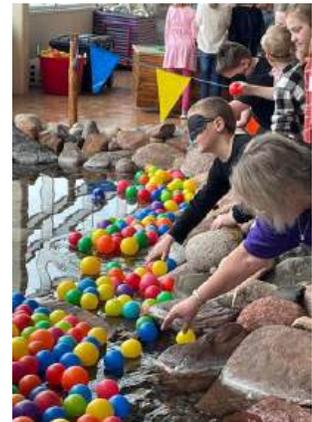
Supplies:

- Blindfolds (one for every two students)
- Small pieces of candy or Tracker Tickets (for winning team)
- Buckets with various sizes and shapes of cookie cutters; make sure you have several heart, cross, and person cookie cutters (one bucket for every three or four groups)
- Optional: Create a worksheet with a heart, a cross, and a person for students to refer to.



Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Have students sit at a table.
2. Divide students into partners.
3. Blindfold one student in each team. The student without a blindfold will be the “seeing guide.”
4. Give them their instructions for the race:
 - The seeing guide will guide their blindfolded friend to make a Play-Doh heart, cross, and person.
 - The seeing guides are not allowed to touch the Play-Doh or the cookie cutters; they may only give verbal instructions.
 - The partners that finish first win candy or Tracker Tickets (make sure the shapes are accurately made).
 - Cookie cutters are optional for students to use.
5. Start the race.
6. Throughout the race, all leaders should be encouraging the seeing guides as they guide their partner to make a heart, a cross, and a person.
7. Award candy or Tracker Tickets to the partners that finish first.
8. After the activity is over, have students remove their blindfolds and make each object once again without the blindfold as fast as they can. Optional: Award candy or Tracker Tickets to partners that finish first without blindfolds.



2nd Grade: Water Station

Supplies:

- Red, blue, yellow, and green ball-pit balls (one set per team)
- A display showing the correct order of balls – red, blue, yellow, and green OR a small poster showing the correct order (see appendix)
- Cones (one per team)
- Two-foot gutter pieces or towels (one per team; placed by their team cone)
- Blindfolds (two per team)
- Towels or rugs
- Small pieces of candy or Tracker Tickets (for winning team)

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Divide students into teams of three and have them stand by their team cone.
2. Blindfold two students on each team. The student without a blindfold will be the “seeing guide.”
3. Give them the following instructions for the race:

- Seeing guides will guide their friends to the water.
 - Seeing guides will guide their friends, having one pick up a red ball and the other a blue ball.
 - Seeing guides may not touch the balls; they may only give verbal instructions.
 - Seeing guides will guide their friends to the gutter and have them place the balls in it.
 - Seeing guides will guide their friends back to the water to have one friend pick up a yellow ball and the other a green ball.
 - Seeing guides will guide their friends back to their gutter to place the balls in it.
 - Seeing guides will coach their friends to arrange the balls in the correct order in the gutter (red, blue, yellow, green)
 - The team that finishes first wins candy or Tracker Tickets.
4. Start the race.
 5. Award candy or Tracker Tickets to the winning team.

3rd Grade: LEGO Station

Supplies:

- Blindfolds (two per team)
- Starting line
- Timer
- Small posters showing the correct order of LEGO bricks – red, blue, yellow, green (see appendix)
- Small pieces of candy or Tracker Tickets (for winning team)



Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Divide students into teams of three as they arrive (prior to worship).
2. When students arrive at the LEGO Station, have them stand together with their group on the starting line. Blindfold two students on each team. The student without a blindfold will be the “seeing guide.”
3. Give them the following instructions for the race:
 - Seeing guides will guide their friends to the LEGO bricks.
 - Seeing guides will guide their friends to work together to make the tallest stack of LEGO bricks in five minutes in the following pattern (starting from the bottom): red, blue, yellow, green.
 - Seeing guides may not touch the LEGO bricks; they may only give verbal instructions.
 - The team with the tallest stack in five minutes wins candy or Tracker Tickets.
4. Start the race, setting the timer for five minutes.
5. When you have two minutes left, surprise the kids by allowing all blindfolds to be taken off for the final two minutes to “power build” their stack of LEGO bricks.
6. Award candy or Tracker Tickets to the winning team.

4th Grade: Art Station

Supplies:

- Blindfolds (one for every two students)
- Markers in multiple colors making sure to have yellow, dark gray or black, red, green
- Rulers (one for every two students)
- Activity sheet with Wordless Book symbols that students will color with Wordless Book colors – a gold heart, a dark splotch, a red cross, a white figure celebrating, and a green Bible (see appendix)
- Starting line
- Small pieces of candy or Tracker Tickets (for winning team)

- Timer

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Divide students into partners at the starting line.
2. Blindfold one student on each team. The student without a blindfold will be the “seeing guide.”
3. Give them the following instructions for the race:
 - Seeing guides will help their friend to the Art Station.
 - Seeing guides will help their friend color each WB symbol using the correct color.
 - Seeing guides may not touch the markers or the paper; they may only give verbal instructions.
 - Seeing guides can use a ruler to help guide the marker on the paper.
 - The team that does the best job within the time limit, using the correct colors, wins candy or Tracker Tickets.
4. Start the race, setting the timer for eight minutes.
5. During the last two minutes, surprise the students by allowing them to remove their blindfolds and work on perfecting their picture. (Lead Teachers – watch the expression of the students as they remove their blindfolds.)
6. Award candy or Tracker Tickets to the winning team.



5th Grade: Box Station

Supplies:

- Fifteen boxes per team (boxes should be marked with individual team colors using colored paper, duct tape, or painter’s tape on one side)
- Blindfolds (three per team)
- Starting line
- Small pieces of candy or Tracker Tickets (for winning team)
- Photo or drawing (on posterboard or a whiteboard) of a pyramid made with 15 boxes

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Divide students into teams of six as they arrive (prior to worship).
2. When they arrive at the Box Station, have students stand with their team on the starting line as you explain the rules. Then blindfold three students on each team. The three students without blindfolds will be the “seeing guides.”
3. Give them the following instructions for the race:
 - Seeing guides will help their friends to the correct boxes in their team color.
 - Seeing guides will help their friends make a box pyramid with the team color facing the front.
 - Seeing guides may not touch the boxes; they may only give verbal instructions.
 - The team that finishes first wins candy or Tracker Tickets.
4. Start the race.
5. During the last two minutes of the race, allow students to remove their blindfolds and quickly help finish stacking their pyramid. (Lead teachers – watch the excitement grow as students can fully participate in the challenge.)
6. Award candy or Tracker Tickets to the winning team.



Bonus challenge: Number the boxes and have students stack them in numerical order (see picture).

Bible Lesson Introduction

Lead Teachers ~ Connecting the DT to the Lesson: Those of you who were blindfolded – how badly did you want to see during your Discover Time activity? Did you wish your partner had just told you to remove your blindfold? Did you want to peek so you could be freed from the darkness?

Those of you who were the seeing guides – did the blindfold seem to cause your friend(s) to become frustrated? Did you ever just want to take the blindfold off your friend(s), so they could see?

Did you know that there are many, many people in this world who are blind? These people may not be blind physically, but they are blind spiritually. What does 'being spiritually blind' mean? Let's open our Bibles to Matthew and discover what Jesus has to teach us today.

Pray: *Challenge a student to confidently open your class with prayer. Ask the student to pray that each student will learn something new today and that they would go home and apply what they learned.*

Find it: Jesus walked around on the earth for about 33 years. Do we learn about that time in the OT or the NT? (NT) Let's open our Bibles to Matthew 9:35. *Write the reference on your whiteboard.*

Timeline: *As students are opening their Bibles, highlight the lesson on the Bible timeline.*

Introduction to the Bible Lesson:

Before we dig into today's lesson, let's do a quick review of last week. We talked about the centurion, the man who had total faith in Jesus. The centurion didn't question the words of Jesus or the power of God. Because of his faith, he was guaranteed entry into the Kingdom of God.

When we left last week, you were challenged to really think about the following questions:

1. Do you have faith in Jesus Christ?
2. Is this your "final answer"?
3. Are you really confident in your faith?

There was another point that we discussed last week. We talked about those who don't have faith in Jesus Christ. What would happen to those people? ("But the subjects of the kingdom will be thrown outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." Matthew 8:12) How does it make you feel when you think about this?

Ask older students: Do you really believe what this verse teaches? How do you think this makes Jesus feel? What did He do about it?

Let's open our Bibles to Matthew 9.

Scripture Outline: Matthew 9:35 – 10:4

Jesus loves people

Read Matthew 9:35

Recap: Jesus loved people, and He spent time with them – teaching, preaching, and healing. Could you imagine what it felt like to be near Jesus, hearing Him teach, and then watching Him heal a sick person? I wonder what the crowds sounded like when a lame man could walk or a blind man could see.

Jesus shows compassion

Read Matthew 9:36

Recap: There were crowds of people who came to Jesus. Some were probably just curious, some wanted Jesus to do something for them (like heal them), and some wanted to hear His teaching. Jesus had compassion on all these people. That means He cared about them and felt badly for them. Why? Because they were like sheep without a shepherd. What do sheep act like without a shepherd? They are scared, they get lost, and they can easily find themselves in danger. So, if the people were like the sheep, who is the Shepherd that they were missing? (Jesus!) They didn't know Jesus as their Savior and leader of their life.

Lead Teacher's note: These are key verses in teaching our students to look at people through God's eyes and not our own. This is not easy! It needs to become a trained habit / lifestyle for our students. (1 Corinthians 15:58)

Older Students: Challenge students to write down on a sticky note the name of a friend that does not know Jesus. Ask them to stop and think: Do you have compassion for this person, like Jesus did? Do you see them the way God does, or as just another body? Refer to the Discover Time activity. Gather the names and stick them on your whiteboard. Explain that when we look at the big picture of names, it becomes a whole field of people who need Jesus.

Younger students: Make up a story or tell a real story of a child who does not know Jesus. After talking about the child for a while, challenge students to view that same child through God's eyes and not their own. Ask the class if they have compassion for the child when they look through God's eyes. Refer all students back to Matthew 8:12 if necessary.

Jesus sees the harvest

Read Matthew 9:37-38

Recap: Jesus saw the fields of people and knew they were ready to hear the truth. But Jesus also recognized that people were needed to go and share this Good News of salvation with others. Are you willing to tell others about Jesus?

Gospel

Let me demonstrate with the Wordless Book how you can share the Gospel with friends. *Invite a student to the front of the class and role play witnessing to them.*

It's not always going to be easy to share the Good News. Why?

Jesus calls disciples

Read Matthew 10:1-4

Recap: When Jesus called these men, He gave them the power to go do His work. These men were ready to obey Jesus.

Conclusion

Jesus also calls (asks) us to serve Him. The disciples said, "Yes." What do we say when we're called to share the Good News? *If time permits, use the Feel Right poster to discuss how students feel about telling others about Jesus.*

Do Right and Feel Right

Forgiveness is why Jesus came to earth. He loves us, and He wants us to know Him. That is why He spent time teaching, preaching, and healing people when He walked this earth. He knows who is lost and in need of a shepherd. When we follow Jesus, we should look at others through His eyes. How could this change how we feel about others? Jesus wants us to tell others that they can be saved from their sin and have eternal life if they trust in Him. Sometimes it's not an easy thing to do, but God will help us when we ask Him (*1 Corinthians 15:58*). We will feel joyful when God uses us to reach others. What will a person do when we tell them the Good News about Jesus? Next week, we'll find out about the different choices people make when they are told about Jesus.

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

The DT Leader or Shepherd will lead students in a review game. Game ideas are in the appendix.

1. How do we know Jesus loves people? (He spent time with the people teaching them, preaching to them, and healing them; He died for us; He also sends His followers to share the Good News with others)
2. Why does Jesus have compassion for people? (He knows, if they don't believe in Him, they will be cast into outer darkness where they will be punished forever)
3. Why did Jesus say that people are like sheep without a shepherd? (People are spiritually lost without Him)
4. Do you know a person who needs to hear about Jesus? Look at them through Jesus' eyes. Do you have compassion for them?
5. What should Christians do about the harvest of lost people in our world? (Tell everyone they can about Jesus)
6. What can you do? (Tell other people about Jesus)

~~Lesson 9~~

~~Matthew 13:1-23~~

Know Right: _____ Jesus teaches the parable of the sower.

Think Right: _____ “But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”
2 Peter 3:18a (Top 12)

Do Right: _____ I will grow with Jesus.

Feel Right: _____ I can feel excited when I grow with Jesus.

This lesson is not being used during this sequence.

Lesson 10 – February 9, 2025

Matthew 14:13-21

Know Right:	Jesus feeds the 5,000.
Think Right:	“Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you.” 1 Peter 5:7
Do Right:	I will depend on Jesus for all of my needs.
Feel Right:	I can feel satisfied when I depend on Jesus for all of my needs.

GET READY!

Before you study this lesson, take time to cast all your cares on Jesus and rest in Him. He loves you, and no matter how life looks right now, He has a perfect plan and will work all things out in His time.

Pray: As you pray during the week, pray for the parents of your students. Pray that they will make coming to church a priority for their children. Also ask God to help your students think deeply about what it means to cast their cares on Jesus, so they can embrace the lesson and use its truth throughout their lives.

