

# DISCOVERY LAND

**Year 1 – Quarter 1**

## **Elementary Curriculum**

**Adapted for use in Africa**



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## A Note About Curriculum Adaptations

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



# A Message from Kris Smoll

Dear Leaders,

This quarter we are excited to watch God reveal His incredible redemptive plan beginning in the book of Genesis. During our adventure through this amazing book, full of incredible truths, we encourage you to come prepared each week and lead through the lens of a biblical worldview:

- Know Right: A Scripture passage to study
- Think Right: A Scripture verse to meditate on during the week
- Do Right: The challenge to live out God's Word
- Feel Right: The result of applying the lesson and having a biblical worldview

When we disciple through the 4 Rights, we train students how to correctly process good and difficult seasons with truth, which helps them do and feel right before their God.

I would like to encourage those who are new to teaching to network with experienced teachers; seek out their help and guidance. If you are experienced, recognize that you are a huge blessing to the team; take time to encourage and coach your teammates. Your knowledge, skills, and gifts are multiplied when you invest in others.

We are sincerely looking forward to watching God transform the lives of kids as we encourage them to discover truth in the Word of God and apply it to their lives this upcoming season.

Kris Smoll  
Executive Director of Discovery Land Global

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# Understanding the Curriculum

## Overview

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

The curriculum was developed to teach students:

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

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

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

## Leaders

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

### LEADER TIPS

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

Smaller classes may combine the DT Leader and Shepherd positions.

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

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

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

## Elementary Program Overview

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

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

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

### SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

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

## Pre-Service Review Game

### LEADER TIPS

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

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

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

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

## Worship

Worship is designed to:

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

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

### LEADER TIPS

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

## Discover Time

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

### LEADER TIPS

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

## Bible Lesson

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

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

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

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

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

### Suggested steps for preparing your Bible lesson:

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

## End-of-Class Review Game

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

### LEADER TIP

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

## Classroom Resources

The following teaching tools are provided in the classroom:

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

## Tracker Tickets

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

### Currency Rate

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

## Tracker's Treasures

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

# Elementary Syllabus

## Year 1 – Quarter 1

### Lesson 1

#### Genesis 1:1 – 2:3

Know Right:	God creates the world.
Think Right:	Genesis 1:1
Do Right:	I will believe that God created the world.
Feel Right:	I can feel excited because God created the world.

### Lesson 2

#### Genesis 2:4-25

Know Right:	God creates Adam and Eve.
Think Right:	Ephesians 2:10
Do Right:	I will believe that God created me.
Feel Right:	I can feel loved because God created me.

### Lesson 3

#### Genesis 3

Know Right:	Sin enters the world.
Think Right:	Romans 3:23 (Top 12)
Do Right:	I will understand that I have sinned.
Feel Right:	I can feel thankful that Jesus died for my sin.

### Lesson 4

#### Genesis 4:1-16, 4:25-26

Know Right:	Cain sins against Abel.
Think Right:	Hebrews 9:22b (Top 12)
Do Right:	I will believe that God hates sin.
Feel Right:	I can feel loved because Jesus took the punishment for my sin.

### Lesson 5

#### Genesis 6:5-22

Know Right:	Noah builds the ark.
Think Right:	John 3:16 (Top 12)
Do Right:	I will believe that only Jesus can save me from the punishment of my sin.
Feel Right:	I can feel concerned because people who don't believe in Jesus will be punished.

### Lesson 6

#### Genesis 7:1 – 8:22, 9:8-16

Know Right:	God floods the world.
Think Right:	Acts 16:31 (Top 12)
Do Right:	I will believe in the promise that Jesus has saved me from my sin.
Feel Right:	I can feel safe because Jesus has saved me from my sin.

### Lesson 7

#### Genesis 11:1-9

Know Right:	The Tower of Babel is built.
Think Right:	Ephesians 2:8-9 (Top 12)
Do Right:	I will do things God's way, not my way.
Feel Right:	I can feel focused when I do things God's way, not my way.

## **Lesson 8**

### **Genesis 12:1-10, 13:1-18**

**Know Right:** Abram and Lot divide the land.  
**Think Right:** Mark 12:30-31 (Top 12)  
**Do Right:** I will love God and others.  
**Feel Right:** I can feel loved when I love God and others.

