

DISCOVERY LAND

**Year 2 – Quarter 2
Winter 2024-25**

Runners 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 children. 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 children 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 children:

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

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

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

Leaders

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

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

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

Runners Program Overview

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

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

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

SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

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

Coming In Time

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

Clean Up

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

Large Group Time

Large Group Time is designed to:

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

LEADER TIPS

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

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

Bible Lesson

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

Suggested steps for preparing your Bible lesson:

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

Craft or Activity

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

LEADER TIPS

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

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

Snack and Lesson Review

LEADER TIPS

Check for allergies before offering food to a child!

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

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

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

Review Activity

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

Runners Syllabus

Year 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 will trust that Jesus is real, alive, and powerful.
Feel Right: I can feel confident that Jesus is real and is alive.

Lesson 1: December 8, 2024

Matthew 1:18-25

Know Right: God has a plan for Mary and Joseph.
Think Right: John 3:16 (Top 12)
Do Right: I will wait patiently for God's plan for my life.
Feel Right: I can feel happy 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 3:16 (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: Jesus does not sin.
Think Right: John 3:16 (Top 12)
Do Right: I will say "no" to sin.
Feel Right: I can feel victorious when I say "no" to sin.

Lesson 5: January 12, 2025

Matthew 6:25-34

Know Right: Jesus teaches about worry.
Think Right: Acts 16:31 (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: Acts 16:31 (Top 12)
Do Right: I will put Jesus first.
Feel Right: I can feel wise when I put Jesus first.

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 believe in Jesus.
Feel Right: I can feel calm (peaceful) when I believe 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: Acts 16:31 (Top 12)
Do Right: I will tell people about Jesus.
Feel Right: I can feel excited 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: ~~Acts 16:31 (Top 12)~~
Do Right: ~~I will grow with Jesus.~~
Feel Right: ~~I can feel smart when I grow with Jesus.~~

Lesson 10: February 9, 2025

Matthew 14:13-21

Know Right: Jesus feeds the 5,000.
Think Right: Acts 16:31 (Top 12)
Do Right: I will depend on Jesus to take care of me.
Feel Right: I can feel loved knowing Jesus takes care of me.

Lesson 11: February 16, 2025

Review Day – Part 1

Know Right: True wisdom comes from God's Word.
Think Right: John 3:16 and Acts 16:31 (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

Review Day – Part 2

Know Right: True wisdom comes from God's Word.
Think Right: John 3:16 and Acts 16:31 (Top 12)
Do Right: I will remember God's Word.
Feel Right: I can feel wise when I remember God's Word.

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 say “no” to sin.

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 when we put Jesus first.

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 believe in Him, like the centurion; the question is, will you believe in Jesus?

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 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 to take care of us.

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 will trust that Jesus is real, alive, and powerful.
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 reference, awe, and love.

Pray: Pray that the children in your class will begin to understand that Jesus is real, alive, and powerful. Pray that this lesson strengthens their trust and confidence in Jesus as they continue to hear the Gospel.

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!

Creative Teaching Supplies:

- As you teach the lesson, show Bible timeline pictures from specific lessons (see appendix). Optional: Hang the timeline pictures in order on a clothesline or on the wall or a whiteboard.
- Pull the following props from a bag or box as you teach the lesson: baby doll (baby Jesus), first aid kit, cross, and plastic food.
- Alternate idea: Use a flannel board and flannel pieces for each of these lessons: the birth of Jesus, Jesus’ miracles, the crucifixion, the resurrection, and the early church.

GO!

Coming In Time

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

Clean Up

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

Large Group Opening Time

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bible Lesson

We have been learning about the Israelites, who were God's people in the Old Testament. The Old Testament is the first part of the Bible. *Show Old Testament in your Bible.* Today, we get to turn the pages in my Bible to the New Testament! In the New Testament, there is a Savior. That's someone who saves people from their sin. Do you know His name? (Jesus!) The Israelites waited a long time for this Savior, and His name is Jesus!

Jesus was born as a baby. *Show timeline picture (Jesus is born) and ask a child to hold the baby doll.* He was very little, just like you when you were born! He was a real, living, baby. *Have children pretend to rock a baby.*

When Jesus grew up, He loved people. He took care of them! *Pull out first aid kit.* He made sick people all better! *Show timeline picture (Jesus cares for the people).* Jesus is powerful!

Jesus wanted everyone to know about His Father, God. He taught about God. But some people were not happy about what Jesus taught. They killed Jesus. *Pull out cross.* It was very sad. Jesus died, even though He didn't deserve to die. But, this was God's plan to rescue all of us from sin. Did Jesus stay dead? (No!)

Jesus came back to life! We can read in the Bible that many people saw Him, He talked, and He walked around! *Show timeline picture (Jesus' death and resurrection).* Jesus even ate food! *Show toy food.* Jesus is alive!

After that, the Church started. *Show timeline picture (The Church begins).* The Church is made up of all the people who follow and love Jesus. The disciples were part of the first church, and today, if you love and believe in Jesus, you are part of the Church!

We know that Jesus is real, alive, and powerful. That is so exciting! Let's all stand up and say, "Thank You, God, for sending Jesus!"

Verse Review Time

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

Great job! You are really learning that verse from the Bible. I think you could even say that verse to your family at home. Wait...did you hear something? I think I heard something. *Pretend to listen.* I know what I hear. It's Tracker!

Tracker Skit

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

Tracker: Hi, boys and girls! Isn't Jesus super-de-duper amazing?

Teacher: He sure is, Tracker. We learned a lot about Jesus today, didn't we?

Tracker: Yeah! We learned that Jesus is real, alive, and powerful!

Teacher: You're right, Tracker! Do you remember how we know that Jesus is real?

Tracker: Well, um, He was born as a little baby, right? Just like you and me?

Teacher: Yes! Jesus was born as a tiny little baby, and He grew up as a little boy in a family. We also know that Jesus is alive, right Tracker?

Tracker: Yeah, He is... but didn't He die?

Teacher: You're right, Tracker. Jesus died to save us from our sin. But He didn't stay dead. He came back to life and ate real food and talked with His friends!

Tracker: And Jesus is powerful, too, right? He took care of people and made them all better.

Teacher: Yep! He did! Isn't Jesus amazing?!

Tracker: Yeah! I love Jesus so much!! And He loves me!! Bye, boys and girls! I'll see ya next week!

Craft or Activity

Supplies:

- Activity sheet with "Jesus is real, alive, and powerful!" and the following black and white images by each word: baby Jesus (real), food (alive), first aid kit (powerful) (see appendix)
- Crayons or dot stampers

Instructions:

1. Quickly review how we know that Jesus is real, alive, and powerful.
2. As children color in each picture, talk about what Jesus was like as a baby, what kind of food He might've eaten, and what miracles He did.

Snack and Lesson Review

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

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

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

Review questions to ask during snack:

1. Jesus was born as a tiny _____. (Baby)
2. Was Jesus alive just like me and you? (Yes)
3. Did Jesus ever sin? (No)
4. Did Jesus heal people? (Yes)
5. Is Jesus powerful? (Yes)

Review Activities

Option 1

Supplies:

- Boxes or building blocks

Instructions:

1. Have children build a church using boxes or building blocks.
2. When the church is built, show the timeline picture from the lesson (The Church begins) and remind them that anyone who follows and loves Jesus is part of the Church!
3. Repeat as time permits.

Option 2

Supplies:

- Bags with props and pictures from the lesson (if you have multiple services, make sure everything is back in the bags for the next service)

Instructions:

1. Have children sit on the floor in a circle.
2. Review the lesson using the bags and props from the lesson.

Lesson 1 – December 8, 2024

Matthew 1:18-25

Know Right:	God has a plan for Mary and Joseph.
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 wait patiently for God's plan for my life.
Feel Right:	I can feel happy 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 happy knowing that God has a perfect plan for our lives.

Pray: Pray that the children in your class will begin to understand God’s amazing plan. Pray also for perfect attendance this week.

Read: Matthew 1:18-25 (we will also use text from Luke 1:26-38)

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 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!

Creative Teaching Supplies:

- Nativity pieces or action figures of an angel, Mary, and Joseph
- Wordless Book

GO!

Coming In Time

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

Clean Up

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

Large Group Opening Time

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

1. “The B-I-B-L-E”
2. “I Like To”
3. “Jesus Loves Me”

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

This verse teaches us that God sent Jesus for everyone!

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

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

Bible Lesson

Today, we are going to learn about someone very special! *Open your Bible.* His name is Jesus! Do you love Jesus?

What special day is coming up very soon? (Christmas!) Christmas is the day we celebrate Jesus' birthday. *Have children cheer!* Before we learn about Jesus' birthday, let's learn more about Jesus' mom and dad from our Bible. God had a very special plan for Jesus' mom and dad.

In the Bible, God tells us about a young girl named Mary who lived a long time ago. Can you say Mary? One day, an angel appeared to Mary. What would you do if you saw an angel? (You would be surprised or maybe even afraid) The angel told Mary that God had a very special plan. The angel said, "Don't be afraid Mary, you will have a very special baby. You will name Him Jesus. He will be great." That sounds like something very important.

Jesus had a dad who lived on earth, and his name was Joseph. Joseph loved God and did what was right. Joseph also loved Mary very much. God sent an angel to Joseph to tell him about God's important plan: that Mary was going to have a very special baby. The angel told Joseph to name the baby Jesus, because He would save people from their sin.