Read: Matthew 14:13-21

Know Right: Jesus feeds the 5,000

Once we get to know Jesus, we understand that we should rely on Him to meet all of our needs. Jesus fed the 5,000 with five loaves of bread and two fish. Whether He provides what’s needed for our daily existence or helps us through our major struggles in life, we should always remember that Jesus cares for us. We can depend on Jesus for all of our needs.

GET SET!

Lead Teacher’s Notes:

- This lesson is about how much Jesus cares for us. This is such a critical lesson to teach children at a young age, so they can cling to Jesus during the difficult seasons of life. God allows hard times in our lives, so we press into His arms of love, like a small child does to their father.

Creative Ideas for the Bible Lesson:

1. Create the scene in your classroom and act out the lesson. Place a green blanket or tablecloth off to the side to represent the grass for students to sit on when you get to that part of the lesson and a simple picnic lunch (fish crackers and bread – *check for allergies*). In advance, ask a few students to pretend to be sick (make sure they keep it a secret until after you read verse 14), and ask a few students to be the disciples.

2. Write sounds or key phrases from the lesson on your whiteboard, then assign a student or group of students to each one. During the lesson, point to the sound or key phrase when you want students to make the sound or say the phrase. Sounds/key phrases could include: walking feet, crowds talking, a sick person, people saying “I’m hungry,” etc.

GO!

Pre-Service Review Game and Worship

Worship Leaders will lead students in a review game followed by worship. Details are in the appendix.

Discover Time: Who cares?

Goal: To teach students 1 Peter 5:7 and to **depend** on Jesus for all their needs.

Kindergarten: Mission Station – *The Mission Lesson is in the appendix.*

1st Grade: Water Station

Supplies:

- Four different colors of foam pool noodles (cut so each team has twelve chunks in their team color, each with one word of 1 Peter 5:7 written on it and one with the reference written on it)
- Four gutters or large towels (to place foam pieces in order)
- Poster with 1 Peter 5:7 displayed on an easel (see appendix); or write the verse on a poster board, chalk board, or white board
- Tracker Tickets

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Divide class into four teams.
2. Teams will relay to collect their team’s foam chunks one at a time.
3. As the teams are collecting the foam pieces, they should begin putting the verse in order.
4. After it’s in order, the team should shout out the verse together.
5. The first team to put the verse in order and shout it out wins three Tracker Tickets each.
6. Repeat as time permits.

2nd Grade: Sand Station

Supplies:

- Poster with 1 Peter 5:7 displayed on an easel (see appendix); or write the verse on a poster board, chalk board, or white board
- Water (sand should be wet)
- Tracker Tickets

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Divide the sand into two or four sections, based on the number of students.
2. Divide the class into two or four teams.
3. Teams will compete to create in the sand the biggest and boldest 3D words “He cares for you”. The words should really pop out of the sand!
4. The team with the biggest, boldest version wins three Tracker Tickets each.

3rd Grade: Art Station

Supplies:

- Cardstock activity sheet with 1 Peter 5:7 printed in bold, black letters (one per student) (see appendix)
- Small bubble wands (one per student)
- Bubble mixture
- Food coloring (recommend using washable food coloring/dye)
- Small cups to dip wands (portion cups work well)
- Smocks (one per student)



Setup instructions: Add a little bubble mixture into each cup and then add a little food coloring. Stir gently. Do not allow the mixture to become bubbly. Test bubbles to make sure you have enough food coloring, so the bubble mixture makes bright and vibrant bubbles, and the posters are bright and fun. Then create one sample picture for students to see in advance.

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Have students create their own unique poster by blowing colored bubbles over the verse, 1 Peter 5:7. Bubble art should have fun, bright colors on top of the words and should not block out the words.
2. While students are doing this art project, walk around and ask students what this verse means to them. Challenge students to think!

Optional: Create a clothesline to hang projects, and have students pick them up after class.

4th Grade: Food Station

Supplies:

- Plain donut holes (one per student)
- Frosting (a small scoop per student)
- Sprinkles (in several small bowls, enough sprinkles for each student to roll their donut in)
- Small paper plates (one per student)
- Plastic knives (one per student)
- Plastic forks (one per student)

- Wipes

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Give each student a plate with a donut hole, a fork, a knife, and a small scoop of frosting.
2. Talk to students about how much better donuts are with frosting and sprinkles.
3. Have students pick up the donut hole using the fork, and have them frost the entire doughnut hole – all of it, so that no part of the doughnut shows through. Then let them roll it in sprinkles, so it is completely covered. *Note: Forks are used instead of cake pop sticks or toothpicks because they prevent the donut from spinning or slipping down.*
4. Ask students if they can figure out why we covered the entire donut hole with frosting and sprinkles, and how it connects to our lesson today. Allow all students to guess. Make them think.
5. Give students the correct answer: “If you are a believer, Jesus is all around you. He knows everything about you, and He is with you through everything – the good and the bad! He is with you, and He cares about you!”
6. Recite 1 Peter 5:7, “Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you.”
7. Challenge all students to shout out 1 Peter 5:7 several times.
8. If everyone shouts out the verse, allow students to eat their donut holes!

5th Grade: Play-Doh Station

Supplies:

- Play-Doh letter stampers (individual plastic stamp tools that press letters into the Play-Doh)
- Poster with 1 Peter 5:7 (see appendix); or write the verse on a poster board, chalk board, or white board
- Tracker Tickets

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Divide class into teams of approximately four students.
2. Have teams compete to see who can stamp out the entire verse (1 Peter 5:7) in the Play-Doh the fastest. All teams will be working at the same time.
3. Reinforce the verse and teamwork throughout the activity.
4. Award three Tracker Tickets to the team that finishes first.

Bible Lesson Introduction

Lead Teachers ~ Connecting the DT to the Lesson: We just learned and practiced the verse 1 Peter 5:7, “Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you.” What does that mean? Do you have needs that you worry about? Well, that’s anxiety. Why are we supposed to “cast” them on Jesus? He cares for us, but what does that mean? What is Jesus going to do for us? Are you ready to find out what this verse actually means? Let’s get started!

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

Pray: Challenge a student to open the class in prayer.

Find it: As we study the life of Jesus, are we going to look in the OT or the NT? (NT) Open your Bible to the book of _____ (allow students to guess; *Matthew*), chapter 14.

Timeline: During the past few weeks, we have been talking about the ministry Jesus did while He walked on this earth. *Point to the timeline and review the past lessons.*

Introduction to the Bible Lesson:

Have you ever had a bad day? Some of you have had worse bad days than others. Some of you have parents who are going through a divorce. Maybe some of you just heard some bad news before you walked into church. Maybe you have a parent who is sick or a friend who just told you that they don't want to be your friend anymore. But no matter how bad your day or week has been, you can believe this: Jesus knows every detail of the worst day of your life and all the details of every good day of your life. He knows the details, and He really cares about every aspect of your life!

Before we open our Bibles today, I want to tell you about a bad day that Jesus walked through. Jesus had a really good friend named John the Baptist. Do you remember John the Baptist? John the Baptist was killed because he was telling people that Jesus was God's only perfect Son, the promised Savior. That was a really bad day for Jesus, and He was sad. He probably felt similar to how you feel when you've had a very bad day. *Highlight the fact that Jesus had emotions, and He was human even though He is God.*

Let's open our Bibles to discover more about Jesus.

Scripture Outline: Matthew 14:13-21

Jesus has emotions

Read Matthew 14:13a

Recap: The first part of this verse shows that Jesus had feelings. How do you think Jesus felt knowing His friend had just died?

Jesus has compassion

Read Matthew 14:13b-14

Recap: Jesus had compassion for the lost, even though He was probably physically and emotionally tired. He continued to put others first. He could see their needs. Do you know that just as much as Jesus could see these people were hurting, He can see you hurting, too? No matter if you are crying in bed or holding all your hurt inside, Jesus knows you and cares about you.

Trusting God for all our needs

Read Matthew 14:15

Recap: Evening came, and the people were hungry. Instead of trusting Jesus for their food (needs), the disciples began to send the people away. Think about this: Jesus was doing huge miracles such as healing people, and even though the disciples were right next to Jesus, they lost their focus on who Jesus was! Students, when you are in need or have a bad day, do you talk to Jesus? Do you trust that He will provide for all of your needs? Or do you run to someone or something else during bad times?

Miracle of bread and fish

Read Matthew 14:16-19

Lead Teacher's note: Keep pumping up the truth that our Jesus can do miracles.

Recap: Our Jesus cares. Our Jesus provides for all our needs, both spiritually and physically. There is one miracle that we all can experience, and that is the miracle of salvation. Jesus died and rose again to take the punishment for our sin and have victory over sin and death. He did this because He deeply loves us. *This is a great time to present the Gospel.*

The people are satisfied

Read Matthew 14:20-21

Recap: Jesus didn't do a little miracle; He did a huge miracle. Wow! Over 5,000 people were fed, and there were leftovers.

Conclusion

Isn't Jesus amazing? I'm so glad He is my God. As we walk with Jesus, we continue to learn just how much He takes care of us. Even when He was faced with the death of His friend, John the Baptist, and wanted to just be alone with His Father, He cared so much that He put the crowd of people first. He had the compassion to heal the sick and bless them with the miracle of a meal for over 5,000 people. The miracle meal was created from five loaves of bread and two fish.

Do Right and Feel Right

Jesus wants us to depend on Him for everything because He cares for us. 1 Peter 5:7 says to "Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you." And when we do, we will be truly satisfied.

Think about your worst day or maybe your worst week. What did you do? Did you turn to Jesus first? Have you ever prayed and asked Jesus for help? Why or why not? Do you fully understand how much Jesus cares for you? Remember 1 Peter 5:7 and apply it to your life this week. Next week we will learn more about Jesus.

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

The DT Leader or Shepherd will lead students in a review game. Game ideas are in the appendix.

1. Was Jesus ever sad? When? (Yes, He was sad when John the Baptist was killed)
2. What does this show about Jesus? (He had emotions, and He can understand bad days)
3. When Jesus looked at the people who were hurting, what did He do? (He had compassion on them and took care of them)
4. What did the disciples do when the people became hungry? (They told Jesus to send the people away)
5. What did Jesus do when the people became hungry? (He took five loaves of bread and two fish and turned them into enough food to feed over 5,000 people and had twelve basketfuls of food leftover)
6. Who should you go to when you have needs or a bad day? (Jesus)

Lesson 11 – February 16, 2025

Review Day (Basketball Championship)

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

GET READY!

Just think of all the things your students have learned over the course of the quarter – things you have helped them discover about God and His Word that will stay with them for the rest of their lives! As you prepare for this week's exciting review of the Top 12 and the previous quarters' lessons, celebrate all God has done and will continue to do in the lives of your students and fellow leaders.

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

Read: Review the lessons from this quarter.

Know Right: True wisdom comes from God's Word

This is our Jesus. He is the promised Messiah for whom the Israelites were waiting. He is the one who loves us so much that He took our punishment so that we might be saved. As we walk with Him through the book of Matthew, let's meditate on His Word and marvel at His wonders so that through each lesson, we might become more like Him.

GET SET!

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

GO!

Pre-Service Review Game and Worship

Worship Leaders will lead students in a review game followed by worship. Details are in the appendix.

Discover Time

There will be no Discover Time this week. Worship time will be extended to 20 minutes.

Basketball Championship

Supplies and set-up:

- A hoop and two small balls
- Basketball court (two vertical lines, parallel down the center of the room, with horizontal slash marks every foot; the older the students, the longer the court)
- Team chairs should be placed along the two sides of the basketball court
- Lesson Review Questions and On Track Map Questions (see appendix)
- Kitchen timer (each quarter is five minutes)
- Small whiteboard and dry erase marker (to keep score)
- Popcorn or another snack for all students (individual bags)
- Vacuum cleaner (to clean up between and/or after services)



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

Instructions:

1. When students arrive, divide the class into teams of equal ability. Be sure to take notice of those visiting and those with special needs.
2. Have each team sit on one side of the basketball court in their team chairs.
3. Have teams quickly pick a team name (give them only fifteen seconds to lock in the name) or assign team names.
4. Flip a coin to see which team goes first and start the timer for five minutes.
5. Each team's ball should start on the first slash (farthest away from the hoop) on their side of the court.
6. The teacher should stand or sit near the first slash (farthest away from the hoop).
7. The two students sitting the closest to the person asking the questions are on the "question seats."
8. The leader will ask the first student (from the team that won the coin toss) a question from the review questions.



9. If the student answers correctly, they can move their team ball one slash mark.
10. If the student does not know the answer, but the full team can answer it, they can move half a slash.
11. After the ball is moved, the next question goes to the other team. Questions will rotate between teams.
12. When that “round” is finished, the leader should yell, “Go!” and the students should rotate chairs. How to rotate chairs: students who just answered a question will race to the last chair on their side of the court (closest to the basketball hoop) and all other students should scoot over one chair towards the “question chair.” This should take around three seconds. First team to rotate can move half a slash.
13. Continue to play until the timer dings and the quarter is over. Then both teams will get one chance to shoot from where their ball rests on their team slash mark to make a point. Select one player from each team to shoot.
14. If nobody scores, leave each ball on their team’s slash mark, and continue the game (this shoot-out doesn’t require the timer). With each correct answer, the ball will move one slash mark, and that student will be allowed to shoot their ball. Shoot each time you move the ball until one team scores.
15. Once one team scores, reset the timer, return both balls to the first slash (farthest away from the hoop), and continue the game.
16. Repeat starting at #4 above.
17. Serve popcorn or another snack halfway through the game. Students can eat as you continue to play.