## **Lesson 9**

### **Genesis 15:1-18**

**Know Right:** God makes a covenant with Abram.  
**Think Right:** John 14:2 (Top 12)  
**Do Right:** I will trust in God's promises.  
**Feel Right:** I can feel excited about God's promises

## **Lesson 10**

### **Genesis 16:1 – 18:15**

**Know Right:** Abraham and Hagar have Ishmael.  
**Think Right:** Proverbs 3:5-6 (Top 12)  
**Do Right:** I will patiently depend on God for everything.  
**Feel Right:** I can feel peaceful when I patiently depend on God for everything.

## **Lesson 11**

### **Genesis 21:1-21**

**Know Right:** Abraham and Sarah have Isaac.  
**Think Right:** Proverbs 3:5-6 (Top 12)  
**Do Right:** I will patiently depend on God for everything.  
**Feel Right:** I can feel peaceful when I patiently depend on God for everything.

## **Lesson 12**

### **Review Day**

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

## **Topical Lesson**

### **The Bible is Truth**

**Know Right:** The Bible is true because it is God's Word.  
**Think Right:** 2 Timothy 3:16-17  
**Do Right:** I will trust the Bible is true because it is God's Word.  
**Feel Right:** I can feel peaceful when I believe the Bible is true.

# Quarter Overview

## Year 1 – Quarter 1

Welcome! This quarter, our exciting journey through the Bible begins in the book of Genesis. As we study this extraordinary period of history, we will see God's plan begin to unfold. From the creation of the world to the birth of Abraham's promised child, Isaac, this study examines our sinfulness that can only be washed away by the Savior that God would send. It is our prayer that, through this study, your students will come to trust in Christ and then grow in the grace and knowledge of Him.

Our first lesson takes us to the very beginning of creation week. God has told us the order in which He made everything. On day one, He created the light and separated that light from the darkness; day two, the sky; day three, the land, seas, and vegetation; day four, the sun, moon, and stars; day five, the sea creatures and the birds; day six, the land animals, and uniquely, man in His own image; and finally, on day seven, He rested. The results of God's creation are a powerful testimony that He exists, and He loves us; and from this, we should always believe that God created the world.

Next, we take a closer look at day six of creation to learn how God formed the first man. God tells us He took the dust of the ground, formed it into a man, and breathed the breath of life into Adam, so he became the first human being. He gave Adam a spectacular home in the Garden of Eden, a job to do, and food to eat. God then made a woman to be his helper—right from Adam's rib. God united Adam and Eve together in another of His unique creations—marriage—and He told them to have children, so the earth would be filled with people. From this precise and intentional plan, we understand that God created us.

After God created Adam and placed him in the Garden to work and take care of it, He gave him one command. God told Adam not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God said that if Adam ate from that tree, he would die. However, instead of listening to and obeying God, Adam listened to his wife, Eve, who had been deceived by the serpent called Satan. Thus, both Adam and Eve disobeyed God and committed the very first sin, which brought death and suffering into our world. But man's sin didn't end there. As the Bible tells us, each and every one of us, born of Adam and Eve, have foolishly disobeyed God. Therefore, we can now understand that we have sinned.

After Adam and Eve sinned and were banished from the Garden of Eden, God gave them a family. Unfortunately, all their children were born with their parents' sinful nature. Their son Cain became a farmer and their son Abel, a shepherd. The way they lived their lives displayed a significant disparity. Both brought offerings to God, but Abel lived God's way, obediently bringing the type of offering God wanted, and his offering pleased God. Cain did not live God's way, and his offering did not please God. Because Abel lived God's way, by faith, he was declared righteous and placed in the Hall of Faith. Because Cain lived without faith, he was punished for his sin, and he had to wander the earth instead of being a farmer. Because of this we can know that God hates sin.

Adam and Eve's family continued to grow and eventually they had a descendant named Noah. By Noah's time, God looked at the world and was grieved because of the magnitude of evil He saw. Fortunately, He also saw that Noah had faith in Him, so He revealed His plan to Noah—a plan to destroy the world with a flood. God told Noah to build an ark that would save his family and two of every living creature. Noah obeyed and built the ark—the only way he and his family would be saved. The ark is a picture of how Jesus can save us from the punishment of our sin.