What is a sin? (Sin is anything we think, say, or do that is against God) *Show dark page of the Wordless Book.*

God's very special plan was to send Jesus, so that we could be saved from our sin. That is God's plan for me and for you. It makes me feel happy to know God's plan for me!

Did you know when we say our John 3:16 verse, it is talking about Jesus? Jesus is God's one and only Son. Next week we will learn about the day Jesus was born.

Verse Review Time

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

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

Tracker Skit

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

Tracker: Hi, boys and girls! How are you doing today?

Teacher: We're doing great! How are you doing, Tracker?

Tracker: I'm doing dandy because I got to eat pancakes for breakfast today. A whole huge stack of pancakes with orange juice and a bowl full of strawberries. Yummy!!!!

Teacher: What did you think about our Bible lesson today?

Tracker: I loved it!!! I learned that Jesus had a mom and dad who both loved God. And that an angel came and talked to them. Wow, amazing!!!!

Teacher: Yep. This was all part of God's plan to send Jesus to save us.

Tracker: I am so happy that God had a plan!

Teacher: Me, too. And God still has a very special plan for each of us!

Tracker: Wow! That's really cool.

Teacher: It sure is; God has a plan for me and for you. He wants all of us to believe in Jesus and to be saved!

Tracker: I can't wait until next week, when we learn about the day Jesus was born.

Teacher: Me, too! Kids, are you excited to hear about the day Jesus was born? Make sure you come back next week, so you can hear this exciting Bible lesson with Tracker.

Craft or Activity

Supplies:

- Cardstock oval with "Jesus" in red bubble letters on the front; John 3:16 and a place to write the child's name on the back (see appendix)
- Ribbon to tie on ornaments (attach to ornaments in advance)
- School glue
- Round, colorful cereal – *check for allergies in case a child eats a piece*
- Crayons, markers, or a pencil (for leaders to write children's names)

Instructions:

1. Say: How many of you have a Christmas tree or decorations set up for Christmas? Today you are going to decorate an ornament. The ornament will remind you of God's very special plan – sending Jesus!
2. Leaders should write the child's name on the back of the ornament.
3. Place glue around the edge of the ornament and give each child colorful cereal to place on the glue.
4. As children are working, ask them what the word says on their ornament. Remind them that God's special plan was to send Jesus to save us from our sins.

Snack and Lesson Review

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

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

Review questions to ask during snack:

1. What was Jesus' mom's name? (Mary)
2. What was Jesus' dad's name? (Joseph)
3. Did an angel or a police officer tell Mary she would have a baby? (An angel)
4. What name was Mary told to name the baby? (Jesus)
5. Was God's special plan to send Jesus? (Yes!)

Review Activities

Option 1

Supplies:

- Angel or Mary figure from the lesson
- Worship music

Instructions:

1. Have children sit in a circle and pass the angel or Mary as they listen to worship music.
2. When the music stops, all children should say, "God's plan was to send Jesus!"
3. Repeat as time permits.

Option 2

Supplies:

- Nativity set

Instructions:

1. Review the lesson with a nativity set. Highlight key people and the role they played in the lesson. Remind children that God's plan was to send Jesus.
2. If you have multiple nativity sets, divide into small groups. Give each child a person or animal. As you review, allow them to place their piece in or next to the stable.

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 children, so they fully comprehend the true meaning of Christmas.

Pray: Pray that the children in your class will understand why we celebrate Christmas.

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!

Creative Teaching Supplies:

- Nativity set with a stable, Mary, Joseph, baby Jesus, animals, shepherds, and an angel
- A small box to look like an inn with windows and a door drawn on it
- A play fence or a piece of green paper or felt for a field
 - Create the scene with the empty stable, the inn, and the field.
 - Keep the people and animals in a small box or bag until the appropriate times in the lesson.

Note: Save the nativity set and the field for Review Day - Part 2.

GO!

Coming In Time

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

Clean Up

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

Large Group Opening Time

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

1. “The B-I-B-L-E”
2. “I Like To”
3. “Jesus Loves Me”

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

This verse teaches us that God sent Jesus for everyone!

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

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

Bible Lesson

Today, we are going to hear about a very special baby that was going to be born. Can you guess what His name is? (Jesus!)

Last week, we learned about His mother, Mary, and His father, Joseph. *Show Mary and Joseph.* Mary and Joseph traveled to a city called Bethlehem. When they arrived in the city, it was busy and filled with lots of people. It was so busy, there was no room for them to stay in an inn (house) like the rest of the people. *Have Mary and Joseph knock on the front door of the inn.* The only place left for Mary and Joseph to stay was a stable, which is like a barn where animals live. *Have Mary and Joseph go into the stable.* What type of animals live in a stable? (Probably cows, donkeys, goats, sheep, chickens, etc.) *Show animals and place them in the stable.* During that night, baby Jesus was born. *Show baby Jesus.* They wrapped Him in cloths and laid Him in a manger. *Put baby Jesus between Mary and Joseph.* A manger is a box for animals to eat out of.

Guess what else happened that night. There were shepherds, in the fields, watching their sheep. *Put shepherds and sheep in the field.* An angel appeared. *Have the angel stand by the shepherds.* The shepherds were super afraid! *Make the shepherds shake.* But the angel said, "Don't be afraid, I bring you good news. Jesus is born. You will find the baby lying in a manger." As soon as the angel left, the shepherds said, "Let's go!" So, they hurried off and found Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus in the stable. *Bring the shepherds to the stable.* Let's celebrate with the shepherds for finding baby Jesus. *Have the children clap and cheer.*

God loves us and sent His Son, Jesus, for the shepherds and for us! This reminds me of a verse we are learning.

Verse Review Time

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

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

Tracker Skit

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

Tracker: *(comes up singing)* Jesus is born! Jesus is born! Yay, Jesus is born!!!!

Teacher: Yes, He is!

Tracker: I wish I could have been there, standing right next to Him. I bet He was the cutest little baby ever!!!

Teacher: I have a feeling He was a beautiful little boy.

Tracker: I'm sure glad the angel told those shepherd guys that Jesus was born.

Teacher: Yes, that was amazing. And did you notice the shepherds hurried to see Him?

Tracker: I would have ran super-de-duper faster than all of them. I would have been sooooo excited.

Teacher: How can we celebrate Jesus' birthday? Kids, how do you think we should celebrate?

Tracker: Maybe we can have a HUUUUUUUGE party! Or maybe we can put up Jesus' picture in our room...or blow up balloons and make party hats and we can play music about Jesus!!!

Teacher: What great ideas, Tracker! Let's go and start getting ready for our Jesus party!

Craft or Activity

Supplies:

- Birthday hats with "Happy Birthday Jesus!" (in advance, use a stapler or tape to make the hats) (see appendix)
- Colorful stickers
- Fun balloons
- Picture of Jesus
- Worship music

Instructions:

1. Have party supplies hidden outside the room and bring items in one at a time as listed below.
2. Have children sit in their chairs and get ready for the party.
3. Say: Did Tracker say we should get some balloons? Let me see if I can find some. *Bring in balloons for each table of children.* We need music. *Start the music.* Let's see if we can find a picture of Jesus. *Hang the picture of Jesus on the wall.* We also need party hats! *Hand out party hats.* Let's decorate our party hats with stickers. *Hand out stickers and have children decorate their party hats.*

Snack and Lesson Review

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

Pray: *Thank God for the snack and for sending Jesus to save us from our sin. Encourage children to fold their hands, bow their heads, and close their eyes. Remind them that praying is talking to God. Open prayer with "Dear Heavenly Father" and close with "In Jesus' name, Amen."*

Snack: *Serve a special celebration snack this week, such as cookies or fruit cups (check for allergies).*

Review questions to ask during snack:

1. Did Mary and Joseph stay in a hotel or a stable? (A stable)
2. During the night, who was born? (Baby Jesus)
3. Who told the shepherds about baby Jesus? (An angel)
4. Did the shepherds find baby Jesus lying in a manger or a crib? (A manger)

Review Activities

Option 1

Supplies:

- Paper sheep (cut in advance) (see appendix) or cotton balls
- Fence or green paper/felt "field" from lesson

Instructions:

1. Scatter sheep around the room.
2. Remind children that the shepherds ran to find baby Jesus and you wonder what happened to their sheep.
3. Have children find the missing sheep in your classroom and safely bring them to the center of the room and put them in the "field".
4. Repeat several times.

Option 2

Supplies:

- Nativity set

Instructions:

Review the lesson with a nativity set, highlighting key people or items, and how they worshiped Jesus.

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.

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: Pray that the children in your class will be filled with joy as they worship and celebrate Jesus. Pray that parents will make attending church a priority for their family.

Know Right: Jesus is worthy of our worship

GET SET!

Creative Teaching Supplies:

- Gift
- Flannelgraph or a picture of Jesus as a grown man

GO!

Coming In Time

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

Clean Up

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

Large Group Opening Time

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bible Lesson

Do we celebrate Christmas so we can get lots of presents? (No!) *Hold up gift.* Christmas is a time when we can celebrate Jesus! *Show picture of Jesus.* Today, we are going to talk about ways we can worship Jesus.

Can everyone say the word “worship”? When we worship, we tell Jesus how great and awesome He is!