Ten Minute Countdown

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

Lesson 12 – February 23, 2025

Testing Day

GET READY!

We've come to the time of year when we give a basic test to all our elementary students. We all want our students to be biblically literate, trust in Christ for their salvation, and continue to grow in their relationship with Him. This is a great opportunity to find out how God is working in and through our students, and what areas we might want to focus on for the rest of the year. Next week, we will return to the book of Matthew to continue our study of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, and in the coming quarter we will also study the disciples in the book of Acts.

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

GO!

Pre-Service Review Game and Worship

Worship Leaders will lead students in a review game followed by worship. Details are in the appendix.

Discover Time

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

Testing Day in the Classroom

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

The word “test” can sound intimidating, and it definitely isn’t typical in a church setting! To help prevent anxiousness in students, we have labeled the testing document as a “Written Review”. This also helps prevent parents from misinterpreting how the tests will be used.

It’s important that as leaders we understand the heart and purpose behind it.

So why test?

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



Instructions for testing:

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

- Provide sharp pencils in the classrooms.
- Cover the Bible timeline and Top 12 posters. Do not allow 2nd – 5th grade students to use their Bibles (Kindergarten and 1st grade students will need their Bibles).
- Each class should use the test based on their grade and/or reading level. There are three tests:
 - Version A is a verbal test recommended for Kindergarten and 1st grade students.
 - Version B is a written test recommended for 2nd and 3rd grade students.
 - Version C is a written test recommended for 4th and 5th grade students.

The tests have questions from On Track Map topics, such as the Wordless Book, books of the Bible, OT vs. NT, as well as lesson review questions from this quarter and the previous quarter.

The written tests also include the Top 12 verses and life-application story problems. (see appendix)

- Encourage students to do their best, since the tests may be given or sent to their parents. Also remind them that communicating what they have learned from the Bible is more important than spelling or handwriting.
- Make sure students understand that the tests are two-sided (if applicable).
- When students finish their test, they can work on the word search. (see appendix)
- Following the test, play a review game and/or have a special snack.
- Visitors should not take the test. Some alternate ideas for these students include:
 - Get to know them. Ask them some basic questions about themselves (family, school, interests, church background, etc.). Tell them a little bit about yourself, too!
 - Show them around your children’s ministry space (Discover Market, DT Stations, etc.).

- Share the Gospel using the Believe It or Not booklet and make a Wordless Book wristband with beads and leather.
- Give them a Top 12 bookmark card, explain what the Top 12 verses are, and work on memorizing John 14:6 in some fun ways.
- Ask if they have a Bible (give them a Bible if needed). Show them some basic Bible navigation (Old Testament vs New Testament, books/chapters/verses). Help them find the Bible passage they will be studying next week and mark it with their new bookmark (see previous idea).

What to do with completed tests:

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

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

Making testing day fun and effective!

1. Bring a treat for the students to snack on.
2. Pass out only one page at a time to younger students.
3. If students have a hard time reading, have the Shepherd or DT Leader take the students in the hallway to ask questions and, if necessary, record answers on the paper. (Don't forget a clipboard to write on.)
4. Before the tests begin, have students warm up with a few jumping jacks or push-ups, or have them jog a bit in place, around the classroom, or around your children's ministry area.
5. Allow students to ask questions during the test if they have them.
6. We recommend that you do not advertise that it is testing day, or your attendance may drop.
7. Hand out Tracker Tickets to those who are working extra hard during the test.
8. Occasionally say encouraging words, like "Great job!" or "I know you are working hard!"
9. If a student is struggling, be proactive and ask them, along with another student, to work with a leader in the hallway. Don't give answers but read the questions and assist them to get on the right track.

Lesson Review Questions

Year 2 – Quarter 2

Leader's Note: Reword questions to better suit the developmental age level of the students you're working with or to better fit the game/activity. They can be revised to be multiple choice, true or false, or fill in the blank. The purpose of the review questions is to reinforce what students have learned, not to stump students. Incorrect answers should always be kindly and positively corrected, so all students clearly hear the correct answer. *Note: Lesson Review Cards are available in the appendix.*

Topical Lesson: New Testament Flyover

1. What is Jesus like? (Real, alive, and powerful)
2. Who announced the birth of Jesus? (Angels announced it to the shepherds)
3. How old was Jesus when He was at the temple listening to the teachers and asking questions? (He was 12)
4. Was Jesus ever tempted? (Yes)
5. Did Jesus sin? (No) *For older students: Why is this important? (Because He had to be perfect – without sin – to be our Savior)*
6. How do you know Jesus rose again? (Many saw Him, He ate food, He talked with people)
7. What did God give to the church/those who believe in Him? (The Holy Spirit)
8. Saul's name was changed to _____ after he became a Christian. (Paul)
9. Who believed in Jesus and was killed/stoned for his faith? (Stephen)
10. Is Jesus coming back? (Yes!)

Lesson 1

1. Who wrote the book of Matthew? (Matthew, a tax collector who became one of Jesus' disciples)
2. Why did Matthew include the genealogy (family history) of Jesus? (To prove to the Jewish people that Jesus was the promised Messiah, the gift they had been waiting for)
3. What did Mary and Joseph name the baby? Why? (They named Him Jesus; the angel told them to name Him Jesus because He would save His people from their sin)
4. What does Immanuel mean? (God with us)
5. Why is it important that Jesus was sent to us? (So we can be saved from our sin)
6. What Bible verse reminds you that God has a plan for your life? (Jeremiah 29:11)
7. Advanced question: How can you use this lesson to prove that God's Word is true? (You can show that the prophecies about Jesus' birth really did come true, which proves they were from God)

Lesson 2

1. Why did Joseph and Mary go to Bethlehem? (To be counted for the census)
2. Where did the prophet Micah say the Savior would be born? (Bethlehem)
3. What happened to Mary after they arrived in Bethlehem? (Her baby was born)
4. How did Mary care for Jesus after He was born? (She wrapped Him in cloths and laid Him in a manger)
5. Why did Mary have to put Jesus in a manger? (There was no room for them in the inn)
6. Whom did God's angel tell that the Savior had been born? (The shepherds in the fields)
7. What sign did God give the shepherds? (They would find the baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger)
8. What did the shepherds do after they found baby Jesus, the Savior? (They told others about Him)
9. Why did God send His Son, Jesus, to be born? (To be the Savior who gives eternal life to people who trust in Him as the leader of their lives)
10. Do you feel loved because God did this for you?

Topical Lesson: Jesus is worthy of our worship

1. List names for Jesus. (God, Light, Teacher, King of Kings, Savior, etc.)
2. Is Jesus the only way to heaven? (Yes)
3. When we call Jesus our Savior, what does that mean? (He saved/rescued us from our sin)
4. Why should we be thankful that Jesus is called a Teacher? (He cares enough to teach us what is right and best for our lives)
5. Who should we be thinking about when we sing worship songs each week at church? (Jesus)
6. Why do you celebrate Christmas?

Lesson 3

1. Where was Jesus born? (Bethlehem)
2. Who went to worship Jesus after He was born? (The Magi)
3. Who lied and wanted to kill Jesus? (King Herod)
4. Who protected Jesus? (God)
5. How did God protect Jesus? (God gave dreams to the Magi and Joseph, so the Magi went a different way home and Jesus' family escaped to Egypt)
6. How has God protected you? (He sent Jesus to save you from the punishment for your sin)
7. What is a good verse to recite when you are afraid? (Joshua 1:9)
8. Does everyone in the whole world need Jesus as their Savior? (Yes!)

Lesson 4

1. Who tempted Jesus? (Satan)
2. When did Satan tempt Jesus? (When Jesus was hungry, after fasting for forty days and nights)
3. How did Satan tempt Jesus? (With food, by twisting Scripture, and with a shortcut to God's will)
4. What did Jesus do when Satan tempted Him? (He used God's written Word to resist temptation)
5. What happened after Satan tempted Jesus the third time? (Satan left Jesus alone, and the angels came and took care of Him)
6. Why do you memorize God's Word? Do you use it when you are tempted? Give an example.

Lesson 5

1. Does worrying make things better or worse? (Worse)
2. What is a good verse to think about when you are tempted to worry? (Proverbs 3:5-6 or Matthew 6:33)
3. Why did Jesus talk about birds? (He takes care of the birds, and He wants to remind us that we are even more important to Him than the birds)
4. Why did Jesus talk about flowers? (He created beautiful flowers, and He wants us to know that He created us even more beautifully to accomplish His will. It's a reminder that God will provide for our needs.)
5. What should you do if you are tempted to worry about something? (Pray and ask God for help)
6. How can you feel if you trust God instead of worrying? (Peaceful)

Lesson 6

1. What book is the most important to study, memorize, and read? (The Bible)
2. Why is it so important? (Because it is God's Word, and it will help us stand firm in the storms of life)
3. Explain what it looks like to "build your house on the Rock" (Rock = God's Word). (When life's storms come, your life will not fall apart)
4. Explain what happens when you do not "build your house on the Rock." (When life's storms come, your life will fall apart)
5. What are you building your life on?
6. Name some storms that happen in people's lives. Give examples of how these storms are handled with God and without God.

Lesson 7

1. What kind of help did the centurion need? (He needed his servant to be healed)
2. Why was the servant healed? (Jesus healed the servant because of the centurion's great faith)
3. What does the word "faith" mean? (Total belief and trust in Jesus)
4. If a person has faith in Jesus, where will they be some day? (The kingdom of heaven)
5. What is the kingdom of heaven like? (It is a perfect place where there is no sin; many from all over the world will be there)
6. If a person does not have faith in Jesus, what will happen to them some day? (They will go to utter darkness where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth; this place is called hell)
7. Do you have total faith in Jesus? Is that your final answer?

Lesson 8

1. How do we know Jesus loves people? (He spent time with the people teaching them, preaching to them, and healing them; He died for us; He also sends His followers to share the Good News with others)
2. Why does Jesus have compassion for people? (He knows, if they don't believe in Him, they will be cast into outer darkness where they will be punished forever)
3. Why did Jesus say that people are like sheep without a shepherd? (People are spiritually lost without Him)
4. Do you know a person who needs to hear about Jesus? Look at them through Jesus' eyes. Do you have compassion for them?
5. What should Christians do about the harvest of lost people in our world? (Tell everyone they can about Jesus)
6. What can you do? (Tell other people about Jesus)

Lesson 9 (not being used during this sequence)

- ~~1. What is a parable? (A story about everyday life to teach us an important truth about God)~~
- ~~2. Who was telling a parable in today's lesson? (Jesus)~~
- ~~3. What does the seed represent in today's lesson? (The Word of God)~~
- ~~4. When Jesus talked about soil, what was He really talking about? (Different types of people who hear God's Word)~~
- ~~5. Are you truly willing to grow in your faith?~~
- ~~6. Discuss different ways to grow spiritually. (Reading God's Word, praying, worshiping, fellowship with other Christians, going to church, singing to God, sharing your faith, going through difficult challenges, etc.)~~
- ~~7. Recite 2 Peter 3:18a to your family. ("But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.")~~

Lesson 10

1. Was Jesus ever sad? When? (Yes, He was sad when John the Baptist was killed)
2. What does this show about Jesus? (He had emotions, and He can understand bad days)
3. When Jesus looked at the people who were hurting, what did He do? (He had compassion on them and took care of them)
4. What did the disciples do when the people became hungry? (They told Jesus to send the people away)
5. What did Jesus do when the people became hungry? (He took five loaves of bread and two fish and turned them into enough food to feed over 5,000 people and had twelve basketfuls of food leftover)
6. Who should you go to when you have needs or a bad day? (Jesus)

Lesson 11

Review Day: No new review questions

Lesson 12

Testing Day: No review questions

On Track Map Questions

Q2 – Winter

Prayer

Purpose: To emphasize important truths about prayer.

Sample questions:

- Does God hear you when you pray? (Yes!)
- Name one thing you prayed for this week.
- When and where can you pray? (Anytime and anywhere)
- How does God answer prayers? (Yes, No, Wait)
- After you become a Christian, what should you do when you sin? (Admit, confess, repent)

Worship / Names of God

Purpose: To challenge students to think about their God and worship only Him.

Sample questions:

- Fill in the blank: My God is _____. (strong, loving, wise, creative, all-knowing, all-powerful, perfect, dependable, awesome, etc.)
- Fill in the blank: My God is called _____. (Father, Lord, Counselor, Prince of Peace, Creator, Savior, King, etc.)

Optional: Create a wall of names that you could use as a focus point during worship.

Wordless Book – Using the verses

Purpose: To connect Wordless Book verses with Gospel points.

Sample questions:

- What verse reminds us to grow spiritually? (2 Peter 3:18a)
- Recite this verse. (Students should recite the full verse – 2 Peter 3:18a: But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.)
- What verse teaches us that we have all sinned? (Romans 3:23)
- Recite this verse. (Students should recite the full verse – Romans 3:23: For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.)