About 100 years after God revealed His plan to Noah, God sent the flood. Pairs of every kind of bird and land animal, as well as Noah and his family, boarded the ark. Then God shut them in, and they were safe and secure from the flood. About one year later, Noah, his family, and the birds and animals that had been on the ark came out onto dry land. God made a promise to Noah: He would never again destroy the earth by a flood. The sign of God's promise was the rainbow. God was faithful. He saved those who were on the ark from the flood. Like them, we who have believed in Jesus are safe and secure from being destroyed

because of our sin. The account of Noah and the flood teaches each of us the promise that Jesus can save us from our sin.

Noah and his family obeyed God by having children to fill the earth. However, many years later, their descendants decided to live life their own way instead of God's way. They built a city because they wanted to make a name for themselves, and they did not want to be scattered around the earth. And they built a tall tower in the city because they wanted it to reach the heavens. God's solution for this disobedience was to confuse their language and scatter them all over the earth. From the account of the Tower of Babel, we learn that we should always do things God's way, not our way.

God's plan continued with a man named Abram. God told Abram to leave his country, his people, and his father's home and go to a land He would show him. God also promised Abram that he would be a blessing and he would receive blessings. Because Abram had faith in God, he obeyed and went. He took his wife Sarai and his nephew Lot. When they arrived in this new land called Canaan, there was trouble. Both Abram and Lot had huge herds and flocks, which caused conflict between their herdsmen. The land would not support them both if they lived together, so Abram gave Lot the choice of which land to take. Lot selfishly chose what looked like the better land, and Abram unselfishly took what was left. Abram's unselfishness demonstrated his love for God and for Lot. God blessed Abram by giving all of the land to him and his family forever. This land would one day be called Israel. Abram's example and God's faithfulness encourage us to love God and others.

After Abram arrived in Canaan, God spoke to him in a vision and explained more of His special promise, called a covenant. Even though Abram was old and had no children, God promised him a son that would come from his own body. He also told Abram he would have as many descendants as there are stars in the sky. These descendants would be given the land of Canaan to live in. But, before that, they would be enslaved in a foreign country and mistreated for four hundred years. After that, they would leave that country with great possessions. Just like God promised all of this to Abram, He promises eternal life to those of us who trust in His Son, Jesus, to save us from our sin. Abram believed what God promised him. May we always trust in God's promises.

Abram was now 85 years old and still had no children. Instead of patiently depending on God to keep His promise, Sarai convinced Abram to have a son through her Egyptian maidservant, Hagar. Hagar gave birth to Abram's son; he was named Ishmael. As soon as Hagar was pregnant, conflict erupted between her and Sarai. This conflict was a consequence of Abram and Sarai not patiently depending on God. God told Abram that Ishmael was not the son He had promised. Because of this, we learn to patiently depend on God for everything.

God changed their names to Abraham and Sarah, and when Abraham was 100 years old and Sarah was 90, she gave birth to a son named Isaac. The conflict between Hagar and Sarah escalated, and Abraham had to send Hagar and his beloved Ishmael away—another tragic consequence of not patiently depending on God. In spite of Abraham and Sarah's impatience, God kept His promise and continued His plan to bring Jesus to save us from our sin. The bittersweet saga of Abraham's family begs us to patiently depend on God for everything.

As we come to the end of the quarter, we take a day to remember and celebrate all that God has taught us through the study of His Word. Next quarter we will return to the New Testament to learn how God's promise of a Savior came true. God bless you for humbly serving Him.

# Lesson 1

## Genesis 1:1 – 2:3

<b>Know Right:</b>	God creates the world.
<b>Think Right:</b>	“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” Genesis 1:1
<b>Do Right:</b>	I will believe that God created the world.
<b>Feel Right:</b>	I can feel excited because God created the world.

## GET READY!

**God’s creation is a powerful testimony that He exists, and He loves us. His handiwork reminds us without a doubt that God created the world. This foundational truth encourages us to confidently build our lives on Him and His Word. This week, let’s spend time worshiping God for His greatness! Then, with our hearts in this attitude of worship, let’s prepare to serve and pass this truth on to our students.**

**Pray:** Pray for each student in your classroom. Pray that God will allow them to seek and understand the greatness of our God this week as they are taught that God created the world. Also pray that they will remember this lesson as they grow older, so they can have biblically-based conversations concerning creation.