How can we worship Jesus? *Wiggle your hands. Have children wiggle their fingers to get ready.*

- With our hands, we can worship Jesus in many ways. Get your hands ready.
- With our hands, we can clap and worship Jesus. *Have children clap their hands for Jesus.*
- With our hands, we can serve Him by helping. *Have kids do some hand motions for helping, such as: picking up toys, giving hugs to our friends, sharing toys.*
- With our hands, we can fold them to pray. *Fold hands to pray.*
- When we pray, we can worship Jesus by telling Him how great He is.

What is another way we can worship Jesus? *Point to your mouth.*

- Let’s get our mouth ready to worship. Let’s make a big smile and open our mouth super wide.
- We can use our mouth to worship Jesus by telling Him how great He is. Let’s all say, “Jesus you are great!”
- When we tell Jesus how great He is, we are worshiping Him.
- We can also worship Jesus with songs. Do you know a song about Jesus?
- Let’s sing a song to worship Jesus. *Sing a song that the children currently know.*

What is another way we can worship Jesus? *Point to your feet. Have children point to their feet and run in place really fast.*

- We can go and tell others about Jesus.

- We can go to our grandparents' house, the store, or the park. When we go places, we can tell these people that we love Jesus!
- Let's practice saying this, "We love Jesus!" When we go and tell others, we are showing Jesus we love Him, and we want to worship Him!

Verse Review Time

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

Great job! You are learning a verse from the Bible. Wait...did you hear something? I think I heard something. *Pretend to listen.* I know what I hear. It's Tracker!

Tracker Skit

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

Tracker: Hi, boys and girls! I love worshiping Jesus, do you?

Teacher: I sure do! Tracker, how can you use your hands to worship Jesus?

Tracker: I can pray and tell Jesus how great He is. I can also help at church by picking up.

Teacher: Tracker, how can you use your mouth to worship Jesus?

Tracker: I can sing songs that talk about how big, strong, and awesome He is. *(say in an off-key singing voice)* I love to sing!

Teacher: Kids, do you love worshiping Jesus by singing?

Tracker: I can also worship with my fast feet. *(huffs and puffs while he "runs" really fast in place)* Are you guys fast?

Teacher: How can you worship Jesus with your feet?

Tracker: I can run all over my neighborhood and tell people that I love Jesus!!!! I can run and tell the mailman, a person at the store, my friends at the park, the kids playing soccer. I can go and tell everyone that Jesus is awesome!!!

Teacher: Kids, do you think you can be like Tracker and worship Jesus this week? *(Tracker should disappear)* Wow...I think Tracker just took off running to tell more people that he loves Jesus. Bye Tracker! Let's go make something to remind us to worship Jesus.

Craft or Activity

Supplies:

- Activity sheet with "I will worship Jesus with my hands, mouth, and feet" (see appendix)
- Dot stampers; or watercolor paints and paint brushes
- Worship music

Instructions:

Have children decorate their worship activity sheet with bright colors as they sing worship songs.

Snack and Lesson Review

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

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

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

Review questions to ask during snack:

1. Who do we worship? (Jesus)
2. How can we worship Him with our hands? (Pray or clap)
3. How can we worship Him with our mouth? (Sing songs about Him)
4. How can we worship Him with our feet? (Go and tell others about Him)

Review Activities

Option 1

Supplies:

- Egg shakers or other musical instruments
- Streamers
- Fun Christmas music

Instructions:

1. Create a Christmas worship parade in your room. Play fun Christmas music as children march around the room waving streamers and shaking egg shakers.
2. Occasionally remind children that you are worshipping Jesus.

Option 2

Supplies

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

Instructions:

1. Roll Wordless Book-colored balls around the room and have children find the colored ball that matches the Wordless Book buckets.
2. As they match the balls to the bucket, talk about the meaning of the color.

Lesson 3 – December 29, 2024

Matthew 2

Know Right:	God protects Jesus from King Herod.
Think Right:	“For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16 (Top 12)
Do Right:	I will believe that Jesus can save me from my sin.
Feel Right:	I can feel safe knowing that 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 the children in your class will understand that God will keep them safe.

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!

Creative Teaching Supplies:

- Use a nativity scene: stable, animals, people (additional piece/action figure needed: King Herod).
- Hang a bright star in the classroom.
- Alternate idea: Use toilet paper tubes to create people for the Bible lesson.
- Alternate idea: Use a flannel board to teach the lesson.

GO!

Coming In Time

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

Clean Up

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

Large Group Opening Time

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

1. “The B-I-B-L-E”
2. “I Like To”
3. “God is Good to Me”

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Our Bible verse teaches us that God sent Jesus for everyone!

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

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

Bible Lesson

Do you remember when we learned about Mary and Joseph traveling to Bethlehem? When they arrived at the busy city, there was no room for them to sleep in a nice bed. They were sent out to the stable, where animals live. What kind of animals do you think were in the barn? (Probably donkeys, cows, goats, chickens, etc.) Do you think this would be a good place for a little baby to be born?

While they were in the stable, baby Jesus was born. I'm sure Mary and Joseph were so happy to see their baby boy. Meanwhile, there were shepherds out in the fields watching their sheep. All of a sudden, an angel appeared and told the shepherds that Jesus was born. Right away they ran to Bethlehem to see the baby. How fast do you think they ran? I'm sure they were so excited to see baby Jesus!

After some time had passed, there were wise men who saw a bright star that helped them know that Jesus was born. They wanted to go worship Jesus. As they walked, they stopped and talked with a king. His name was King Herod, and he was not a good king. King Herod didn't like Jesus, and he wanted to hurt Him. This was wrong and very sinful. But God kept baby Jesus safe. Let's cheer for our God for keeping Jesus safe. *Have children cheer!* Do you know our God can keep you safe, too? God loves you very, very much, and He wants you to be safe forever and ever. Let's cheer for our God. *Have children cheer!*

Verse Review Time

Did you know that our Bible verse, John 3:16, teaches that God loves us? Let's stand up and practice our verse with actions.

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

Tracker Skit

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

Tracker: Hi, boys and girls! Merry Christmas!!!!

Teacher: Merry Christmas to you, too, Tracker!

Tracker: I love Christmas because I get to celebrate and learn about baby Jesus.

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

Tracker: I sure did! I liked that God protected Jesus from the bad king. The king made me afraid in the beginning, and then I remembered how BIG our God is and how He is bigger than the mean king.

Teacher: Do you know that our BIG God will also protect and keep you safe?

Tracker: How will He keep me safe?

Teacher: If you are afraid at night, you can pray and ask Him to keep you safe. Or if you get lost, you can pray and ask Him to keep you safe. Most importantly, Jesus is making a home in heaven where those who trust in Him can be safe forever. Just like God kept baby Jesus safe, He can keep you safe.

Tracker: Yippee!!!

Teacher: God loves us so much He wants to keep us safe forever. This reminds me of our Bible verse, John 3:16. Let's all say our verse together.

Craft or Activity

Supplies:

- Large roll paper with "Celebrate Jesus!" written in bubble letters
- Red, green, and yellow one-inch construction paper squares
- Glue sticks
- Camera

Instructions:

1. Say: God kept Jesus safe. Let's celebrate Jesus by making a banner and hanging it in the hallway outside our classroom, so everyone can see it.
2. Children will work as a class to create a class banner celebrating Jesus.
3. Take a picture of the children. Before next week, attach it to the banner, and hang it in the hallway.

Snack and Lesson Review

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

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

Special Snack: Star cookies – *check for allergies*

Review questions to ask during snack:

1. Who went to worship baby Jesus – cowboys or wise men? (Wise men)
2. What did the wise men follow to find baby Jesus? (A star)
3. Who wanted to hurt baby Jesus? (King Herod)
4. Did God protect Jesus from King Herod? (Yes)

Review Activities

Option 1

Supplies:

- Wordless Book-colored balls
- Wordless Book-colored buckets
- Christmas music

Instructions:

1. Roll Wordless Book-colored balls around the room. Have children collect the balls and place them in the correct Wordless Book bucket.
2. As they match the balls to the bucket, talk about the meaning of the color.

Option 2

Supplies

- Nativity set

Instructions:

Review the lesson with a nativity set, highlighting key people or items, and how they worshiped Jesus.

Lesson 4 – January 5, 2025

Matthew 4:1-17

Know Right:	Jesus does not sin.
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 say “no” to sin.
Feel Right:	I can feel victorious when I say “no” to sin.

GET READY!

This is a great lesson to remind us how important it is to teach children 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 children to see the value of hiding God's Word in their hearts.

Pray: Pray that the children in your class will have the courage to say “no” to sin both now and into the future. Pray for perfect attendance this week.

Read: Matthew 4:1-17

Know Right: Jesus does not 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 say “no” to sin.

GET SET!

Creative Teaching Supplies:

- Picture of Jesus as a baby and as an adult (see appendix)
- “No!” sign with a stop sign and “Yes!” sign with a smiley face (see appendix)
- Cookie on a plate
- Toys
- Crayons

GO!

Coming In Time

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

Clean Up

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

Large Group Opening Time

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Think Right Verse: *Have children listen carefully as you read the verse from your Bible.*

This verse teaches us that God sent Jesus to save us from our sin!

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

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

Bible Lesson

We have been learning so much about Jesus from our Bible. Today we are going to learn even more about Jesus. Jesus was born as a baby. *Show picture.* But He didn't stay a baby, just like we don't stay babies. He grew to be 1, 2, 3 (*count*), until He grew up into a man. *Show picture.* Throughout His whole life on earth, Jesus did not sin. He didn't talk sassy, He didn't hit His brothers, He shared His toys, He obeyed His mom and dad, He was kind, and He always loved God. Jesus was and still is perfect.