Advanced sample questions:

- A friend tells you that they are perfect; what Wordless Book color pops into your head and what verse would you use? (Dark, Romans 3:23)
- A relative tells you that heaven is not real; what Wordless Book color pops into your head and what verse would you use? (Gold, John 14:2)

Top 12 – Finish the verse

Purpose: To challenge students to confidently know the verse by listening to the first half and completing the second half of the verse.

Leaders give the reference and the first half of the verse and students will answer with the second half.

1. **Romans 3:23:** For all have sinned and _____. (fall short of the glory of God)
 2. **John 3:16:** For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, _____. (that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life)
 3. **Proverbs 3:5-6:** 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)
 4. **John 14:2:** 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)
 5. **Joshua 1:9:** Be strong and courageous. Do not be _____. (terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go)
 6. **2 Peter 3:18a:** But grow in the grace _____. (and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ)
 7. **John 14:6:** Jesus answered, "I am _____." (the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me)
 8. **Hebrews 9:22b:** ...and without the _____. (shedding of blood there is no forgiveness)
 9. **Acts 16:31:** Believe in the Lord Jesus, _____. (and you will be saved – you and your household)
 10. **Ephesians 2:8-9:** For it is by grace we have been saved, _____. (through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast)
 11. **1 Corinthians 15:58:** Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing _____. (move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain)
- Mark 12:30-31:** "Love the Lord your God with all your heart _____. (and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength." The second is this: "Love your neighbor as yourself." There is no commandment greater than these)

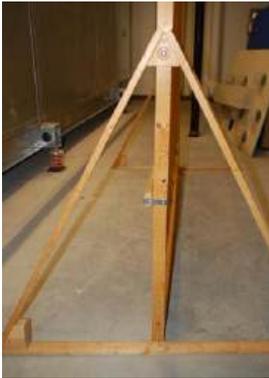
Pre-Service Review Game

Year 2 – Quarter 2

Option 1: Connect 4

Supplies:

- Connect 4 game board (see pictures for an example)
- Frisbees in two different colors (approximately 20 of each color; to be used as game tokens)



Instructions:

1. Divide students into two teams.
2. Ask Lesson Review Questions or On Track Map questions, rotating between teams. To keep the game moving quickly, adapt questions to True/False and multiple choice as needed.
3. If a student answers correctly, they can place their team's colored token into the "Connect 4 Game". If a student answers a question wrong, the other team will get a chance to answer the question.
4. The first team to get four in a row wins a point for their team.
5. Winners can be announced at the end of the day, or you can add up points throughout the full quarter and announce the winner at the end of the quarter.
6. Repeat as time permits.
7. If the game is not completed when worship should begin, call the game a "tie" and begin worship.

Leader Tip: If the same student answers repeated questions, allow them to "Quiz Out" and receive five Tracker Tickets. In future rounds, have them assist with the game or partner with a visitor.

Option 2: Tic-Tac-Toe

Supplies:

- Tic-Tac-Toe game board (see picture for example)
- Styrofoam "X" and "O" painted two different colors (five of each shape)



Instructions:

1. Divide students into two teams.
2. Ask Lesson Review Questions and On Track Map Questions, rotating between teams. To keep the game moving quickly, adapt questions to True/False and multiple choice as needed.
3. If a student answers correctly, they can place an X or O on the giant Tic-Tac-Toe board.
4. The first team to get three in a row wins!
5. Repeat as time permits.
6. If the game is not completed when worship should begin, call the game a “tie” and begin worship.

Leader Tip: If the same student answers repeated questions, allow them to “Quiz Out” and receive five Tracker Tickets. In future rounds, have them assist with the game or partner with a visitor.

Option 3: Extreme Tic-Tac-Toe

Supplies:

- Two Extreme Tic-Tac-Toe boards (instructions below)
- Two buckets
- Thirty bean bags
- Starting line (should be about ten feet away from the boards)
- Stopwatch or timer

Instructions:

1. Divide students into two teams.
2. Ask Lesson Review questions and On Track Map questions.
3. Whenever a team answers correctly, drop a bean bag into their team bucket.
4. After about five minutes (or when bags are dispersed), call up two students (one per team).
5. On the count of three, both students will toss their beanbags underhand at their board at the same time.
6. First team to hit three lights in a row wins for their team.
7. If neither team wins, leave the lights lit and continue to ask questions for five additional minutes.
8. Call up two new students (one per team).
9. First team to light up three lights in a row wins.
10. Repeat as time permits.

Tip 1: When students are tossing, have some fun music playing and get the audience involved.

Tip 2: If you only have one Extreme Tic-Tac-Toe board, challenge the students to work together to get a tic-tac-toe within a set amount of time. If they meet the challenge, award a small piece of candy. You could also set a goal for the quarter; for example: if they achieve a certain number of tic-tac-toes during the quarter, have a fun celebration with donuts or another small treat. Another option would be to take turns and give each team one to two minutes to try to get three in a row.

Tip 3: Instead of mounting lights, cut holes in each square. Once a beanbag goes through an open square, leaders will either need to remember the square, or mark the square with a colored piece of paper with tape on the back. The team who gets three in a row wins!

Instructions for building Extreme Tic-Tac-Toe

Supplies:

- 4'x8' sheet of plywood (3/8" thick)
- Four 10" shelf brackets
- Two 2"x3"x6' boards
- Drywall screws
- Paint
- Duct tape
- Nine press-on lights*



*Lights are similar to this: http://www.amazon.com/UPDATED-VERSION-Battery-powered-Wireless-Night/dp/B00KD3BRIS/ref=sr_1_16?ie=UTF8&qid=1463456233&sr=8-16&keywords=stick+on+touch+light

Instructions:

1. Start with a 4'x8' sheet of plywood. Cut it down to 4'x6' (the extra 2' can be used later**).
2. The game (with the Tic-Tac-Toe squares) will take up the top 4' of the board. The remaining two feet are left empty so that if a student throws low, it doesn't go underneath the game.
3. Four 10" shelf brackets are attached to the bottom of the plywood (to the stripping on the floor) – **our builder used those extra 2' of plywood, cut it into 6" wide strips (4' length) and fastened the shelf brackets to that.
4. With drywall screws, attach each 2"x3"x6' to opposite edges of the board. Anchor the shelf bracket to that.
5. For reinforcement on the back side between the 2"x3"x6' (approximately 2' from the top) our builder put 1" x 2" strips across the back. He used drywall screws from the front side and placed them where the lights would cover them up.
6. Paint the plywood. (Optional: Paint it white and use black lights; they will shine brighter)
7. Divide the top 4' into nine squares, three across and three down (do the math to ensure they are relatively even) with space in between each square.
8. Paint each of the nine squares.
9. Lines in between can be painted, or our builder used white duct tape. Key to getting the duct tape to stay firmly attached is to make it long enough to wrap around the back side of the board and staple it on the back side. Put the vertical tape on first, then the horizontal.
10. Find the center of each square. Use that as a guide to stick on nine press-on lights (the lights are self-sticking). They seem to stick firmly using just the adhesive that is already on the lights.

Note: The game seems to hold up very well with students throwing underhand. When tested with adults throwing hard, the lights came apart in the place they are made to come apart in order to replace the batteries. We recommend only students use the game and only throw underhand.

End-of-Class Review Games

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

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

Sink or Swim

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

Waterfall

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

The Big Race

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

Dice Roll

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

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

Tic-Tac-Toe

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

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

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

Trash Can Basketball

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

Spin and Win

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

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



All In

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

Score Big

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

Cup Stacking (supplies: two sets of cups)

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

Push-Ups

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

Cup of Goodness (Limited prep needed in advance)

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

Four Corners

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

The Hot Seat

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

Just Give Points

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

Beach Ball

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

Around the World

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

Swatter

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

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

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

Mission Lesson

Year 2 – Quarter 2

Persecuted Christians

Goal: To help students understand what persecution looks like and to understand better the experience of their brothers and sisters in Christ around the world.

Supplies:

- Computer connected to a screen or TV to display the PowerPoint
- Whiteboard
- Markers (one per student)
- Half-sheets of cardstock, folded to form a blank greeting card (one per student)
- Optional: Premade cards with a fill-in-the-blank message and a verse inside and a picture on the front (Option 1) or blank on the front (Option 2) (see appendix)
- Top 12 bookmarks (for students to use as a reference as they write in the cards) (see appendix)
- Box to collect cards at the end of the lesson
- Bible (Note: Several verses are read aloud in today's lesson. Mark them in your Bible in advance so you can find them quickly as you teach.)

Leader Resources:

1. <https://worldhelp.net/6-ways-teach-children-christian-persecution/>
2. <https://www.persecution.org/letters/> (This website has all the information you will need for mailing the encouragement cards the kids will be making at the end.)

Ideas to Turbo Charge Your Mission Lesson:

- Instead of collecting the cards in a box, build or use a mailbox for students to put their letters in at the end of the activity. To make it extra exciting, build a colorful, larger-than-life mailbox.
- Set up multiple writing stations for students to use. Use these ideas or come up with your own:
 - Make a more rustic setup by creating tables using cinder blocks with plywood on top. On the plywood, use black paint to write the names of a few countries where Christians are persecuted and use stencils to paint outlines of people, to help remind students of where and to whom they are writing letters.
 - Have a writing station open between services or after service throughout the quarter, so students can continue to write letters/draw pictures weekly.

Lesson Preparation:

This is a long lesson, but it can be adapted to fit your church's time frame and to suit the ages of your students. Please be sensitive to younger students while still communicating the reality of the crisis.

Study the talking points associated with each slide in advance, making sure you understand them and are thoroughly prepared to teach them.

In the closing activity for this lesson, students will write letters of encouragement to persecuted Christians who have been imprisoned for their faith. The second link in the Leader Resources section takes you to a form on International Christian Concern's website where you can download a digital packet containing

information about the prisoners, their mailing addresses, and instructions for letter-writing. Please go over this information in advance.

Lesson:

Slide 1: “Persecution”

This slide should be on the screen as students enter the room. If you’re not using the PPT, write the word “Persecution” on a white board.

Slide 2: “What is persecution?”

Ask the class what they think persecution is. Allow a few students to answer.

Slide 3: (pictures of kids at church)

Do you love talking to Jesus, going to church, worshiping God, and learning Bible lessons? Did you know that when you ask Jesus to save you from your sin and you make Him the Lord of your life, you actually become part of a family? God’s family! He tells us this in John 1:12. *Read John 1:12 from your Bible.* God says that when He saves us from our sin, He adopts us into His family, and He calls us His sons and daughters. That means that other people who believe in Jesus as their Savior are your brothers and sisters in Christ!

Did you know that in some countries, our brothers and sisters in Christ aren’t allowed to pray, go to church, worship God, and read the Bible freely? If they do and are discovered, they are often bullied, treated badly, and even physically hurt very badly, or even put in jail. This poor treatment because of their faith in Jesus has a special name: it is called “persecution”.

Slide 4: “What is persecution?”

Persecution is when somebody treats a person badly because of what they believe. But Jesus said to worship Him no matter what. *Read 1 Thessalonians 5:16-28 from your Bible.* So, these Christians keep serving Him, reading their Bibles, and going to church despite the persecution. They know they are part of God’s family, and that is very important to them.

Can you imagine being forced to leave your home and live in a tent for years, with only the ground to sleep on, because you believe in Jesus? Or being put in prison because you said you loved Jesus? People around the world have had to leave their homes and their cities because of persecution. Many of them are now living in crowded camps without electricity or running water, far away from their homes, just because they believe in Jesus. These people need to be reminded that they belong to a BIG family – God’s family – that loves them and remembers them.

Slide 5: “What does persecution look like?”

Ask students what they think persecution might look like in their country and in other countries around the world. What does it mean to be treated badly for believing in Jesus?

Slide 6: “What does persecution look like?”

Read the examples on the slide. Is this what you were expecting? Do you know anyone who has experienced persecution like this?

Slide 7: “What does persecution look like?”

Read the examples on the slide. Is this what you were expecting? Do you know anyone who has experienced persecution like this?

Slide 8: “What can we do about persecution?”

Thinking about all this persecution is kind of scary, isn't it? We wish we could go and make it stop, but most of the time that just isn't possible. What can we do then? Hebrews 13:1 and 3 says that we need to love one another and continually remember our brothers and sisters in Christ who are suffering because of their faith in Jesus. What does God ask us to do for those who are persecuted? (Love them and remember them) Our lesson today is a great way to remember them! And in a few minutes, we are going to do a project that will show love to them.

Slide 9: “God is in control”

Even though many Christians are being persecuted around the world, God is in control! We Christians who are safe can be thankful for that. We can pray for those who are being persecuted, and God will hear our prayers for them, just like He will hear their prayers when they cry out to Him. In 1 Peter 5:7, God reminds us that, no matter what kind of hardship people are suffering, He sees them and will take care of them.
Read 1 Peter 5:7 from your Bible.

Transition to closing activity.

Closing Activity: Writing letters of encouragement to persecuted Christians

Goal: To form personal connections between your students and persecuted Christians.

Leader's Note: It is important to thoroughly study the instructions provided by International Christian Concern, so we do not endanger the Christians receiving these letters. These instructions are included in the International Christian Concern's digital download, which includes names, pictures, and profiles of persecuted believers. Some of the content may not be appropriate for younger students, so we suggest that leaders screen these profiles and prepare a brief summary to share with students.