**Read:** Genesis 1:1 – 2:3

### **Know Right: God creates the world**

Our first lesson takes us to the very beginning of creation week. God has told us the order in which He made everything. On day one, He created the light and separated that light from the darkness; day two, the sky; day three, the land, seas, and vegetation; day four, the sun, moon, and stars; day five, the sea creatures and the birds; day six, the land animals, and uniquely, man in His own image; and finally, on day seven, He rested. The results of God’s creation are a powerful testimony that He exists, and He loves us; and from this, we should always believe that God created the world.

## GET SET!

### **Lead Teacher’s Notes:**

- Students often ask, “Who created God, and how do you know He is real?” This lesson is a beautiful answer to those questions. Only a powerful, all-knowing God could create a universe that works like clockwork!
- Please remember that we teach students the days of creation from a basic, literal standpoint. The main point we want them to take away is that God created the world.
- Please refer to the Children’s Ministry Resource Bible: page 136 (Introduction to the Pentateuch: Genesis); page 650 (Creation vs. Evolution); page 1614 (The Origin of Life on Earth). Two good creation website resources are: [www.answersingenesis.org](http://www.answersingenesis.org) and [www.icr.org](http://www.icr.org)

### **Special Note for this Lesson:**

Most of your students have been or will be taught that our world developed by chance through

evolution, so please don't hesitate to use the word "evolution" in this lesson. It is critical for Christians to know God's account of creation and original sin in Genesis in order to discern and understand the differences between the theory of evolution and the true account of a created universe. Our goal over these first three lessons is to help our students:

- Understand what God says about how the world was formed.
- See that the theory of evolution contradicts the Bible.
- Confidently believe that God created the world.
- Understand how sin entered the world and our need for the Savior.

### **Creative Ideas for the Bible Lesson:**

1. Bring in props for each day and place inside seven different bags. Have students see and touch the props to help them remember the lesson. Ideas include sunglasses for the sun, water in a clear container, cotton balls or a cloud cut from white paper, sand for the dry land, a leaf for trees, a feather for birds, a plastic fish for sea creatures, plastic animals, a little toy person, and a small pillow to represent when God rested.
2. Use construction/ manilla paper or a paper plate to create a simple drawing to represent each day of creation (do not include which day the picture represents). As you teach, hang the days in order. Optional: Make additional sets based on your class size. After the lesson, take the pictures down. Divide your class into teams and give each team a set of drawings. Race to see which team can put the days of creation in order first. Repeat as time allows.
3. Decorate and label your door as a "time machine". Allow your students' imaginations to take them back in time as they enter the room. Use a black-light and flannelgraph to really capture their imaginations.
4. Create a miniature "Garden of Eden" in an aquarium or use a gallery or drawing of the garden. Use it this week and the next two weeks.

**GO!**

## **Pre-Service Review Game and Worship**

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

## **Discover Time: Designed with details!**

**Goal:** To help students see and recognize the **details** of God's creation.

### **DT Activity: Art Station**

#### **Supplies:**

- Activity sheet with "Look what God created!" (one per student) (see Resources Booklet)
- Markers, crayons, and/or colored pencils
- Small animal in a cage or photos of animals
- Sample of a completed poster

**Setup instructions:** Create an Art Gallery where students can display their art during the quarter.

#### **Instructions for the DT Leader:**

1. Challenge students to draw a picture of the animal with as much **detail** as possible.
2. As they draw, discuss the **details** of the animal God created.
3. Display the pictures at the Art Gallery.

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

## Bible Lesson Introduction

**Lead Teachers ~ Connecting the DT to the Lesson:** In your Discover Time activity, you were challenged to think about some of the animals in the world. Do you ever think about how God created each and every kind of animal in a special way with so many special **details**? God not only created all the animals (and plants), but He also created our entire world. He is amazing! Today we will travel back to the very beginning of the Bible to discover how God created the world.