One day, Jesus went out into the desert. The desert is a dry place where there isn't much water. I'm sure Jesus was tired and hungry. While He was in the dry, hot desert He was tempted to sin. "Tempted" is a big word. Can you say "tempted"? (Tempted) Being tempted is when someone or something tries to draw us into doing something that goes against God. But, even when Jesus was tempted to sin, He said, "No!" When we say "no" to sin, we are the winners, and sin is the loser! Being a winner is called being victorious. Can you say "victorious"? (Victorious) Sometimes we might want to sin, but we need to say, "No, I want to do what is right!" *Show "No!" sign.*

Show cookie on a plate. Look at my cookie. Doesn't it look yummy? Even if I told you not to touch it, you may be tempted to touch it or even eat it! Sometimes it is hard to obey and do what is right. But what should we do? We should do what's right and say "No!" to sin. *Show "No!" sign.*

Hold up a picture of Jesus as an adult. Jesus was tempted to do things He shouldn't, but He said "No!" *Hold up "No!" sign.* Every time I hold up this sign, let's practice saying "No!" We should always choose to say "No!" to sin. *Show "No!" sign.*

Let's pretend your mom asks you to pick up your toys (*show toys*), but you don't want to. *Cross your arms with a frown.* What should you say? *Let children answer.* You should say "No!" to sin (*show "No!" sign*) and "Yes!" (*show "Yes!" sign*) to obeying your mom by picking up your toys.

Let's pretend your brother wants to use your favorite crayon and you are tempted to not share it with him. But then you remember what Jesus would do. What should you do? *Let children answer.* You should say "No!" to sin (*show "No!" sign*) and say "Yes!" (*show "Yes!" sign*) to sharing your favorite crayon.

Note: *If children are engaged, come up with a few more temptations.*

Verse Review Time

God loves us and wants us to say "No!" to sin (*show "No!" sign*) and "Yes!" (*show "Yes!" sign*) to doing what is right. Let's stand up and practice our verse, John 3:16, with actions.

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

Tracker Skit

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

Prop: a large red balloon

Tracker: (comes up with a red balloon) Hi, boys and girls! How are you all doing?

Teacher: Wow, Tracker! Where did you get that big red balloon?

Tracker: Ummmm...what big red balloon?

Teacher: Kids, do you see a big red balloon?

Tracker: Ummm...this one? (point to the balloon)

Teacher: Yes, where did you get it?

Tracker: Well...it belongs to my sister.

Teacher: Tracker, does she know you have her balloon?

Tracker: Kind of. She wouldn't share, so when she wasn't looking, I just took it and ran away.

Teacher: Kids, does this sound like a sin?

Tracker: What...a sin??!!

Teacher: Tracker, it looks like you sinned by stealing your sister's balloon. You should have said "No!" to sin and left the balloon with your sister.

Tracker: I guess I didn't listen to the Bible lesson very good today.

Tracker: It doesn't sound like it. Jesus said "No!" to sin when He was tempted. Tracker, you should do what is right and give the balloon back to your sister.

Tracker: I better give the balloon back and do what is right.

Teacher: That would be good.

Tracker: Okay. Bye, kids! I'm going to go right now and give the balloon back to my sister.

Teacher: Good job saying "Yes" to what is right, Tracker!

Craft or Activity

Supplies:

- Activity sheet with "I will say 'NO!' to sin" along with four pictures of children sinning and four pictures of children obeying; each picture has a small circle for children to place the correct sticker (see appendix)
- Smiley face and sad face stickers (four smiley face and four sad face stickers per child)
- Alternate idea: Use dark crayons to cross out the pictures of children sinning.

Instructions:

1. Talk about the different pictures.
2. Say: Which pictures show kids sinning? Which pictures show kids saying "No!" to sin?
3. Help children attach a smiley face sticker or a sad face sticker to each picture.

Snack and Lesson Review

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

Pray: *Thank God for the snack and ask God to help each boy and girl obey and do what is right. Encourage children to fold their hands, bow their heads, and close their eyes. Remind them praying is talking to God. Open prayer with "Dear Heavenly Father" and close with "In Jesus' name, Amen."*

Review questions to ask during snack:

1. Was Jesus tempted to sin when He was in the dry, hot desert? (Yes)
2. Did Jesus ever sin? (No)
3. What should we say when we are tempted to sin? (No!)

Review Activities

Option 1

Instructions:

1. Have children practice obeying by playing a simple game of Simon Says.
2. Every time they obey by doing what is right, excitedly acknowledge they obeyed the leader.
3. Actions can include: sit down, stand up, put your hand on your tummy, put your finger on your nose, put your hand on your head, touch your toes, clap your hands, jump up, etc.

Option 2

Supplies:

- Fun worship music

Instructions:

1. Play fun worship music and have children jump and dance.
2. When the music stops, say "Freeze!" and have children freeze and say John 3:16.

Lesson 5 – January 12, 2025

Matthew 6:25-34

Know Right:	Jesus teaches about worry.
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 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 children 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!

Teacher’s Note: Our lesson today covers the topic of worry. 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. Even very young children can struggle with worry.

Creative Teaching Supplies:

- Pass around toy birds or stuffed animal birds and fake or real flowers as you teach the lesson.

Note: Save the birds and flowers for Review Day – Part 2.

GO!

Coming In Time

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

Clean Up

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

Large Group Opening Time

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Think Right Verse: *We have a new verse this week! Listen as I read it from my Bible. Have children listen carefully as you read it from your Bible. We want them to know that the verse comes directly from the Bible, God’s Word!*

This verse teaches us that we should believe in Jesus! Review the actions for the verse. Let’s stand up and say Acts 16:31 with actions.

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

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

Bible Lesson

Jesus taught people many, many things! Do you know what book teaches us about Jesus and all the things He taught? (The Bible!) We learn about what Jesus taught when we read our Bible. *Hold up your Bible.* In today's lesson Jesus is teaching about worrying.

What is 'worry'? When you worry, it means you are getting anxious, scared, or all worked up over something and it makes you feel icky on the inside. Do you ever get worried? We all sometimes get worried, but instead of worrying, we can pray and talk to Jesus, and He can help us feel peaceful.

Do you see birds around your house? *Hold up birds, pass around to children.* What color bird is your favorite? *Allow children to answer.*

Did you know that birds eat a LOT of food? They do!! Do they go to the grocery store and buy their food? (No!) Birds find their food outside. They eat worms and seeds and berries! Jesus said that God loves and takes care of the birds. He makes sure they have food to eat, so the birds don't have to worry about food. And guess what... Jesus says God takes care of you, too, even more than the birds!

Look at these flowers! Aren't they beautiful? *Pass around flowers, encourage children to smell them if they are real.* What color flowers do you like? There are so many different colors – and every flower is beautiful! Do you like how flowers smell?

Do you know who made the flowers? (God!) God made the flowers, and He cares about them. He made them beautiful, and He sends them rain and sunshine, so they can grow. And guess what. Jesus says God takes care of you, too, even more than the flowers!

God loves us so much. He takes care of us, so we do not need to worry about anything!

Let's all stand up and say "Thank You, God, for taking care of us!"

Verse Review Time

While we're standing, let's practice our new verse, Acts 16:31, with actions.

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

Wait...did you hear something? I think I heard something. *Pretend to listen.* I know what I hear. It's Tracker!

Tracker Skit

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

Tracker: Ohhh, _____! I don't feel so good! My tummy hurts, and I feel kinda scared!

Teacher: Tracker, what's wrong?

Tracker: Well, I'm going to my grandma's today, but what if I forget something? Or what if I don't like my snack? Or what if I get sick? Ahhhhhh!

Teacher: Hold on, Tracker. Why are you worrying so much today?

Tracker: Huh? What does 'worry' mean?

Teacher: We learned about worrying today. Worrying means that you are getting anxious, scared, or all worked up over something, and it makes you feel yucky on the inside.

Tracker: Yeah, that's how I feel right now.

Teacher: Well, Tracker, I have good news for you. Jesus teaches us that we don't need to be worried. God loves us soooo much, and we can trust Him with everything. Do you want to pray with us? We can pray that God will help you feel excited, not worried, about going to your grandma's house. We can also pray for all of these kids to not be worried when they have to go someplace.

Tracker: Yeah, that sounds really good.

Teacher: Dear Heavenly Father, please help each one of us to trust You and feel excited about going places. We know that You will take care of us, and we don't need to be worried. Thank You for loving us so much! In Jesus' name, Amen.

Tracker: Thanks a lot, _____. I feel much better now. I'm gonna go finish getting my toys ready! I'm bringing some of my favorite toys to my grandma's house! Bye, boys and girls!

Craft or Activity

Supplies:

- Activity sheet with a smiling face and "I can feel peaceful when I trust God" (see appendix)
- Crayons

Instructions:

1. Show activity sheet to the children and read it to them.
2. Have children color the smiling face. As they color, talk to them about what it feels like to be peaceful instead of worrying. Explain that they can trust God with everything because He loves them.
3. At the end of the activity, have children stand up and say together, "I will trust God!"