Optional: Have younger students decorate the cards written by the older students. Or have older students make cards using blank cardstock and younger students fill in the premade cards (see appendix) with their first name and age and then color the picture on the front cover.

Before we end this lesson, we will write our brothers and sisters in Christ notes of encouragement. We will collect your cards at the end and mail them to persecuted Christians who are currently in prison because they stood firm for Jesus.

Pass out cards and markers. Write a few sample sentences on the whiteboard to give students inspiration. (Copying them directly into the cards is absolutely fine.) Per International Christian Concern guidelines, it is best to write the card in clear and concise English to make translation easier.

Sample sentences: Hello! My name is _____, and I am ___ years old. I am praying for you and your family. Jesus loves you, and He is always with you.

Close by praying as a class for persecuted Christians.

Bulletin Boards

Year 2 – Quarter 2

Top 12 – Hall of Fame!

This review game is designed for the last two minutes of class or if the adult service goes over time.

Cover bulletin board with black or dark gray paper. Place large, red letters that say “Top 12 – Hall of Fame” in the center.

Top 12 references should be posted near the bulletin board, but not visible when a student wants to say them.

Create a pocket or use a plastic zipper bag to store four-inch gold stars – one for each person in the class. To earn a star, students must list the Top 12 references in two minutes or less. Students can autograph the star when they can accomplish the goal.

For younger students, teachers can write the references on the board as students shout out the references. If the class is successful, students can sign the bulletin board. The more signatures the better! If you do this multiple weeks, have students autograph multiple times with different colors.

Bible Timeline Thumbnails



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Old Testament

New Testament

Discovery Land
Bible Timeline

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Worship: K-2nd

Year 2 – Quarter 2

Song, Artist, Album, Time

“I Believe in Jesus” by Hillsong Kids, *Super Strong God*, 2:58

“King of Majesty” by Hillsong Kids, *Jesus Is My Superhero*, 4:15

“Unchanging” by Chris Tomlin, *Not to Us*, 4:52 (optional: fade out at approx. 3:50)

“Never Be Shaken” by New Life Worship Kids, *Shout Praises Kids: We Belong to Jesus*, 3:07

“Do Not Fear” by Seeds Family Worship, *Seeds of Courage*, 2:36

“We Will Live” by Covenant Worship & Covenant Kids Worship, *Crazy Love*, 3:23

“I Call You Jesus” by Shout Praises Kids, *Ultimate Kids Worship*, 4:02 (optional: fade out at approx. 2:51)

“Tell the World” by Hillsong Kids, *Tell the World (LIVE)*, 3:29

“Always With Us” by Yancy, *Adventures on Promise Island VBS*, 3:17

“Rooftops” by Singin’ Praise Kids, *Your Love is Deep*, 2:42

Worship Schedule: K-2nd

Lesson	Date	Song 1	Song 2	Song 3
	<i>December 1</i>	<i>Topical Lesson: New Testament Flyover (Worship Leader's choice)</i>		
01	December 8	I Believe in Jesus	King of Majesty	Unchanging
02	December 15	Never Be Shaken	I Believe in Jesus	Do Not Fear
	<i>December 22</i>	<i>Topical Lesson: Jesus is worthy of our worship (Worship Leader's choice)</i>		
03	December 29	Unchanging	We Will Live	I Call You Jesus
04	January 5	Tell the World	Always With Us	Unchanging
05	January 12	Never Be Shaken	Tell the World	I Call You Jesus
06	January 19	Always With Us	Rooftops	Do Not Fear
07	January 26	I Believe in Jesus	Always With Us	Do Not Fear
08	February 2	Never Be Shaken	Rooftops	I Call You Jesus
09		<i>Note: This lesson is not being used during this sequence.</i>		
10	February 9	King of Majesty	Tell the World	Unchanging
11	February 16*	King of Majesty	Never Be Shaken	I Call You Jesus
12	February 23	We Will Live	Unchanging	I Call You Jesus

***Song 4:** Unchanging

Worship Plan: K-2nd

Note: Close Worship Time with prayer before dismissing to Discover Time.

Optional: If you collect an offering with your Elementary students, the conclusion of Worship Time is a good place to include it. The Worship Leader should briefly summarize the meaning and purpose of tithing, explain what tithe money is used for, and invite a student to pray over the day's collection.

Topical Lesson: New Testament Flyover

Music and transitions: Worship Leader's choice

Lesson 1

Transition 1: Do you know who Jesus is? Is He real? I can't hear you! (**Yes!**) Jesus is God's perfect Son, sent as a gift to save those who trust in Him to save them from the punishment of their sin. Who knows Romans 3:23? What does this verse tell us about who needs this amazing gift? That's right – everyone needs Jesus to save them from their sin!! Do you believe in Jesus? Have you asked Jesus to save you from the punishment of your sin?

Song 1: "I Believe in Jesus"

Transition 2: We just sang *about* Jesus, now we are going to sing *to* Jesus, our King of Majesty. Majesty means having supreme, ultimate power, mightiness, and beauty. Picture Jesus as a powerful King as you are singing just to Him.

Song 2: "King of Majesty"

Transition 3: The King of ALL Kings, Lord of Lords, Savior of the World – Jesus. The one and only true God, worthy of all our praise! And, because He never changes, He is just as powerful and mighty today as He was any time in history! Let's sing praises to our unchanging God!

Song 3: "Unchanging"

Lesson 2

Transition 1: John 3:16 – who knows it? That's a verse we should all know, live, and celebrate! Celebrate? Yes! Celebrate the amazing gift of Jesus, our Savior! Because Jesus came, we can have our sins forgiven! If Jesus can do that, is there anything He can't do? No way!! Knowing that Jesus can do anything should make us unshakeable!

Song 1: "Never Be Shaken"

Transition 2: Is it crazy to believe in and trust something or someone we cannot see? We know the Bible is 100% true, so we can **trust** everything it tells us. The Bible tells us all about Jesus, that He gave His life to save us. Do you believe?

Song 2: "I Believe in Jesus"

Transition 3: God reminds us again and again in His Word that we do not need to fear. He is with us. Isaiah 41:10 says: *Read Isaiah 41:10 from your Bible.*

Song 3: "Do Not Fear"

Topical Lesson: Jesus is worthy of our worship

Music and transitions: Worship Leader's choice

Lesson 3

Transition 1: We know that our God is mighty, He never changes, and He never fails. Nothing can ever stop His plan!

Song 1: “Unchanging”

Transition 2: *Hold up the Bible.* You guys know what this is, right? How do we use it? The Bible is like an instruction manual. It tells us the kind of life God wants us to live. We choose to live in a way that puts God’s way as the only way! Jesus, we want You to save us. And we want to say, “Thank You, we will live for You and You alone!”

Song 2: “We Will Live”

Transition 3: Let’s wrap up by taking some time to remember who Jesus is. Let’s worship Him by praising His holy name.

Song 3: “I Call You Jesus”

Lesson 4

Transition 1: Have you ever been tempted? We face all kinds of temptations every day: to be unkind, to do what we want, to lie, etc. In God’s Word, we learn how to fight off all temptations. *Read Psalm 119:11.*

Wow! When we choose to live for God, and say “No” to temptation, that’s one way we look different than other people who don’t know Jesus. That means through our actions we can tell the world about Him!

Song 1: “Tell the World”

Transition 2: No matter what temptations we face, we can be confident knowing God is always with us!

Song 2: “Always With Us”

Transition 3: Lord Jesus, sometimes life can get hard, and there are so many temptations all around us. But we know You give us power through the Holy Spirit; power to say “No” to sin and “Yes” to Jesus. Right now, right here, God, we want to say “Thank You” by worshiping You and praising You with everything we’ve got!

Song 3: “Unchanging”

Lesson 5

Transition 1: Good morning! I’m so glad you are here! Friends, do you ever worry about things? Do you worry about your schoolwork, your friends, your family, your dog...ugh! Can worrying about it help? NO! If you are a Christian, then you have one of the mightiest tools in the world. Do you know what it is? Prayer! When we catch ourselves worrying, we need to STOP (*do the motion*) and start praying! Knowing that the all-powerful God hears and answers our prayers should help us to never be shaken!

Song 1: “Never Be Shaken”

Transition 2: In Matthew 6:25-34, God tells us five times not to worry. Wow, that’s a lot of times! Did you know the Bible also tells us why we never need to worry? Because our Heavenly Father already knows everything you need, and what we need most is to make God first in our lives! Do you think that’s something your friends or your family might need to hear? You bet!! Let’s be sure to tell the whole world that amazing message!

Song 2: “Tell the World”

Transition 3: Do you know what it means to rejoice? It means we show great joy and happiness! Oh friends, that is how we want to worship God! Let’s rejoice and worship our amazing God together by remembering the gift He gave us in His perfect Son, Jesus!

Song 3: “I Call You Jesus”

Lesson 6

Transition 1: God is our everything! He makes us strong, when we are weak. He comforts us, so we don't need to be afraid. Do you know why? Because God is always with us!

Song 1: "Always With Us"

Transition 2: Jesus is our #1, and He is our Rock. God's Word (*hold up Bible*) is true, and we can stand on every word in it. Do you love Jesus and trust in God's Word enough to shout it from the rooftops?

Song 2: "Rooftops"

Transition 3: God's Word is truth, and it will stand *forever*. We can feel secure knowing God holds us in His righteous right hand.

Song 3: "Do Not Fear"

Lesson 7

Transition 1: Do you know what faith is? *Give students a chance to describe it.* Faith is believing in something you cannot see. Like flipping a light switch, you can't see the electric cords, but you believe the light is going to turn on. We can't see Jesus, but we know, through faith, we can believe in Him. I believe in Jesus, do *you*?

Song 1: "I Believe in Jesus"

Transition 2: Not only do I believe in Jesus, but I want Him to be #1 in my life. I know there is *nothing* in this world, not ice cream, Disneyland, Xbox, friends...NOTHING is better than knowing God is always by your side!

Song 2: "Always With Us"

Transition 3: Even when times get hard or we start to doubt, God's Word reminds us that He promises to always be with us. This makes us feel safe and loved, just like God promises in Isaiah 41:10.

Song 3: "Do Not Fear"

Lesson 8

Transition 1: Take a minute and think about the very best thing someone ever did for you. I bet you were so filled with love and thankfulness you wanted to tell *everyone*! Now think about what Jesus did for you when He took the punishment for your sin and made a way for you to be with God forever! Do you think God would die for you and then just forget about you? Nope!! Our all-knowing God sees and hears you every minute of every day. That should make us feel strong and make it so we can never be shaken!

Song 1: "Never Be Shaken"

Transition 2: If you wanted to tell as many people as possible about Jesus, where would you go? Would you whisper it in a corner or shout it from the rooftops?! Let's try shouting it. "Jesus!"

Song 2: "Rooftops"

Transition 3: Sometimes we are so excited and joyful about who Jesus is, we can't help but jump and shout our praise. Sometimes our praise is quieter and allows us to sit and really think about Him and Him alone. Either way, let's stop and praise the name of our Savior and Rescuer, Jesus!

Song 3: "I Call You Jesus"

Lesson 9 (not being used during this sequence)

Lesson 10

Transition 1: Do you have someone in your life you can always depend on? We all have someone in common who cares for us and will meet all of our needs – Jesus! He is our Savior and our King!

Song 1: “King of Majesty”

Transition 2: Does anyone know what our greatest need is? It’s not a sandwich, and it’s not a new pair of shoes.... It’s a SAVIOR!! The Bible tells us that every single person has sinned, and that the punishment of that sin is to not be able to be with God in heaven when we die. BUT... Jesus came to save us from that sin if we just ask Him to take our sin. When we do that, we become God’s children! Seeing as everyone has the same need, do you think that’s a message we should tell the world?

Song 2: “Tell the World”

Transition 3: Has there ever been a time when someone let you down? Maybe mom forgot to pick you up or dad promised you could do something together, but he had to go to work instead. That really hurts, doesn’t it? *Read 1 Peter 5:7.* Jesus cares for you, and you, and you...all of us. Jesus will never let you down, He keeps every promise, and His love never ends.

Song 3: “Unchanging”

Lesson 11: Review Day (20 minutes of worship)

Transition 1: Fill in the blank. Jesus is _____? *Allow kids to answer.* Friends, Jesus is EVERYTHING! And we’re gonna worship Him with everything we’ve got!

Song 1: “King of Majesty”

Transition 2: Can we quickly review all the amazing things we learned about Jesus this quarter? Ready? Jesus is God’s gift to us, our Savior! I can trust, depend, and build my life on God’s promises! God can save us from our sin, He helps us grow, and He teaches us that we can resist temptation! Wow, friends, that is just some of what we learned! Given who God is, we should never be shaken knowing that He is with us!

Song 2: “Never Be Shaken”

Transition 3: Jesus, You are amazing, awesome, and holy. There is none like You! We want to sing about who You are and what You’ve done!

Song 3: “I Call You Jesus”

Transition 4: Right here, right now, we get the privilege of worshiping Jesus. Let’s lift our voices, raise our hands, and sing out how amazing our God is.

Song 4: “Unchanging”

Lesson 12: Testing Day

Transition 1: Think of all we have learned this quarter! Let’s take it all and live mightily for Jesus!