*Note: If your DT was in the Mission Station, please emphasize that missionaries often travel to other parts of the world where they get to see even more amazing details that God created such as different animals, plants, and scenery.*

**Pray:** Encourage one of your students to lead your class in prayer. This will help them learn to pray in a public setting and develop their spiritual leadership skills. If students in your class do not want to pray, explain that it is an honor to lead the class in prayer, and then model a short prayer.

**Find It:** Where in the Bible would we find the most detailed information about how God created the world? (Genesis) Is Genesis in the OT or the NT? (OT) Let's open our Bibles to the very beginning, the book of Genesis, chapter one. *Younger students and visitors may need assistance. This may be the first time some visitors open a Bible. A more advanced class may use the Sword Drill method.*

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

**Timeline:** Use the Bible timeline to point out the time periods as you introduce the lesson. This past quarter, we studied the end of the Old Testament. Now we will go all the way back to the beginning. The word "genesis" means "beginning", and the book of Genesis tells us about the beginning when God created the world.

### Introduction to the Quarter and Bible Lesson:

How do you know the Bible is true? Before we begin this lesson, we need to remember that we can trust what the Bible says about God, ourselves, and the world around us. We can know it is true because there is historical evidence, the Bible is filled with prophecies, and God says it is true.

## Scripture Outline: Genesis 1:1 – 2:3

### God begins

#### Read Genesis 1:1

**Recap:** The Bible tells us that God created the world, but have you ever wondered "Who created God?" That's a really great question, and the Bible gives us the answer. The Bible says that God is eternal – eternal means forever. It's kind of like a circle; it has no beginning or end. God wasn't created, and He doesn't have a beginning or an end. He has always been and will always be there. Isn't that awesome to know? Let's see what happened that first day.

### The first day

#### Read Genesis 1:2-5

**Recap:** What did God create on the first day? (Light) And what did He call that light? (Day) And what did He call the darkness? (Night) What word did God use to describe the light? (He said it was good) What two parts made one day? (One evening and one morning) Let's go to the second day.

### The second day

#### **Read Genesis 1:6-8**

**Recap:** What did God create on the second day? (The sky) How did God create the sky? He separated the waters. Liquid water formed on the Earth, water vapor formed the clouds, and the space between them was called “sky”. Isn’t it amazing how powerful God is? Let’s read about the third day.

### The third day

#### **Read Genesis 1:9-13**

**Recap:** What was the first thing God created on the third day? (He created the land and seas) What word did God use to describe the land and seas? (Good)

What did God create on the third day after the land and seas? (Vegetation)

“Vegetation” sounds like “vegetables”, right? Just like “vegetables” refers to the plants we eat, “vegetation” refers to all plants, including trees. Did God make specific kinds of vegetation? (Yes)

When you think of all the unique types of vegetation there are in this world, doesn’t it make you think about how creative our God is? What word did God use to describe the vegetation? (Good) Now let’s look at the fourth day.

### The fourth day

#### **Read Genesis 1:14-19**

**Recap:** What did God create on the fourth day? (The sun, moon, and stars)

Where did God put the sun, moon, and stars? (In the sky) Do you think about how big our God must be to put the sun, the moon, and the stars in the sky? Do you realize that the sun, moon, and stars separate the day from the night? They are signs to measure periods of time: the seasons, days, and years. They give light on the earth. What word did God use to describe the sun, moon, and stars? (Good)

**Older students:** Was there light before God created the sun, moon, and stars? (Yes) See *Genesis 1:3*. Was there day and night before the sun, moon, and stars? (Yes) See *Genesis 1:5*. Do you know that Revelation 22:5 tells us what heaven will be like? It says, “There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign forever and ever.” God will be our light in heaven!

**All students:** Let’s go to the fifth day.

### The fifth day

#### **Read Genesis 1:20-23**

**Recap:** What did God create on the fifth day? (Sea creatures and birds)

When you think about all the different kinds of sea creatures and birds, isn’t it amazing how detailed God was when He created these creatures?

What word did God use to describe the sea creatures and the birds? (Good)

What did God want the sea creatures and the birds to do? (Increase in number to fill the seas and the earth) Now it’s time for the sixth day.