Snack and Lesson Review

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

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

Review questions to ask during snack:

1. Does God take care of the birds? (Yes)
2. Does God take care of the flowers? (Yes)
3. Will God take care of you? (Yes)
4. What does it feel like to be worried? (Yucky on the inside)
5. If you are worried, what can you do? (Pray and trust God)

Review Activities

Option 1

Supplies:

- Wordless Book-colored pom-poms (twenty of each color)
- Wordless Book-colored cups

Instructions:

1. Spread the pom-poms across the table and have children sort each color into the correct cup.
2. As they sort, introduce them to the key words and phrases for the Wordless Book colors.
 - Gold: God's love and heaven
 - Dark: sin
 - Red: Jesus shed His blood on the cross for our sin
 - Clean/White: Jesus can take away our sin and make us clean
 - Green: we can grow, just like the grass, and learn to be more like Jesus

Option 2

Supplies:

- Stuffed bird from the lesson
- Worship music

Instructions:

1. Have children sit in a circle.
2. Pass the stuffed bird as you listen to worship music.
3. When the music stops, all children should say, "I will trust God!"
4. Repeat as time permits.

Lesson 6 – January 19, 2025

Matthew 7:24-29

Know Right:	Jesus teaches about the wise and foolish builders.
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 Jesus first.
Feel Right:	I can feel wise when I put Jesus first.

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: Pray that the children in your class will always strive to be wise by being hungry to know and live for Jesus. Pray for perfect attendance this week.

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 when we put Jesus first.

GET SET!

Teacher’s Note: We recognize this is an abstract Bible lesson for young children, but since this is a family-based curriculum, we will teach it knowing we are laying a foundation for the future.

Creative Teaching Supplies:

- One pan with a big rock on one half and the other half filled with sand
- Two houses: one made with wooden blocks and another house that is made with connecting blocks like LEGO bricks, bristle blocks, waffle blocks, etc.
- Optional: pitcher of water

GO!

Coming In Time

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

Clean Up

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

Large Group Opening Time

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

1. “I Like To”
2. “My God is so Big”
3. “God is Good to Me”

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

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

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

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

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

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

Think Right Verse: *Let’s practice our new Bible verse. It’s found in Acts 16:31. Have children listen carefully as you read the verse from your Bible.*

This verse teaches us that we should believe in Jesus.

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

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

Bible Lesson

Today we are going to learn more from the Bible. Are you ready to learn? When I open my Bible to the book of Matthew, we can learn from Jesus about two people. One person loved Jesus and made good choices (*have children smile*) and the other person made bad choices (*have children make a sad face*).

Our friend who loved Jesus and made good choices built his house on the hard rocks. *Place the LEGO house on the large rock*. That was the right thing to do. On the rock, the house wouldn't move and all the people that lived in it would be safe.

Our other friend didn't make a good choice. He built his house on the sand. The sand moved a lot. *Move sand around as you place the blocks on the sand*.

One day a storm came. The winds blew, and the rain came down. Let's pretend to be a storm. *Have children blow air like the wind and wave their hands up and down like the rain*. This was a bad day for the man who built his house on the sand. His whole house fell down. *Knock down the house or pour water over it to make it fall*. The man who made a good choice by building his house on the hard rocks found his house didn't move at all. It stood firm. *Have children clap*.

When we make bad choices and do things our way instead of God's way, we are like the man who built his house on the sand. But, when we make good choices and spend time learning from the Bible, we are like the man who built his house on the rock. We need to put Jesus first and build our life on God's Word, the Bible. Let's all stand up and say, "I will put Jesus first!"

Verse Review Time

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

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

Tracker Skit

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

Tracker: Good morning, boys and girls! (*Tracker should stretch and yawn*)

Teacher: Tracker, did you just wake up? You look tired.

Tracker: I was up late last night, but I knew coming to church and learning things from the Bible was super important. So, as soon as I heard the birds chirp outside, I got up, got dressed, and came right over.

Teacher: You are right; learning things from God's Word is super important. I'm glad you're here!

Tracker: Hey, do you remember last week; I was worried about going to my grandma's house? I'm so glad you prayed for me. I had a great time! I trusted God to take care of me instead of worrying.

Teacher: I'm so glad, Tracker, that you trusted God to take care of you at your grandma's house. This week, we learned that we should listen to God's Word, the Bible, and build our lives on it. This is like building our house on a big, strong rock.

Tracker: I want to build my house on the rock, too, so I'm going to keep memorizing my verses and doing what I learn from the Bible.

Teacher: That sounds like a great plan! Bye, Tracker!

Craft or Activity

Supplies:

- Cardstock activity sheet with "I will put Jesus first!" along with a house on a rock with a happy man standing next to it (see appendix)
- Watercolor paints or washable dot stampers
- Paint brushes and spill proof water cups (if using watercolor paints)

Instructions:

1. Have children decorate their picture with watercolor paints or dot stampers.
2. As children work, talk about the man who loved Jesus and made a good choice by putting Jesus first.

Snack and Lesson Review

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

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

Review questions to ask during snack:

1. What book is the very best? (The Bible)
2. Is it a good choice to come to church to learn more about the Bible each week? (Yes)
3. Who can help us make good choices, like the smart man in our Bible lesson? (Jesus)

Review Activities

Option 1

Supplies:

- Sand table
- Houses made from small boxes (such as milk cartons; place on sand table)
- Regular table
- Small houses made from LEGO bricks (place on regular table)
- Straws

Instructions:

1. Have children play at the sand table and a regular table. Allow them to choose where to start playing but encourage all children to visit both tables at some point during the activity.
2. Have children create a storm by blowing through their straw and seeing if the houses blow over.
3. Emphasize that the houses in the sand blow over easily, but the houses on the firm table are safe from blowing over.
4. Remind children that when we love Jesus and make wise choices, we can stay safe with Jesus!

Option 2

Supplies:

- Five small boxes decorated like houses (hide the houses around the classroom) (idea: use small empty, clean, milk cartons)
- Large rock (place in the center of the room on a table or on the floor)

Instructions:

1. Challenge children to find the houses hidden around the room.
2. Celebrate when each house is found by placing it on the large rock.
3. Remind children that the man who lives in this house loves Jesus and makes good choices.

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 believe in Jesus.
Feel Right:	I can feel calm (peaceful) when I believe 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 the Scripture passage, let's ask God to use His Word to transform our lives.

Pray: Pray that the children in your class this week will begin to understand the concept of believing in Jesus. Pray that parents will make attending church a priority for their family.

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 believe in Him, like the centurion; the question is, will you believe in Jesus?

GET SET!

Creative Teaching Supplies:

- In advance, draw the lesson on roll paper, a large sketch pad, or a whiteboard. Draw a path leading to a group of stick figures without faces and a house in the background. As you teach, add the details as described in the lesson.

GO!

Coming In Time

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

Clean Up

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

Large Group Opening Time

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

1. “I Like To”
2. “Bigger than Big”
3. “Jesus Loves Me”

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

This verse teaches us that we should only believe in Jesus.

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

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

Bible Lesson

Let's see how much you remember from our past Bible lessons! Let's play the "Yes / No" game. If the answer is "Yes", you should clap; if the answer is "No", you should put your hands on your head.

1. We can make a good choice by reading our Bible. (Yes)
2. When we pray, we are talking to God. (Yes)
3. We should be sassy to our parents. (No)
4. Everything in the Bible is true. (Yes)

Great job! *Have children cheer.*

I'm going to open my Bible to the exciting book of Matthew. The book of Matthew teaches us that when Jesus was a man, He visited many people. *Draw Jesus walking on a path.* Jesus was walking to a busy town. Many people were excited to see Jesus. *Add smiley faces to the stick people.* They believed that Jesus was very important. I think you would be excited to see Jesus, too!

When Jesus arrived, there was one man who needed to talk to Jesus right away. *Highlight one man; draw his mouth open, like he's shouting "Help!"* This man had a friend at home that needed help. His friend couldn't walk and was in a lot of pain. *Draw a man lying on the floor of the house with a sad face.* The man asked Jesus if He could help his friend who couldn't walk.

Do you think Jesus helped the friend? (Yes) Do you think the man believed Jesus could make his friend better? (Yes) This man believed in Jesus. He knew Jesus could help his friend. Since the man believed in Jesus, Jesus healed the man's friend. Now the man could walk! *Draw the man standing up with a big smile.*

Did you know you can believe in Jesus, just like the man in our Bible lesson? Jesus can help you when you are afraid, when you are sick, or when you need someone to talk to.

If the children are engaged, ask the following review questions:

1. When you are sick, can you ask Jesus to help you feel better? (Yes)
2. Does Jesus know you and love you? (Yes)
3. When you are afraid, can you ask Jesus to protect you? (Yes)
4. Do you believe that Jesus can take away your sin? (Yes)

Verse Review Time

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

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

Tracker Skit

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

Tracker: Hi, boys and girls. I've got a big problem today.

Teacher: Oh, no! What's wrong, Tracker?

Tracker: Well, Jimmy is one of my bestest friends. He can run fast, jump over boxes, and even sing the ABC song. But guess what. My friend Jimmy is really sick. He went to the doctor yesterday and they gave him medicine...and all he does is sleep and sleep and sleep.

Teacher: Aw, I'm sorry to hear this, Tracker.

Tracker: Ya know, after hearing our Bible lesson today, I think I should pray! Let's pray that Jimmy gets better. I really believe that Jesus can make Jimmy better!

Teacher: Great idea! Let's pray for all of our friends who are sick. Dear Heavenly Father, please help our friends who are sick to get better soon. We believe that You can heal big people and little people. Thank You for hearing us when we pray. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Tracker: I'm so glad that Jesus hears our prayers. I'm going to Jimmy's house to see how he's feeling.