Song 1: “We Will Live”

Transition 2: We have been opening God’s Word and learning a ton the last couple of months! Who can jump up and tell me something they’ve learned or something they remember from God’s Word? *Allow kids to answer.* WOW! That is amazing; you have learned so much in God’s Word! The thing I always remember is Jesus is the only one worthy of our praise and our worship! Raise up holy hands to our awesome God!

Song 2: “Unchanging”

Transition 3: Jesus, You are simply everything. We love you, and we choose to worship you now.

Song 3: “I Call You Jesus”

Worship: 3rd-5th

Year 2 – Quarter 2

Song, Artist, Album, Time

“Nothing is Impossible” by Shout Praises Kids, *Nothing is Impossible*, 3:47

“10,000 Armies” by Influence Music & Jonathan Traylor, *ages (live)*, 5:43 (optional: fade out at approx. 3:36) NEW SONG

“No Other Name” by Uncle Charlie, *Greatest Hits, Vol. 1*, 3:31

“One Way” by Uncle Charlie, *Made2Praise*, 3:39

“Look to the Son (Live)” by Hillsong Worship, *Let There Be Light (Live)*, 4:36

“No One Higher” by Amber Sky Records, *Living Inside Out*, 4:14

“Bulletproof” by Citizen Way, *2.0*, 4:04

“Let it be Known” by Amber Sky Records, *Movin’ Me*, 3:10

“WaveWalker” by Citizen Way, *Love is a Lion*, 3:13

“Close” by Hillsong Young & Free, *We Are Young and Free*, 5:05 (optional: fade out at approx. 3:19)

“Great Things” by Phil Wickham, *Living Hope (Deluxe)*, 4:50 (optional: fade out at approx. 3:21)

Worship Schedule: 3rd-5th

Lesson	Date	Song 1	Song 2	Song 3
	<i>December 1</i>	<i>Topical Lesson: New Testament Flyover (Worship Leader's choice)</i>		
01	December 8	Nothing is Impossible	10,000 Armies	No Other Name
02	December 15	One Way	Look to the Son	No One Higher
	<i>December 22</i>	<i>Topical Lesson: Jesus is worthy of our worship (Worship Leader's choice)</i>		
03	December 29	Bulletproof	Let it be Known	No One Higher
04	January 5	WaveWalker	Bulletproof	No One Higher
05	January 12	Look to the Son	Nothing is Impossible	Close
06	January 19	10,000 Armies	One Way	Great Things
07	January 26	WaveWalker	Bulletproof	Close
08	February 2	10,000 Armies	Let it be Known	No Other Name
09		<i>Note: This lesson is not being using during this sequence.</i>		
10	February 9	Nothing is Impossible	Bulletproof	Close
11	February 16	One Way	10,000 Armies	Great Things
12	February 23	WaveWalker	Let it be Known	No One Higher

Worship Plan: 3rd-5th

Note: Close Worship Time with prayer before dismissing to Discover Time.

Optional: If you collect an offering with your Elementary students, the conclusion of Worship Time is a good place to include it. The Worship Leader should briefly summarize the meaning and purpose of tithing, explain what tithe money is used for, and invite a student to pray over the day's collection.

Topical Lesson: New Testament Flyover

Music and transitions: Worship Leader's choice

Lesson 1

Transition 1: In the Gospel of Luke, Mary sets a perfect pattern for us to follow when it comes to believing God's promise to save us through Jesus. When the angel tells her that she is going to have baby Jesus, she responds by thinking about what she's heard and then wondering, "How can this be?" (expressing her doubts). Then she believes God's promise and says, "Let it be done as you say, Lord," for "nothing will be impossible with God!" We should do the same – think about what we've heard, express doubts, and then realize who He is and that nothing is impossible for Him!!

Song 1: "Nothing is Impossible"

Transition 2: You guys are SUPER blessed. You are hearing this GREAT news while you're young! Now you can think about it, ask questions, express any doubts, and then claim that promise from God to save you from your sin. AND...Jesus' power is not limited to saving us from our sin. His power goes with us as we face temptations and battles of many kinds!! Let's celebrate Jesus and the power He has!

Song 2: "10,000 Armies"

Transition 3: Let's remember that there is no other name under heaven by which we must be saved.

Song 3: "No Other Name"

Lesson 2

Transition 1: In a world where there are lots of people saying there are many ways to God, let's hold to the truth that God Himself has given to us. In John 14, God tells us how many ways there are to get to heaven. How many are there? That's right!! Only one!

Song 1: "One Way"

Transition 2: Why wouldn't someone want to take God's one way to heaven? In order to take His one way, you have to admit you NEED Him to save you! People don't like to admit that they have done anything wrong. We live in a culture that says it's someone else's fault. To admit our need for a Savior, we have to admit that we are sinners to the core. Once we do that, we can now look to the Son for our salvation!

Song 2: "Look to the Son"

Transition 3: Why is the Son the only one who can save us? Because there is no one higher than Him!!

Song 3: "No One Higher"

Topical Lesson: Jesus is worthy of our worship

Music and transitions: Worship Leader's choice

Lesson 3

Transition 1: What makes someone a hero? They need to be able to save people for sure! How many people do you think a hero can save at one time? *Let them answer.* How many people can God save at one time? EVERYONE! When Jesus died on that cross, He offered every person a chance for eternal life. He is the ultimate hero and can save everyone in one act and it doesn't stop there. The Bible tells us that once Jesus saves us, nothing can take us from God's protective hand. We are bulletproof!

Song 1: "Bulletproof"

Transition 2: If you knew there was a hero that could save everyone from eternal death, would you tell people? Nothing brings God more joy than having people admit they need to be saved and allowing God to save them from their sin. Imagine being a hero and watching as people are in trouble. You offer to help them, and they say "No." Would that make you happy or sad? Sad for sure! There are people everywhere that are saying "No" to Jesus' offer to save them. We need to let it be known that they are in trouble, and Jesus is the answer!

Song 2: "Let it be Known"

Transition 3: If you or I make a promise, there's a chance we might break it, right? Even if we don't mean to, we might not be able to keep it. But when God makes a promise, He never, ever breaks it. There is no one more amazing and higher than our God!

Song 3: "No One Higher"

Lesson 4

Transition 1: *Show a clip from the movie, "The Incredibles", when Dash is running across the water.* What do you think would happen if Dash stopped running and started walking? (He would sink!) In order to walk across water, you would need to have a supernatural power to help you. And in order to resist temptation to sin, you need God's power to help you. Do you guys know that you have the power to resist temptation when you become God's children? You are like wave walkers!

Song 1: "WaveWalker"

Transition 2: Let's remember what kind of power we need to live a Spirit-filled life that honors God by resisting temptation – we need supernatural power! That power can't be found from any source other than God. Just like an apple tree gives apples, supernatural power comes from a supernatural God! And because there's nothing that our supernatural God can't do, we never need to be taken down by temptation – we are bulletproof!

Song 2: "Bulletproof"

Transition 3: Supernatural power comes from a supernatural God because there is no one higher than Him in the universe or beyond.

Song 3: "No One Higher"

Lesson 5

Transition 1: If you broke your arm, who would you want to call for help? If you were eating a caramel apple and lost your front tooth, who would you want to call for help? If you needed to make a three-point shot to win the game, who would you want to call for help? God is omniscient – that means that He literally knows EVERYTHING. He can't learn anything, and He can't forget anything. When we need help getting through life without worrying about things that are going on in our lives, God tells us to look to Jesus and let Him take our worries!! We need to look to the Son every day!

Song 1: "Look to the Son"

Transition 2: We live in a culture where we get what we want faster and faster. Drive-thru food, drive-thru banking, drive-thru dry cleaning, and online shopping!! With Amazon Prime, we can have it tomorrow! God tells us that once we become a believer (*quickly insert the Gospel if there is time*), we will then be rewarded in heaven for anything we've done for the kingdom. That means we have to WAIT for our reward. Are we used to waiting for anything in our culture? Not really!! But... we know that nothing is impossible if we keep our focus on God, so let's sing about that!

Song 2: "Nothing is Impossible"

Transition 3: The difference between Christianity and every other religion is that it's not a religion (we HAVE to do things to please God), but a relationship (we WANT to do things to please God). Having God as our Father and being in a relationship with Him causes us to feel close to Him. When we are close to God, there are a lot fewer things to worry about!

Song 3: "Close"

Lesson 6

Transition 1: There's a museum of buildings where the entire museum is designed to not make sense. There are doors that don't lead anywhere, walls half built and in random places, and pipes sticking out in weird places for no reason. What do you think that building would do if the foundation of that building was built the same way as the rest of it? It would fall! We need to have a good foundation for our faith, too, and that foundation is God's Word. When we build our lives on God's Word, we unleash His power, and His power is even greater than 10,000 armies!

Song 1: "10,000 Armies"

Transition 2: Why should we build our foundation on God's Word? To keep our lives strong and healthy!! When we know God's Word and obey it, we are showing the world that God is worth getting to know and that He is so wise that all of His Words should be obeyed. And the one message we all need to remember from His Word is that there is only one way to heaven...and God tells us that in John 14:6. What's that one way? Jesus!

Song 2: "One Way"

Transition 3: God deserves all glory because He is the Great I AM. Being the I AM means that He was always here and needs nothing from us or from His creation. Nothing created Him, or He wouldn't be God. He just always was and always will be. He can't get any better or any worse, otherwise that would mean that He could be improved upon or made worse, and neither is true. Let's remember that He is the Great I AM, and the Great I AM is capable of doing great things!

Song 3: "Great Things"

Lesson 7

Transition 1: In the Bible, we see an account where Peter is walking on water because his eyes are totally focused on Jesus. Once he takes his eyes off Jesus, he begins to sink. The same is true for us. When we put our total faith in Jesus, we will be able to do way more than we ever thought we could. If we take our eyes off Jesus, by allowing distractions in or trusting in what we see instead of what we know to be true, we will sink, too. We can be wave walkers by keeping our eyes on Jesus!

Song 1: “WaveWalker”

Transition 2: No one else can help you to do the impossible, like walk on waves. Only God can!! If you are here and you have never asked Jesus to save you from your sin, then I would encourage you to ask your teacher today about how to do that, so you can get the supernatural power that God promises to give to His children who love Him. Let’s remember what kind of power our Father has. He has the power to save and the power to make sure you make it to heaven; not based on what you’ve done, but only based on what He has done. Nothing can take you out of the Father’s hand. You are bulletproof, if you’ve allowed Jesus to take your sin!

Song 2: “Bulletproof”

Transition 3: When we put our faith in Jesus day to day, we are taking the right steps to remain close to Him, no matter what our circumstances are.

Song 3: “Close”

Lesson 8

Transition 1: Everyday God puts His glory on display in what He has made. *Have a leader hold a basketball in the palm of their hand.* In the Bible, God tells us that the entire universe could fit in the palm of His hand! That is one way that God shows us how He cannot be measured. Think about it – if this basketball was the universe, God could hold it like this! Scripture also says that we are only seeing the outer fringes of His works – we haven’t seen anything yet. This is the kind of power our God has. Let’s sing about that and remember it!

Song 1: “10,000 Armies”

Transition 2: What happens to the people that never hear about Jesus? They are separated forever from God in a place called hell. We can just be sad about that OR we can do something about it. Jesus tells us to go and tell them. That is because He knows that without hearing, they are doomed to an eternity without God. We need to let it be known who God is and what He has done!

Song 2: “Let it be Known”

Transition 3: There is no other name that will save us. No magic word, no special prayer, no baptism, no amount of money, and no amount of good works to outweigh the bad. Only the name of Jesus will save us from our sin!

Song 3: “No Other Name”

Lesson 9 (not being used during this sequence)

Lesson 10

Transition 1: If all of you had money problems and you all came to me to ask for money, what would happen? I would quickly run out of money! Because God has no limit to His resources (i.e. money/food/safety) we can all go to Him with our needs, and He will have plenty for all. This also means that if God says “No” when we ask, it’s not because He didn’t have what we asked for, but that it was better for us not to have it. He can do all this because there is nothing impossible for Him!

Song 1: “Nothing is Impossible”

Transition 2: Only a supernatural God can take something small and make it into something amazing. Every time science “discovers” something, it is just more proof of a supernatural God. The Hubble telescope brought back evidence that the universe cannot be measured. Interesting – that’s exactly what God said in His Word. God’s Word can be trusted because it is true! The truths in it help to make our faith bulletproof.

Song 2: “Bulletproof”

Transition 3: When we are obedient to what God asks us to do, we will feel closer to God. Let’s strive to remain close to God by keeping our eyes on Him!

Song 3: “Close”

Lesson 11: Review Day (20 minutes of worship)

Note: Worship Time on this review week for 3rd-5th graders will include an extended Pre-Service Review Game time to hand out prizes, followed by three songs as usual.

Transition 1: If there’s one thing that we need to remember from this quarter, it is that our God is a Holy God. Some day He will be feared by all, and every knee will bow. For some people, He will be feared by being awed, but for other people, He will be feared because He will judge them, and they are still guilty of their sins. For all, there is only one Holy God, and that Holy God has provided the One Way to get to heaven through His one and only Son, Jesus.