### The sixth day

#### **Read Genesis 1:24-25**

**Recap:** What was the first thing God created on the sixth day? (Land creatures - just like what we saw in our DT today) Did God make specific kinds of land creatures? (Yes) What word did God use to describe the land creatures? (Good)

#### **Read Genesis 1:26-27**

**Recap:** What was the second thing God created on the sixth day? (Humans, both male and female) What was very special about the way God created man? (He created man in His own image)

**Older students:** Why do you think God said, “Let **us** make man in **our** image?” (Trinity: God the

Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit – they were all there at creation!)

**All students:** God gave man a job to rule over the sea creatures, the birds, and the land creatures. This means we are not equal to animals. We are different – we were made in the image of God.

### **Read Genesis 1:28-31**

**Recap:** What did God want humans to do? (Increase in number to fill the earth) God also loved us enough that He gave us food through seed-bearing fruit trees and vegetation. God had all the details planned out, including what the animals and birds ate. What words did God use to describe everything He had made? (Very good)

Wow! Isn't God so loving to create such an incredible place for us to live?  
Let's see what God did next.

### **The seventh day**

#### **Read Genesis 2:1-3**

**Recap:** What did God create on the seventh day? (Nothing) God did something very special: He rested on the seventh day.

**Older students:** Did God need to rest because He was tired? (No) Then what does it mean that He rested? (It means He stopped creating new things) How did God make the seventh day special? (He blessed it and made it holy) What does "holy" mean? (Holy means "set apart for God")

## **Conclusion**

Think about what God made: the sun, the moon, and the stars in the sky; the earth, the oceans, the beautiful flowers, the majestic trees, the animals, and us! We can look at all the details of everything in our amazing world and understand that there is a Creator, and that Creator is God. We can see what He has made and believe in Him. Creation proves that God exists, and He loves us!

## **Do Right and Feel Right**

**Older students:** *Do a sword drill to find Hebrews 11:3. Have someone read it out loud to the class.*

**All students:** Is it important to know that God created the world just like He says in Genesis? (Yes!) Even if we don't know all the details of how our all-powerful God made the world, we can choose to believe that He did. The Bible tells us that it is impossible to please God if we don't have faith (Hebrews 11:6). Maybe your teachers at school or your friends want you to believe something totally different, like that the world came into being by accident. But now that you know the truth from the Bible, you can choose to believe that God created the world, just like He says in Genesis. Let's say Genesis 1:1 as a class. *Recite the verse together.* Now, let's close our eyes and say it again and pause to personally thank God for being an amazing Creator.

Do you know one of the reasons you can be excited that God created the world? It means that He loves you very much. He made this world for you to enjoy, and so you can live for Him. We looked at some of God's details today. Do you know He has a detailed plan for your life right now and into eternity (gold page of the Wordless Book)? Our God, who created the whole universe, loves you very much. He sent His Son, Jesus, to die as the punishment for your sin (dark page) on the cross (red page). But God loves you so much that He gives you a choice to either believe in Him or not. If you trust in Jesus to forgive your sin and make Him the leader of your life, He can wash your sin away, so you can be saved and become part of God's family (clean page). Do you remember what eternal means? It means forever. Even though your body will stop working someday, you will get to live in heaven forever with God. Have you prayed and told God that you trust in Jesus to take away your sin and made Him the leader of your life? If you haven't, you can do that right now.

### Talk thru Genesis hand motions:

- **Creation:** bring hands up to form a world

*Note: Each week a new hand motion will be added. It is important to review this every week, so by the end of this quarter your students can confidently “talk through Genesis.”*

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

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

1. What did God create on the first and second day? (Light and sky)
2. What did God create on the third day? (Land, seas, and vegetation)
3. What did God create on the fourth day? (Sun, moon, and stars)
4. What did God create on the fifth day? (Sea creatures and birds)
5. What did God create on the sixth day? (Land creatures and humans)
6. What did God do on the seventh day? (He rested from His work, blessed the day, and made it holy)
7. Do you believe God created the world, just like He says in Genesis, no matter what? Why or why not?
8. How does knowing God created people impact how you see yourself and others?

# Lesson 2

## Genesis 2:4-25

<b>Know Right:</b>	God creates Adam and Eve.
<b>Think Right:</b>	“For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” Ephesians 2:10
<b>Do Right:</b>	I will believe that God created me.
<b>Feel Right:</b>	I can feel loved because God created me.