Teacher: Sounds good. Kids, isn't it great that Jesus can make people feel better?

Craft or Activity

Supplies:

- Activity sheet with "Jesus can help me when I'm scared or sick" (see appendix)
- Pictures of a sick child, a storm, a scared child, a lost child, an injured foot, and darkness (cut in advance) (see appendix)
- Glue sticks

Instructions:

1. Children will glue the pictures to their activity sheet using glue sticks.
2. As children work, talk about the lesson and that Jesus can help them when they are scared or sick.
3. Have children ask their parents to hang the finished project in a very special place at home, so they can remember to believe in Jesus no matter what.

Snack and Lesson Review

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

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

Review questions to ask during snack:

1. What was wrong with the man's friend in our Bible lesson? (He couldn't walk and was in a lot of pain)
2. Who healed the man's friend? (Jesus)
3. Did the man believe in Jesus? (Yes)
4. Do you believe in Jesus?

Review Activities

Option 1

Supplies:

- Small plastic people

Instructions:

1. Hide many people around the room and have children collect the people.
2. Gather the people and highlight how all people need to believe in Jesus.
3. Explain to children that they can tell their friends about Jesus.

Option 2

Supplies:

- A play doctor kit and Band-Aids
- A spray bottle and flashlight
- A paper moon

Instructions:

1. Set up three stations with the supplies.
2. As a group, go to each station and talk about how we can trust God in each situation.
 - a. Station 1: We can trust God to heal us when we are sick or injured. *Help children put a Band-Aid on themselves.*
 - b. Station 2: We can trust God during a scary storm. *Spray children with the water bottle for rain and turn the flashlight on and off for lightning.*
 - c. Station 3: We can trust God at night or when it's dark. *Point to the paper moon, then have children cover their eyes.*

Lesson 8 – February 2, 2025

Matthew 9:35 – 10:4

Know Right:	Jesus loves people and wants them to know Him.
Think Right:	“Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved - you and your household.” Acts 16:31 (Top 12)
Do Right:	I will tell people about Jesus.
Feel Right:	I can feel excited when I tell people about Jesus.

GET READY!

How excited are you 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: Pray that the children in your class will understand the importance of bringing their friends to Jesus. Pray for perfect attendance this week.

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!

Creative Teaching Supplies:

- Photos of different types of people who need Jesus (include people the children in your class may encounter during the week: grandparents, restaurant workers, babysitters, cousins, neighbors, etc.)
- Wordless Book

GO!

Coming In Time

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

Clean Up

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

Large Group Opening Time

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

1. “The B-I-B-L-E”
2. “I Like To”
3. “Jesus Loves Me”

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

This verse teaches us that everyone should believe in Jesus! Moms and dads, grandparents, friends, the mailman, people who work at the store, etc. Everyone should believe in Jesus!

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

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

Bible Lesson

Today we are going to learn more about Jesus! From the Bible, God teaches us that Jesus went to many towns and villages, teaching everyone about God. Jesus told the people how much God loves them. He made sick people healthy by doing miracles. *Show photos of people and talk about the different types of people who need to hear about Jesus.* Wow, wouldn't it be exciting if Jesus came to our class!

As Jesus was walking, He could see so many people who needed to know more about the Bible and God. Jesus knew it would be important for more people to hear the Good News, but there were not many people who were willing to help. That's so sad that people didn't want to help. Do you want to help others know about Jesus? How can we do this? We can do this with the Wordless Book. Let's practice telling others about Jesus with the Wordless Book. *Show the corresponding color as you review the Wordless Book:*

Gold – John 14:2: Gold reminds us of God's love and heaven. The Bible tells us that the roads in heaven are gold, and God wants us to live there someday with Him.

Dark – Romans 3:23: One thing that will not be in heaven is sin. Sin is anything we think, say, or do that is against God. The Bible tells us that we have all sinned, and our punishment is that we cannot go to heaven. That's sad.

Red – Hebrews 9:22b: But God loved us so much He sent His Son, Jesus! Remember baby Jesus that grew up? He lived a perfect life, and He died for our sin.

White/Clean – Acts 16:31: If we ask Jesus to take away our sin, He will forgive us. And all our sin will be wiped away to make us clean.

Green – 2 Peter 3:18a: We can grow to be more like Jesus by telling others about Him.

Verse Review Time

We want others to believe in Jesus. Let's stand up and practice our verse, Acts 16:31, with actions, so we can tell others about Jesus.

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

Tracker Skit

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

Tracker: Hi, boys and girls. I am soooooo excited and happy!

Teacher: You sound excited, Tracker! What's going on?

Tracker: I told my grandma about Jesus! I told her about the colors and how they remind me of Jesus!

Teacher: That's great, Tracker!

Tracker: And guess what. She asked Jesus to take away her sin and be the leader of her life! She believes in Jesus!! Yippee!

Teacher: That is wonderful! Now you know that someday your grandma will be in heaven with Jesus!

Tracker: Guess what. All of you can tell people about Jesus, too!

Teacher: We know! Boys and girls, do you want to tell people about Jesus like Tracker did?

Tracker: I am going to tell my friend Bobby about Jesus with my handy dandy Wordless Book! Bye, boys and girls!

Craft or Activity

Supplies:

- Wordless Book bookmark with outlined squares in Wordless Book colors (see appendix)
- Wordless Book-colored tissue paper or construction paper squares
- Glue sticks
- Believe It or Not booklets (one per child) (see appendix)

Instructions:

1. Say: Today we learned that Jesus loves everyone and wants everyone to know Him! I want you to think of someone that you want to tell Jesus about. We are going to make a Wordless Book bookmark that you can use to share Jesus with someone.
2. Leaders will help children match the paper squares to the correct square on their bookmark.
3. Children will attach the squares using glue sticks.
4. At the end of class, remind children to use the bookmark to tell someone about Jesus and to give that person the bookmark to keep.
5. All children should also take home a Believe It or Not booklet, which will explain the Wordless Book to parents.

Snack and Lesson Review

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

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

Review questions to ask during snack:

1. Does Jesus only love tall people, or does He love everyone? (He loves everyone)
2. Does the Bible tell us to tell others about Jesus? (Yes)
3. Does the gold color from the Wordless Book remind us of the sun or heaven? (Heaven)
4. Does Jesus love you? (Yes)

Review Activities

Option 1

Supplies:

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

Instructions:

1. Dump out the Wordless Book balls around the room
2. When you say, "Go tell others about Jesus," the children will collect the balls and return them to the matching bucket. You can also say for example: "Find the colored balls that remind us of heaven." They should all find a gold (or yellow) ball and return it to the bucket.
3. Repeat with the other colors.

Option 2

Supplies:

- Wordless Book-colored balls
- Worship music

Instructions:

1. Have children sit in a circle and pass a Wordless Book-colored ball as they listen to worship music.
2. When the music stops, have everyone say, "I will tell people about Jesus!" Then quickly give the key word and a short explanation of that specific Wordless Book color.
3. Repeat as time permits, each time using a different Wordless Book-colored ball.

~~Lesson 9~~

~~Matthew 13:1-23~~

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

~~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 grow with Jesus.

~~Feel Right:~~ _____ I can feel smart 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:	“Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved - you and your household.” Acts 16:31 (Top 12)
Do Right:	I will depend on Jesus to take care of me.
Feel Right:	I can feel loved knowing Jesus takes care of me.

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: Pray that the children in your class will understand how much God cares for them. Pray that parents will make attending church a priority for their family.

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 to take care of us.

GET SET!

Creative Teaching Supplies:

- Basket with a small towel
- Two paper fish and five paper loaves (place in the basket on top of the towel) (see appendix)
- Many paper fish and loaves taped to string (place under the towel in the bottom of the basket) (see appendix)

Note: Save the basket with the fish and loaves for Review Day – Part 2.

GO!

Coming In Time

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

Clean Up

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

Large Group Opening Time

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

1. “My God is so Big”
2. “God is Good to Me”
3. “Jesus Loves Me”

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Who should believe in Jesus? (Everyone should!)

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

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

Bible Lesson

Jesus loves us, and He takes care of us! Today, we are going to learn about a time Jesus took care of a lot of people when He lived here on earth.

The Bible says that one day Jesus had been teaching people all day and they were getting hungry. *Rub stomach.* There were LOTS and LOTS of people, and no one had any food, except one boy who had two fish and five loaves of bread. *Show the two fish and five loaves of bread that are in the basket on top of the towel.* He gave the two fish and five loaves of bread to Jesus. Do you think these two fish and five little loaves of bread could feed LOTS and LOTS of people? Well, let's find out what it says in the Bible.

Jesus loved and cared for the hungry people. And guess what. He did a miracle! He made the two fish and five loaves of bread feed ALL the people! *Lift the towel and pull the string. Have another leader help you pull the string out of the basket. The kids will be amazed, which is most likely how the disciples would have reacted.* Wow! And there were even leftovers! Jesus cared for the people, and He cares for us, too!

Let's think about some times when Jesus cares for us.

- Jesus cares for us when we are sleeping. *Pretend to sleep.*
- Jesus cares for us when we are sad. *Make a sad face.*
- Jesus cares for us when we are hurt. *Rub your knee.*
- Jesus cares for us when we are happy. *Make a happy face.*

The best way Jesus cared for us was when He died on the cross for all of our sins! Everyone say, "Jesus cares for me!"