Song 1: “One Way”

Transition 2: If you were to ask 100 adult Christians if they wished they would have let Jesus take the punishment for their sins when they were younger, all 100 would tell you “YES!” If you were to ask those same Christians if they wished they had started living for Jesus when they were younger as well, all 100 would tell you “YES!” Why is that? Because they know how powerful He is, and they wish they would have let that power work for them sooner. Let’s sing about and remember the type of power God has!

Song 2: “10,000 Armies”

Transition 3: Let’s remember who our God is and all the great things He has done and continues to do!

Song 3: “Great Things”

Lesson 12: Testing Day

Transition 1: One thing we need to remember from this quarter is that as long as we keep our focus on Jesus, we can face any storm that life throws at us. As soon as we take our eyes off of who He is and what He's done, we risk sinking! Let's remember those truths as we join our voices together and sing "WaveWalker"!!

Song 1: "Wave Walker"

Transition 2: Right now, more and more people in the world are struggling with the questions, "What's the meaning of life" and "What's my purpose?" The result is anxiety and depression. But guess what, God wanted each and every one of us!! Even though He has all the resources in the universe, He still chose to make each one of us!! Scripture tells us that He knit each one of us together in the womb of our moms!! The time has never been better for sharing the hope of the Gospel. Let's join forces and let it be known everywhere that God has a plan for everyone!

Song 2: "Let it be Known"

Transition 3: In a world where there are over a million 'gods' that are worshiped (a Google search actually had one estimate at 28 million!!), we need to remember that the proof for Christianity outshines all the others. Our faith isn't a blind faith, it is a logical faith! Let's celebrate that there is no one higher than our God!

Song 3: "No One Higher"

Scriptorium – A History of the Bible

Large group lesson

Goal: To assist students in understanding how the Bible was written and developed into the Book we study each week.

Note: This presentation was originally designed for use in the United States with English-speaking students. If your church is in another part of the world and/or speaks another language, please feel free to omit some of the slides toward the end of the presentation and substitute information about the Bible in your country and/or language.

Supplies:

- “Scriptorium – A history of the Bible” PowerPoint presentation slides (see appendix)
- “Scriptorium – A history of the Bible” leader text (see below)
- Two animated presenters and a narrator to present this lesson to the students
- Props: Because this lesson is used regularly, we encourage each church to put together a large box or suitcase filled with props that can be used long term (suggested props are listed below with each slide; other optional props could include: a toy ship, a cross, etc.) *Note: the more props you have the better!*
- A TV or screen to show the PowerPoint
- Stage or curtain (use to rotate between presenters; one at a time, come out with your props and act out what happened for that specific topic or in that time period)

Instructions for presenters and narrator:

Please work with your ministry leader to make sure you are thoroughly prepared. You will need to be animated as you talk through the history. Please practice in advance and be very well prepared, not only with the script and props, but also with the provided PowerPoint. This should be fun, fast, and educational. You should have over 50% of the script memorized and improvise as needed to make it engaging for the students. Timing is important; maintain a fast pace to keep kids interested and the energy high.

A video is provided for training purposes for those who are presenting the lesson. Please make time to consult the video before teaching this lesson: <https://bit.ly/3LN8SFW>

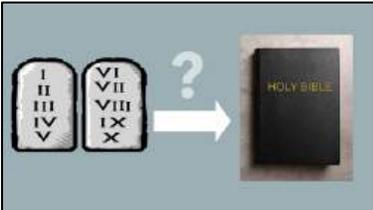
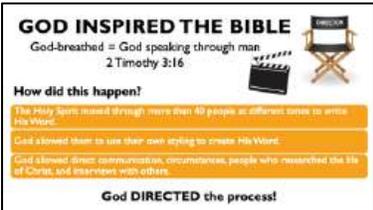
Alternative Presentation Options:

Option A: (with one presenter)

Inform students in advance that you will be creating a prop timeline as you talk. When you talk about a specific item, pull the prop from a “prop box” and allow a student to hold or display it (double check to make sure you have the right number of students to hold the props). The props will be used to review and to keep the students interested in the 20-minute presentation. Tell the students who are selected to hold the items that they must “freeze” like a statue after the prop is given to them (or they will be a distraction).

Option B:

Instruct students to write down the steps of how the Bible actually came to be. Provide a numbered sheet of paper and see if they can fill in all the answers as you present. Place props on a table, so students can see a visual timeline. (If you need to motivate your students to stay on task, give out Tracker Tickets to students who write down the complete timeline.)

<p>Slide 1</p> 	<p>Narrator: If you were at school and the teacher said, “The Bible is just a storybook,” or “The Bible is only partially true,” or “The Bible is made up,” what would you say? <i>Allow a few students to answer.</i></p> <p>The Bible states in John 17:17b, “God’s Word is truth.” So, the Bible itself tells us that the things written in it are true. But when you are trying to show someone outside of church that the Bible is true and reliable, it doesn’t really work to use the Bible as evidence. You need to use historical evidence to prove your case.</p> <p>Today we will really learn how we can know for sure that the Bible is true, so we can confidently know and tell others that God’s Word is true!</p>
<p>Slide 2 – Prop: Bible</p> 	<p>Narrator: How did we get the Bible? Is this Book really accurate, considering it was written thousands of years ago? Who wrote it, and how long did it take? How did the Bible spread around the whole world? These are all great questions that we will talk about today! So, get ready to listen, as we are going to cover a ton of topics in a short amount of time. Let’s go!</p>
<p>Slide 3 – Props: box of crayons, an actor dressed as a movie director with a movie clapboard</p> 	<p>The Bible is totally amazing, and I’m excited to tell you how it came together.</p> <p>First, you need to understand that this Book is the Bible, God’s very words written on paper. When this Book was written, God was like the director of a movie. He knew the beginning and end before it was even written.</p> <p>But how was it actually written? It was written by at least 40 people over about 1500 years! How many people? <i>Have students answer.</i> And how many years? <i>Have students answer.</i> God was the perfect Director who allowed everything in life to roll out just at the perfect time.</p> <p>Have you ever heard the word “inspired”? When we say God inspired the Bible, we mean that God used different people to write His words. It’s kind of like if you draw a picture and you choose the crayons to draw. <i>Hold up a box of crayons.</i> The people who wrote God’s Book, the Bible, are like the crayons that God used. God selected the people He wanted and then He worked through those people to write each part of the Bible. These were just regular people: fishermen, tentmakers, shepherds, and doctors!</p>

Slide 4 – Props: clay, an actor dressed in clothing from the year 1300 BC (robe with belt)



So, you ask, “How did the early author record God’s Word?” Do you think they used computers back in 1300 BC? Nope, they didn’t even have paper and pencils. Over four thousand years ago, people used a method of writing called cuneiform¹ (kyoo-NEE-a-form). It was a code placed into clay. This form of writing is what led to the alphabet that we use today. *Hold up a block of clay.*

Slide 5 – Props: stone, leather, and a chocolate bar



Could you imagine carefully copying God’s Word onto clay and then accidentally dropping it? All your hard work would be destroyed. Through time they made advancements by writing the Old Testament on stone (*show stone*) and then leather (*show leather*). Could you imagine doing your homework on stone? No need to bring a pencil to school; just bring your chisel and cart of stones. This was all happening between the years 1500-400 BC.

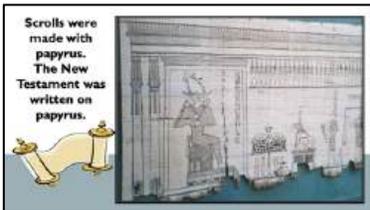
During this time, cocoa beans were discovered (*show chocolate bar*). The alphabet, the compass, and an early time keeping device called a sundial were invented. *Point to the timeline on the PPT.*

Slides 6 & 7 – Props: reed pen and ink, scroll, an actor from 80 AD dressed in NT clothing



Hello, my friends! Writing on stones and leather only worked so long, and then a new and great invention called “papyrus” came to be. Yay! Papyrus is a plant that grows up to 15 feet tall along the Nile River in Egypt.² Does anyone remember an interesting fact about the Nile River? (Hint: Moses) They took these plants and turned them into a form of paper which was also called papyrus and was used in Egypt and the Roman Empire.

If you were an author of the New Testament in the year 50-100 AD, you were blessed to write on papyrus with a reed pen and ink. *Show reed pen and ink.*



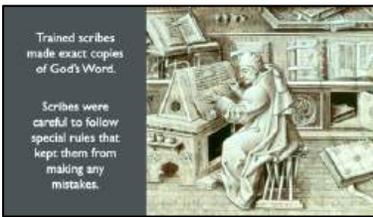
Because papyrus was flexible, people could make scrolls. *Show scroll.* This allowed information to be kept in a compact form, compared to the stones they were used to. How could life get any better than this? Well, it did. Paged books called codex were developed around 100-200AD³. This made it much easier to read and transport the Word of God.

¹ Boivin, O. (2015). Cuneiform. Canadian Journal of Archaeology, 39(2), 349–351. Retrieved from <http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&AuthType=cookie,ip,cpid,url&custid=s7324964&db=khh&AN=111992768&site=ehost-live&scope=site>

² Papyrus. (2018). In Encyclopædia Britannica. Retrieved from <https://school.eb.com/levels/middle/article/papyrus/276275>

³ Epp, E. J. (1986). The Birth of the Codex (Book). Journal of Biblical Literature, 105(2), 359. Retrieved from <http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&AuthType=cookie,ip,cpid,url&custid=s7324964&db=hlh&AN=7126612&site=ehost-live&scope=site>

Slide 8 – Props: feather and ink jar, an actor dressed in a monk’s robe



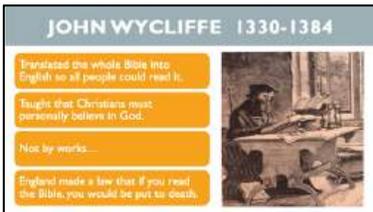
Come out with a hood over your face to represent the dark ages. Bonjour, welcome to France. The year is 800 AD - the Dark Ages.

Lift your hood. I am a scribe. My job and calling in life are to copy the Word of God by hand. Yes, you heard it right... copy the Word of God

BY HAND. I could not order a Bible online or go to a bookstore. The only copies of Scripture were handwritten. *Show feather and ink jar.* Can you see why my job was so important and how valuable each copy was?

My whole life was dedicated to this. Let me share why this was a very, very long process. I worked at a church in a special room called the scriptorium. That is an interesting word that you don't hear very often. What was the room where I worked called? *Have students shout, "Scriptorium!"* When I arrived at the scriptorium, I announced, "I am now copying the Holy Word of God." Before I wrote any word, I said that word out loud two times. Before I wrote God's name, I stood and said loudly, "I am now writing the Holy Name of God." You can be sure that this was accurate. If one word was wrong, the three people that reviewed it would throw my work away...."⁴

Slide 9 – Props: ink and quill, an actor dressed as John Wycliffe with a beard and hat



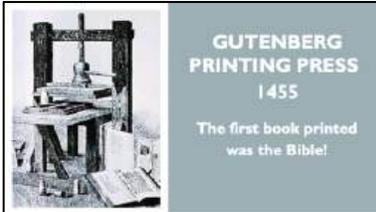
Welcome to England, my friends. I'm John Wycliffe. As many of you know, the Old Testament was originally written in Hebrew, and the New Testament was written in Greek. The monks did a great job accurately translating it into Latin, which the priests and highly educated people could read and study. That was great, but my goal was to help the average person read and study God's Word. So, I carefully translated the Bible from Latin to English by hand. *Show ink and quill.* This project was completed in the year 1382. Then thousands of people could read it, rather than just the priests who wrongly taught that good works could save you. The average person could personally believe in Jesus Christ and study the Word of God. The best part of this translation was that people could see that believing in Jesus was a free gift and it was not by works that they would be saved. (Ephesians 2:8-9)

This did not make the priests happy. In fact, after this happened, England made a new law that if you read the Bible you were put to death!⁵

⁴ The Medieval Scribe and the Art of Writing. (n.d.). Retrieved from <http://ultimatehistoryproject.com/the-medieval-scribe.html>

⁵ Illegal English Bible. (n.d.). Retrieved from <http://www.bl.uk/learning/timeline/item107718.htm>

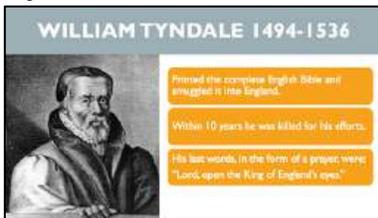
Slides 10 & 11 – Props: newspaper, an actor dressed as Mr. Gutenberg with a hat and beard



Mr. Wycliffe was a great man, and no law stopped the spread of God’s Word. Hi, I’m Mr. Gutenberg, a proud believer in Jesus Christ. Welcome to Germany in the year 1455. God used me to help spread God’s Word rapidly by blessing me with the gifts and talents to invent something amazing. Guess what I invented. I invented the printing press. *Show newspaper.*

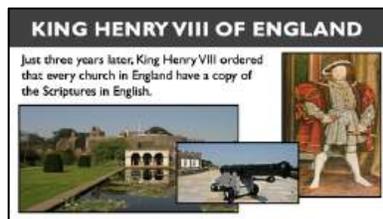
Do you know what my first project was on my printing press? (The Bible) Praise be to God!