### GET READY!

**Just as Adam and Eve were designed by God to work as a team, each of us have a unique and important role as leaders in children’s ministry. Stop and think about how amazing it is that God created you and gave you unique gifts and talents! As you study the lesson, thank God for creating you and each one of your students, and get ready to serve Him the way only you can!**

**Pray:** Pray that your students will fully understand that they were created as a masterpiece of God.

**Read:** Genesis 2:4-25

#### **Know Right: God creates Adam and Eve**

Next, we take a closer look at day six of creation to learn how God formed the first man. God tells us He took the dust of the ground, formed it into a man, and breathed the breath of life into Adam, so he became the first human being. He gave Adam a spectacular home in the Garden of Eden, a job to do, and food to eat. God then made a woman to be his helper—right from Adam’s rib. God united Adam and Eve together in another of His unique creations—marriage—and He told them to have children, so the earth would be filled with people. From this precise and intentional plan, we understand that God created us.

### GET SET!

#### **Lead Teacher’s Notes:**

- A healthy self-image is often a challenge for many students. This is a great week to remind students they are a masterpiece or workmanship of God (our Think Right verse – Ephesians 2:10). They can rest knowing that they were created by a loving God with purpose and value. He is relational and caring. Understanding this impacts how we worship, live, and serve God during both the good and difficult times of life.
- Please refer to the Children’s Ministry Resource Bible: page 886 (Rivers of the Bible); page 1118 (History of the Early World); you may also want to review page 650 (Creation vs. Evolution) and page 1614 (The Origin of Life on Earth).

#### **Creative Ideas for the Bible Lesson:**

1. Teach this lesson using Play-Doh®. Create Adam and Eve, a river, etc. as you teach. Have a few items created in advance, or have your Shepherd or DT Leader work the Play-Doh like a “silent

- artist” as you teach the lesson.
2. Have your DT Leader or Shepherd read the Scripture and you, the teacher, do the “recap” portion.
  3. Use the miniature “Garden of Eden” (in an aquarium) from last week and use it again next week.
  4. Create the scene in your classroom. Roll out two rivers with blue roll paper and include stuffed animals and garden tools. Outline a tree with fruit on your whiteboard. Use a globe to show students where this took place.



**GO!**

## Pre-Service Review Game and Worship

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

## Discover Time: It’s all in the details!

**Goal:** To help students understand how **detailed**, unique, and special they were created.

**DT Activity:** Chalk Wall Station or outside sidewalk (weather permitting)

**Supplies:**

- Chalk
- Tracker Tickets
- Optional: use roll paper and crayons/ marker pens instead of the Chalk Wall or a sidewalk

**Instructions for the DT Leader:**

1. Have students find partners.
2. Together the partners should trace an outline of each other and then color it in with as much **detail** as possible.
3. If you need to do this activity on a smaller scale, use plain white paper with a small outline of a person. Have the students color it with as much **detail** as possible.
4. Throughout the activity, highlight the unique features that God created in them.
5. Award five Tracker Tickets to the partners with the most **detailed** person.

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

## Bible Lesson Introduction

**Lead Teachers ~ Connecting the DT to the Lesson:** God uniquely created you! It’s amazing to think about all the millions and millions of people in this world and realize that there is no one else like you. Look at your hands. *Have students put out their hands.* God created you so uniquely that you are the only person with the same fingerprint. Only a true God could create you with that much unique detail. What a thought! He must really love you! Let’s dig into our Bible and discover something new about our God from the Bible.

*Note: If your DT was in the Mission Station, please explain that missionaries travel to other parts of the world to share Jesus with others because they know that God created and loves the millions and millions of people who don’ t know Him.*

**Pray:** Encourage one of your students to lead your class in prayer. Remind students that when you pray as a class, everyone should listen and pray along silently with the person who is praying out loud. When you say “Amen” at the end, it means you are agreeing with what was said.

**Find It:** Is Genesis in the OT or the NT? (OT) Let’s open our Bible to the book of Genesis, chapter 2.

**Timeline:** Can you find Genesis on our timeline? On the count of three, everyone point to Genesis. Genesis is an exciting book where we discover how God created the world.