Verse Review Time

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

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

Tracker Skit

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

Tracker: Hi, boys and girls. You just heard about an awesome miracle that Jesus did! Jesus took a little food and fed LOTS and LOTS of people! I am so glad Jesus cares for me, too!

Teacher: Yes, I am thankful that Jesus cares for all of us!

Tracker: The other day I was sad cuz my dad had to go on a trip for work, and I couldn't go along.

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

Tracker: My dad reminded me that Jesus cares for me, and Jesus would be with me while he was gone! That helped me. Then I prayed for Jesus to care for my dad.

Teacher: Great idea, Tracker! And I'm sure your dad prayed for Jesus to care for you.

Tracker: Yes, he did! Remember, Jesus cares for us! Boys and girls, remember to listen to your parents when they read the Bible to you, so you can grow closer to Jesus. See ya next week!

Craft or Activity

Supplies:

- Activity sheet with a basket and the words "Jesus takes care of me" (see appendix)
- Paper fish and loaves (see appendix)
- Glue sticks

Instructions:

1. Children will glue two fish and five loaves in the basket on their activity sheet.
2. As children work, talk about how Jesus took care of the people by giving them fish and bread to eat, and how He takes care of you.
3. Have children share their project with their family as they retell how Jesus did a miracle to care for many people.

Snack and Lesson Review

Note: See the “Review Activity – Option 2” below for an idea on how to reinforce the lesson during snack.

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

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

Review questions to ask during snack:

1. Did Jesus take care of the hungry people? (Yes)
2. Did Jesus feed the people pizza or fish and bread? (Fish and bread)
3. Did all the people eat or did they run out of food? (They all ate and there were even leftovers)
4. Does Jesus take care of us? (Yes!)

Review Activities

Option 1

Supplies:

- Fish and loaves (plastic or paper)
- Picnic basket

Instructions:

1. Hide the fish and loaves in the classroom.
2. Say: Jesus fed many people with fish and bread. Can you find the hidden fish and bread in our classroom? Find the items and return them to the class picnic basket.
3. Repeat as time permits.

Option 2

Instructions:

Turn “Snack Time” (*above*) into an activity to reinforce the lesson. Encourage children to take care of one another, just like Jesus took care of people. They can help wash the table, pass out snacks, pass out paper towels after children wash their hands, etc. As they do these things, keep reminding them that they are taking care of others, just like Jesus took care of the people in our lesson.

Lesson 11 – February 16, 2025

Review Day – Part 1

Know Right:	True wisdom comes from God's Word.
Think Right:	John 3:16 and Acts 16:31 (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 children 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 review of the previous quarters' lessons, celebrate all God has done and will continue to do in the lives of your children and fellow leaders.

Pray: Pray that the children in your class will remember what they've learned this past quarter and will be eager to learn more about Jesus in the days and years ahead.

Read: Review Lessons 1-3

Know Right: True wisdom comes from God's Word

As we near the end of the quarter, we take a day to remember and celebrate all God has taught us through the study of His Word.

GET SET!

Creative Teaching Supplies:

- Special bag or box with props: Mary, Joseph, an angel, baby Jesus, shepherds, and animals (*from Lesson 2*)
- Create the scene with the empty stable and the field (a play fence or a piece of green paper or felt for a field) (*from Lesson 2*)

GO!

Coming In Time

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

Clean Up

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

Large Group Opening Time

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

You have done a great job memorizing two Bible verses this quarter. Let’s see if you remember them both. Our first verse talks about how much God loves us. Let’s say John 3:16.

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

Our second verse tells us we need to believe in Jesus to be saved from our sin. Let’s say Acts 16:31.

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

Wow, you have done a great job learning these verses!

Bible Lesson Review

Today we are going to pull some things from my super special bag (or box) to help us remember our Bible lessons about baby Jesus. I can't wait to show you what's in my bag (or box)!

Show Mary and Joseph: Who are these two people? (Mary and Joseph) They were Jesus' mom and dad. They loved and obeyed God.

Show angel: This is an angel. The angel came and told Mary she was going to have a baby. The baby's name would be Jesus. This means He would save people from their sins.

Show the stable: Mary and Joseph traveled far to a city called Bethlehem. There wasn't room for them to stay in the inn, which was like a hotel. So, they had to stay in a stable, which is like a barn where animals live! *Put Mary and Joseph in the stable.* What type of animals live in a stable? (Probably cows, donkeys, goats, sheep, chickens, etc.) *Add animals to the stable but save sheep for later in the lesson.*

That night something amazing happened! Baby Jesus was born! *Show baby Jesus.* Baby Jesus was very special.

Guess what else happened that night. *Put shepherds and sheep in the field, then show the angel.* While the shepherds were in the field with their sheep, an angel appeared to them and said, "A Savior has been born." When this happened, the shepherds ran to find baby Jesus. *Bring the shepherds to the stable.* They found Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus in the stable. They were so excited! Let's celebrate baby Jesus. *Have the children clap and cheer.*

God loves us so much that He sent His Son, Jesus, for the shepherds and for us! This reminds me of one of our verses, John 3:16.

Verse Review Time

Let's stand up and say John 3:16 with actions.

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

Tracker Skit

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

Tracker: Hi, boys and girls.

Teacher: Hi, Tracker! Did you enjoy reviewing our lesson today about baby Jesus?

Tracker: I sure did! I learned that God loves me so much that He sent His Son, Jesus, as a little baby. That is something to celebrate!

Teacher: You're right, Tracker! That is definitely something to celebrate!

Tracker: Remember those shepherd guys who were watching their cute little sheep in the field? When the angel told them about baby Jesus, they ran to see Him!

Teacher: They sure did! They were so excited, they celebrated God's special gift, baby Jesus! And they told everyone about baby Jesus!

Tracker: Hey, that's a good idea! I'm gonna ask my mom if I can call my grandma and tell her that God loves her so much that He sent His Son, Jesus, as a special gift! Bye, friends!

Teacher: Bye, Tracker!

Craft or Activity

Option 1

Supplies:

- Activity sheet with "I love Jesus!" with space for handprints (see appendix)
- Toilet paper tubes slightly bent to create a heart shape stamp
- Washable paint (on plates) or washable ink pads
- Optional: Instead of using paint or washable ink pads, use markers or crayons to trace handprints and use heart stickers)
- Hand wipes (if using paint or ink pads)



Instructions:

1. Help children make their handprints on their activity sheet (use paint or washable ink pads to make their handprint or trace their hands with a marker or crayon).
2. Children can also add hearts to their paper (use sticker or toilet paper tubes dipped in paint or washable ink pads).

Option 2

Supplies:

- Homemade shakers (in advance, put dry beans or cereal into folded white paper plates and seal the edges; one per child)
- Crayons or washable markers
- Stickers
- Fun worship music

Instructions:

1. Children will decorate worship shakers using crayons (or washable markers) and stickers.
2. Then have children form a line behind a classroom leader.
3. Start the music and have the children follow the classroom leader as they sing and shake their shakers to the music, celebrating baby Jesus, God's gift to us!

Snack and Lesson Review

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

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

Review questions to ask during snack:

1. What was Jesus' mom's name? (Mary)
2. What was Jesus' dad's name? (Joseph)
3. Was baby Jesus born in a hospital or a stable where animals lived? (A stable)
4. Did an angel or a police officer tell the shepherds about baby Jesus? (An angel)
5. Is Jesus God's gift to all of us? (Yes!)

Review Activities

Option 1**Supplies:**

- Angel or Mary figure from the lesson
- Worship music

Instructions:

1. Have children sit in a circle and pass the angel or Mary as they listen to worship music.
2. When the music stops, all children should say, "I love Jesus!" or have them recite John 3:16.
3. Repeat as time permits.

Option 2**Supplies:**

- Nativity set

Instructions:

1. Review the lesson with a nativity set. Highlight key people and discuss the role they played in the lesson.
2. If you have multiple nativity sets, divide into small groups. Give each child a person or animal. As you review, allow them to place their piece in or next to the stable.

Lesson 12 – February 23, 2025

Review Day – Part 2

Know Right:	True wisdom comes from God's Word.
Think Right:	John 3:16 and Acts 16:31 (Top 12)
Do Right:	I will remember God's Word.
Feel Right:	I can feel wise when I remember God's Word.

GET READY!

Let's take time this week to stop and think through the lessons we studied this past quarter. What facts did we learn, what verses are we thinking about, how are we applying what we've learned, and how do we feel as we implement these truths into our lives? Then let's celebrate all God has done this quarter as we grow closer to Him!

Pray: Pray that the children in your class will remember what they've learned this past quarter and will be eager to share Jesus with their friends and family.

Read: Review Lessons 5, 7, and 10

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.

As we come to the end of the quarter, we will take another day to remember and celebrate all God has taught us through the study of His Word.

GET SET!

Creative Teaching Supplies:

- Special bags or boxes with props to review Lessons 5, 7, and 10 (*see lesson for prop ideas*)

GO!

Coming In Time

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

Clean Up

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

Large Group Opening Time

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

1. “The B-I-B-L-E”
2. “I Like To”
3. “Jesus Loves Me”

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

We are going to review again this week the two Bible verses you memorized this quarter. Our first verse talks about how much God loves us. Let’s say John 3:16.

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

Our second verse tells us we need to believe in Jesus to be saved from our sins. Let’s say Acts 16:31.

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

Wow, you have done a great job learning these verses!