Slide 12 – Props: sack of dried corn (or sack stuffed with paper with an ear of corn hanging out), an actor dressed as William Tyndale with a beard or hat



Yes, praise be to God! Hi, I am William Tyndale. I worked hard to complete and print the English Bible in Germany. I also knew that the people in England needed to hear the truth, even though that awful law was in place. Let me tell you how I did it. I smuggled Bibles into England.⁶ I took bags of corn and put the Bible in them. Then the corn was sold in England where the people found the Bibles. As I did this, I had to be careful because England even had spies looking for anyone who smuggled Bibles into their country. Praise God! Many Bibles were successfully given to the English people. After reading the truth, they often believed in the one true God. You will find on my tombstone that, after ten years, I was killed for my efforts.

Slide 13 – Props: Bible, an actor dressed as King Henry VIII with a robe and crown



Let me introduce myself. I’m King Henry VIII, the king of England. Originally, I was a persecutor of the church. I am the king who had William Tyndale killed.

But William Tyndale was willing to risk his life so the people of England could understand the truth from God’s Word. Did you know Williams’ last words were in the form of a prayer? He said, “Lord, open the king of England’s eyes.”⁷ He was talking about me, King Henry VIII. And guess what. God answered His prayers in a way nobody would have expected.

People who read the Bible in English can be so thankful for William Tyndale. Despite what I had done, God used me so others could learn the truth. I became a supporter of the church and ordered that every church in England have a copy of the Scriptures in English! I even paid for all the Bibles! Praise God! His plans cannot be stopped!

⁶ Illegal English Bible. (n.d.). Retrieved from <http://www.bl.uk/learning/timeline/item107718.html>

⁷ William Tyndale. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://www.greatsite.com/timeline-english-bible-history/william-tyndale.html>

Slide 14 – Props: an actress dressed as Queen Mary with a fancy updo wig and tiara, should have a big personality



Why are you all so happy? Enough! And what is that you are holding? *Point to a Bible.* Don't you know it is the year 1555, and I'm the queen? Yes, the queen of England...Queen Mary. I'm the one who ordered all Bibles to be removed from all the common people. This book only belongs to the Catholic priests.

Let me have it. *Grab a Bible.* If you touch another Bible, I will order my guards to burn you to death.⁸

Slides 15 & 16 – Props: an actor dressed as a Pilgrim with a Pilgrim hat

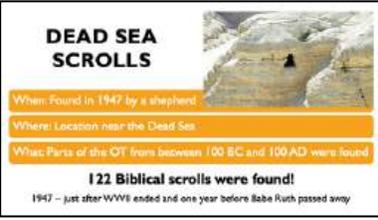


Let's go! The year is 1620, and it's time to leave Europe in search of religious freedom. I don't know about you, but I want to read the Bible and live for God. In order for us to do this, we need to leave everything behind, board a ship, and head to the New World. Guess what the ship's name was. (The Mayflower) That's right, the Mayflower!

As we, known as Pilgrims, boarded the ship, we brought our Bibles and supplies to survive in this new world. There is no doubt that our Bible gave us the support and encouragement we needed that first year in the New World.

More than one hundred years later, in 1782, the first English Bible was printed in America!

⁸ Queen "Bloody" Mary. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://www.greatsite.com/timeline-english-bible-history/queen-mary.html>

<p>Slides 17, 18, & 19 – Props: clay jar, an actor dressed as Professor Sukenik with thick glasses, a white dress shirt, and a wide necktie</p>   <p>"The copies discovered in the caves proved to be remarkably close to the standard Hebrew Bible, varying slightly in the spelling of names. They give overwhelming confirmation of the reliability of the Bible."</p> 	<p>There you go...that is how the Bible was written. But wait; how do you know that everything stayed accurate through aaaaalll this time? That they didn't make mistakes or just decide to write something different?</p> <p>Well, let me introduce myself, I'm Professor Sukenik. In 1947, just after WWII ended, a shepherd boy found something really unique by the Dead Sea. Guess what it was. He found a clay jar. <i>Show clay jar.</i></p> <p>Inside the jar was an incredible treasure! Parts of the OT from between 100 BC and 100 AD were found! And the meaning of the words was the same as in our modern Bibles – it hadn't changed! Hundreds of Biblical scrolls were found in this location. These scrolls became well known as the "Dead Sea Scrolls" and can be seen in museums today.</p> <p><i>Read from PowerPoint slide 19: "The copies discovered in the caves proved to be remarkably close to the standard Hebrew Bible, varying slightly in the spelling of names. They give overwhelming confirmation of the reliability of the Bible." Amazing...simply amazing!</i></p>
<p>Slide 20 – Props: an actor dressed as an archaeologist with a shovel</p> 	<p>Each year, archaeological discoveries help us better understand the Bible and affirm its details about people, events, and culture. In 2016, the ancient city gate that King Hezekiah destroyed in 2 Kings 18 was discovered by a group of archaeologists. The archaeologists were from the United Kingdom and Tel Aviv University. Ze'ev Elkin, the Minister of Jerusalem Affairs, Heritage, and Environmental Protections, said that the dig showed how "... biblical tales that are known to us become historical and archaeological stories" as research progresses.⁹</p>
<p>Slide 21</p>	<p>Students, when you study the Bible, know that what you learn will never change or go away! It's a fact!</p> <p><i>Isaiah 40:8 – "The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the Word of our God stands forever."</i></p>

Pray and thank God for the Bible!

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7/19/21

⁹ Geggel, L. (2016, September 28). Ancient City Gate and Shrine from Hebrew Bible Uncovered. Retrieved from <https://www.livescience.com/56300-gate-shrine-excavated-in-israel.html>

Elementary Printable Resources

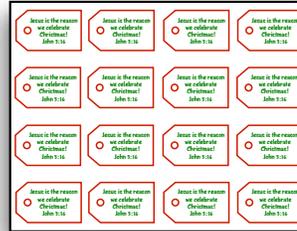
Year 2 — Quarter 2



Topical Lesson - NT Flyover
Timeline pictures



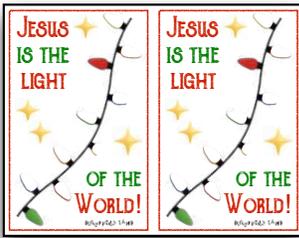
Lesson 1 - Food
Choc. Chip Cookie recipe card (enough for four groups)



Lesson 2 - Food
Jesus is the reason tags (enough for 16 cookies)



Lesson 2 - Art
Celebrate Jesus tags (enough for 18 nightlights)



Topical Lesson - Jesus is worthy of our worship
Art - Mini poster (enough for two students)



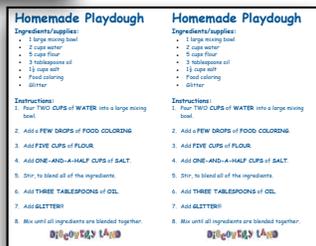
Topical Lesson - Jesus is worthy of our worship
Box signs



Topical Lesson - Jesus is worthy of our worship
Play-Doh & Sand cards



Lesson 4 Art
Option 1
Bookmark with Top 12 verses



Lesson 4 - Play-Doh
Playdough recipe card (enough for two groups)



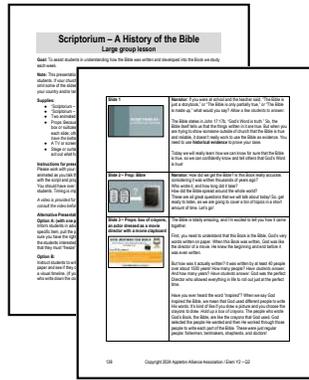
Lesson 4 - Chalk
Cards with temptations



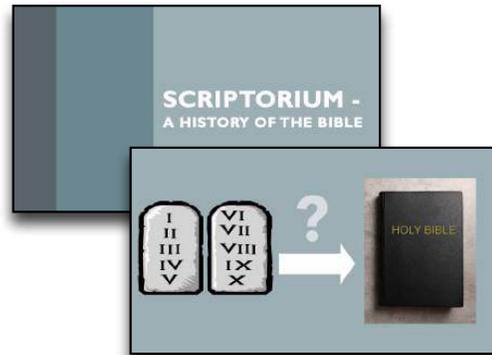
Lesson 5 - Creative Idea
Pictures of birds



**Lesson 5 - Art
Don't worry, trust
God! poster**



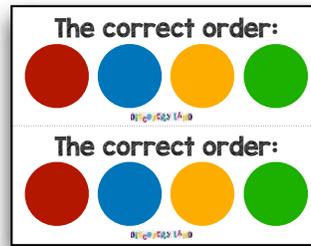
**Lesson 6
"Scriptorium - A history of the
Bible" leader text (in the back of
the curriculum)**



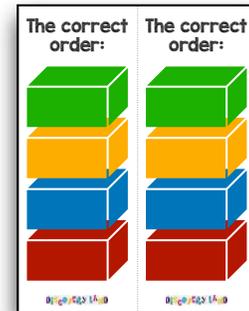
**Lesson 6
"Scriptorium - A history of the
Bible" PowerPoint slides**



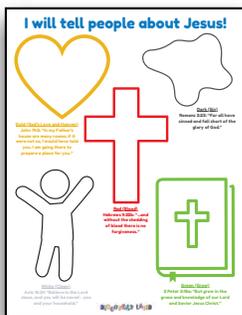
**Lesson 7
Who Wants to be a Candyaire?
PowerPoint slides
(K-2 and 3rd-5th)**



**Lesson 8 - Water
Poster with correct
order**



**Lesson 8 - LEGO
Poster with correct
order**



**Lesson 8 - Art
Activity sheet with
WB symbols**



**Lesson 9
Play-Doh & Sand
2 Peter 3:18a sticker
(enough for eight
students)**

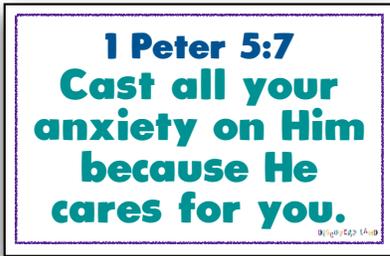


**Lesson 9 - Food
Dirt Dessert Recipe card**

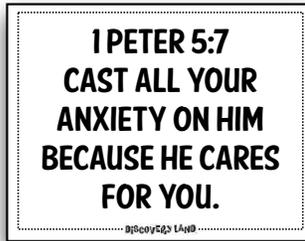


**Lesson 9 - Box - Beanstalk box
signs (ten box signs are included;
if you need more than ten boxes,
print extra copies of pages 3-8)**

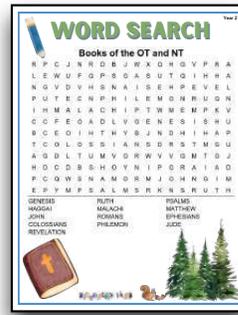
**Lesson 9 is not being used during
this sequence.**



Lesson 10
Water, Sand and Play-Doh
1 Peter 5:7 poster (11x17)



Lesson 10 - Art
1 Peter 5:7 activity sheet



Written
Review
Word Search
Time Filler



Version A (K-1st)
Verbal Review, Instructions,
and Answer Key



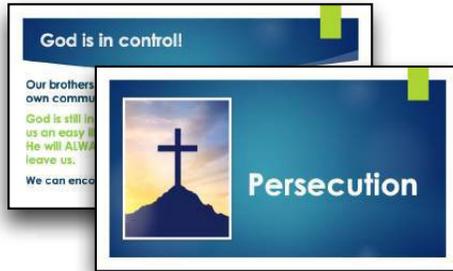
Version A (K-1st)
Student Answer
Sheet



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



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



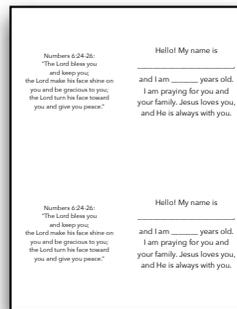
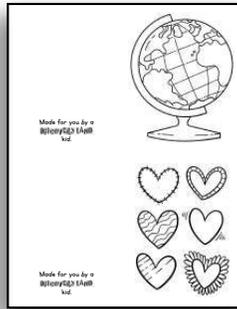
Mission Lesson - PPT slides



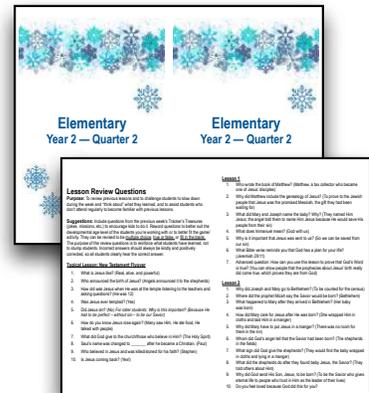
Mission Lesson
Top 12 bookmarks



Mission Lesson
Encouragement cards - Option 1
(enough for two students)



Mission Lesson
Encouragement cards - Opt 2
(inside only; the front is blank)
(enough for two students)



Lesson Review Cards

The Wordless Book - Presenting the Gospel to Children



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

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

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

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

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

Using the Wordless Book:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Additional Tips:

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

Coaching Kids for Salvation

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

DISCOVERY LAND

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Adapted from CEF salvation training.

DISCOVERY LAND

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

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



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



I BELIEVE!

Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved. He and your Saviour. Acts 16:31

Name: _____ Date: _____

I BELIEVE!
Teacher/Parent sign
director staff person

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

Acknowledgements and Permissions

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

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

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