Bible Lesson Review

I have some super special bags (or boxes) for our lesson today. I can't wait to show you what is in each bag!

Bag 1: Toy birds or stuffed birds; fake or real flowers (Lesson 5)

When Jesus was grown up, He taught people many things. One of the things He taught people about was worrying. When you worry, you get anxious, scared, or all worked up over something and it makes you feel icky on the inside.

Show birds: God loves the birds and takes care of them. He makes sure they have food to eat, so the birds don't have to worry about food. And guess what. God takes care of you, too, even more than the birds!

Show flowers. Aren't these flowers beautiful? Who made the flowers? (God!) God made the flowers, and He cares about them. He sends rain and sunshine, so they can grow. And guess what. God takes care of you, too, even more than the flowers!

Bag 2: Bandages or a medical kit (Lesson 7)

Do you remember our lesson about the man whose friend couldn't walk and was in a lot of pain? The man believed that Jesus could heal his friend. Do you think Jesus helped the man's friend? (Yes!) You're right! Jesus healed the man's friend. Jesus cared about the man's friend, and He cares about you, too!

Bag 3: Basket with fish and loaves (Lesson 10)

Jesus spent a lot of time teaching people and caring for people. The Bible tells us that, one day, Jesus had been teaching all day and the people were getting hungry. There were LOTS and LOTS of people and only one boy had two fish and five loaves of bread. Jesus did a miracle, and He made the two fish and five little loaves of bread feed ALL the people! Jesus cared for the people, and He cares for you, too!

Jesus loves and cares for all of us. Let's stop and thank God for giving us Jesus. *Pray with the children.*

Verse Review Time

Let's stand up and practice both of our verses with actions.

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

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

Tracker Skit

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

Tracker: Hi, boys and girls. Wow, we learned a lot in our class about Jesus! I think I'm growing to be more like Jesus every day.

Teacher: Yes, we all are growing. Do you remember the two Bible verses we learned this quarter? When we learn Bible verses we are growing to be more like Jesus.

Tracker: Hey...do you want to hear me say all of Acts 16:31??

Teacher: Yes!!!

Tracker: Acts 16:31, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved – you and your household."

Teacher: Yay, let's all clap for Tracker. Great job!!!!

Tracker: Hey, kids, can you say John 3:16?

Teacher: Kids, let's all stand and say John 3:16 in our loud voices. (*Tracker, teacher, and children all say John 3:16*)

Tracker: Wow, you were super-de-duper!!!!

Teacher: Tracker, I'm so glad you and all our friends here in class are growing to be more like Jesus! Bye, Tracker!

Tracker: Bye, boys and girls!

Craft or Activity

Supplies:

- Roll paper or poster board with an outline of a tree trunk with branches and the words "We grow when we remember God's Word!" written at the top and "pray", "go to church", and "read the Bible" written around the tree trunk (one per table)
- Brown and green construction paper cut into 1" squares
- Glue sticks

Instructions:

1. Have children attach brown squares to the trunk and green squares to the branches using glue sticks.
2. As children work, talk about how we grow to be more like Jesus (pray, go to church, read the Bible).
3. At the end of the activity, hang the banners outside the classroom for everyone to see.

Snack and Lesson Review

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

Pray: *Thank God for sending Jesus to us. Encourage children to fold their hands, bow their heads, and close their eyes. Remind them that praying is talking to God. Open prayer with "Dear Heavenly Father" and close with "In Jesus' name, Amen."*

Review questions to ask during snack:

1. Does God take care of the birds? (Yes)
2. Does God take care of the flowers? (Yes)
3. Did Jesus heal the man who couldn't walk and was in a lot of pain? (Yes)
4. Did Jesus take care of the hungry people?
5. Did Jesus feed the people pizza or fish and bread? (Fish and bread)
6. Does Jesus love us and take care of us? (Yes)
7. How can we grow with Jesus? (Come to church, listen to our Bible lesson, and memorize God's Word)

Review Activities

Option 1

Supplies:

- Props from the lesson

Instructions:

1. Have children hide their eyes, as you hide the props from the lesson.
2. When they open their eyes, have them try to find the props.
3. When all of the props have been found, review Lessons 5, 7, and 10 using the props.

Option 2

Supplies:

- Bag or box with props from the lesson

Instructions:

1. Have children sit on the floor in a circle.
2. Review Lessons 5, 7, and 10 using the props from the lesson.

Worship Time: Runners

Year 2 – Quarter 2

Song, Artist, Album, Time

“The B-I-B-L-E” by St. John’s Children’s Choir, *100 Bible Songs for Kids*, 0:52

“I Like To” by Little Praise Party, *Happy Day Everyday*, 2:55

“Jesus Loves Me” (Disco version) by Listener Kids, *Jesus Loves Me - EP*, 0:47

“God is Good to Me” by Little Praise Party, *Happy Day Everyday*, 2:21

“My God is so Big” by Studio Musicians, *Crazy Praise, Vol 2*, 2:53

“Bigger than Big” by Jay Stocker, *Whirl-n-Worship*, 2:43

“Let’s Clean Up” by Singin’ Praise Tots, *Touch the Sky*, 2:22

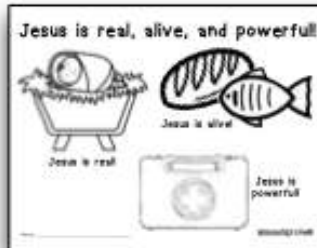
Lesson/Date	Song 1	Song 2	Song 3
December 1	<i>Topical Lesson: New Testament Flyover (Worship Leader’s choice)</i>		
1 – December 8	The B-I-B-L-E	I Like To	Jesus Loves Me
2 – December 15	The B-I-B-L-E	I Like To	Jesus Loves Me
December 22	<i>Topical Lesson: Jesus is worthy of our worship (Worship Leader’s choice)</i>		
3 – December 29	The B-I-B-L-E	I Like To	God is Good to Me
4 – January 5	The B-I-B-L-E	My God is so Big	God is Good to Me
5 – January 12	My God is so Big	Jesus Loves Me	Bigger than Big
6 – January 19	I Like To	My God is so Big	God is Good to Me
7 – January 26	I Like To	Bigger than Big	Jesus Loves Me
8 – February 2	The B-I-B-L-E	I Like To	Jesus Loves Me
9	<i>Note: This lesson is not being used during this sequence.</i>		
10 – February 9	My God is so Big	God is Good to Me	Jesus Loves Me
11 – February 16	My God is so Big	Jesus Loves Me	Bigger than Big
12 – February 23	The B-I-B-L-E	I Like To	Jesus Loves Me

Runners Printable Resources

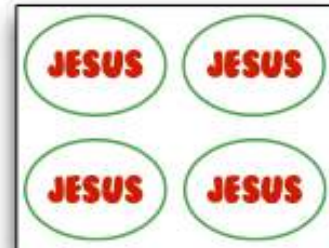
Year 2 — Quarter 2



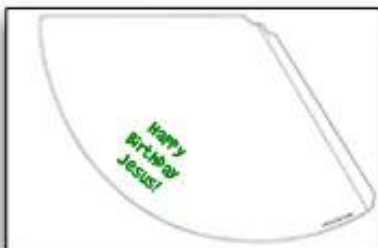
Topical Lesson - NT Flyover
Timeline pictures



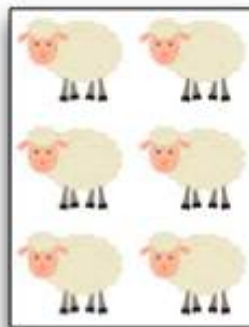
Topical Lesson - NT Flyover
Jesus is real, alive, and
powerfull



Lesson 1
Jesus ornament



Lesson 2 - Happy Birthday
Jesus party hat (11x17)



Lesson 2
Review Activity
Sheep



Topical Lesson - Jesus is
worthy of our worship
I will worship Jesus with my
hands, mouth, and feet



Lesson 4 - Creative Teaching Supply
Pictures of Jesus as baby and adult



Lesson 4 - Creative Teaching
Supply - Yes and No signs
(8.5x11 and 11x17)



Lesson 4
I will say "No!" to sin



Lesson 5
I can feel peaceful when I trust God



Lesson 6
House on rock



Lesson 7
Jesus can help me
(page 2 is enough for two children)



Lesson 8
Wordless Book bookmark



Lesson 8
Believe It or Not booklet

Lesson 9 is not being used during this sequence.



Lesson 9
I can grow with Jesus



Lesson 10
Creative Teaching Supply Basket with loaves & fish



Lesson 10
Basket with loaves & fish
(page 2 is enough for three children)



Lesson 11
I love Jesus

The Wordless Book - Presenting the Gospel to Children



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

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

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

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

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

Using the Wordless Book:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Additional Tips:

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

Coaching Kids for Salvation

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

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

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

Allowing the child to personalize the need for a Savior:
Ask: Have you sinned? How have you sinned?
 Show child **Romans 2:23** in your Bible.
 If the child denies sin in their life, they are not ready to go further in this discussion. If the child can tell you about sin and personalize that they have sinned, you can continue with the conversation.

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

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

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

DISCOVERY LAND

Coaching Kids for Salvation

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

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

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

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

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

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

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


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

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


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 - and your sins forgiven - Acts 16:31)

Name _____ Date _____

This is your **I BELIEVE!**
 Guide
 Date _____
 Location _____
 In the presence of your
 Director or 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

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

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