### **Introduction to the Bible Lesson:**

Let’s see what you remember from last week. Use props or pictures from last week as you ask the questions listed below or mix up the props and have the students put them in the correct order. Say the day and challenge students to tell what God created on that specific day, or say the item God created and have students tell what day it was created.

What was created on:

Day one? (Light)

Day two? (Sky)

Day three? (Land, seas, and vegetation)

Day four? (Sun, moon, and stars)

Day five? (Sea creatures and birds)

Day six? (Land creatures and humans)

And what happened on day seven? (God rested, blessed the seventh day, and made it holy)

Today, we will zoom in on day six to find out more about how God created human beings. Are you ready?

## **Scripture Outline: Genesis 2:4-25**

### **God creates Adam, the first man**

#### **Read Genesis 2:4-7**

**Older Students:** When did God make Adam? (Before the plants and shrubs of the field had sprung up and before He sent rain)

*Lead Teacher’s Note: The vegetation in Genesis 1:11-12 grew on its own. The plants and shrubs of the field in Genesis 2:5 required cultivation.*

**All Students:** What did God form Adam from? (The dust of the ground)

What did God breathe into Adam’s nostrils? (The breath of life)

What did man become? (A living being)

Let’s find out what God did with Adam after He made him.

### **God gives Adam a home**

#### **Read Genesis 2:8-14**

**Recap:** What was Adam’s new home called? (The Garden of Eden)

Describe the trees that God made grow in the Garden. (Trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food) What were the two special trees in the Garden of Eden? (The tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil)

How many main rivers were in the Garden? (One) How many rivers did that main river separate into? (Four)

**Older Students:** What were the names of the four rivers? (Pishon, Gihon, Tigris, and Euphrates) We don’t know exactly where the Pishon and the Gihon Rivers were, but the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers are in today’s country of Iraq. Show this on your Bible Times map.

**All Students:** One of the greatest things in the Garden was that there was no sin or sadness. Everything was perfect! Can you imagine what the world would look like today if there was no sin? What do you think Adam was supposed to do in the Garden of Eden? Let's see.

### **God gives Adam a job and a command**

#### **Read Genesis 2:15-17**

**Recap:** Adam had a wonderful job. He was able to work in a perfect garden filled with fruit and blossoms. I can't even imagine how beautiful this garden was. While in the Garden of Eden, all Adam had to do was obey one rule: don't eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. With all the other trees loaded with goodness, I'm sure this would not be an issue, right? God even was so kind to tell Adam what would happen if he did eat from this one tree – he would surely die.

Adam was the very first man. What about the very first woman? Let's keep reading.

### **God creates Eve, the first woman**

#### **Read Genesis 2:18-23**

**Recap:** Wow, can you imagine having to name the animals? That was a fun job!

**Older students:** Even the very first man had a job; God created us to work.

**All students:** How did God create the first woman? (He caused Adam to go into a deep sleep, removed one of his ribs, and made Eve from it)

### **God creates marriage**

#### **Read Genesis 2:24-25**

**Recap:** This is when God created marriage. God's design for marriage is perfect – one man and one woman, and Adam and Eve were the first man and woman to be married. God had created Eve from Adam's own body to be his helper, and now He joined them back together to be one married couple that would have children and fill the earth with people.

**Older students:** Students, did you know that Satan is still at work trying to confuse people about marriage today? He wants people to think that divorce and same-sex marriage (men marrying men and women marrying women) is ok. In these verses we just read and in other verses, we can see that God has set a standard for marriage in the Bible. Marriage is supposed to be between one man and one woman, and it is supposed to last until one of them passes away. *Additional verses to look up: Matthew 19:6, 1 Corinthians 7:12, and Ephesians 5:22-33.*

## **Conclusion**

God created Adam and Eve. He gave them a perfect home and a job to do. He gave them marriage, so they could be together His way. They lived with God, and everything was 100% perfect! Can you imagine living in a perfect place?

But God gave them one command: don't eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Sounds like an easy command...or maybe not? Next week we will learn what happened to Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. You don't want to miss it!

## Do Right and Feel Right

God created Adam and Eve, but He didn't stop there. Do you realize that God created you, too? He knows you so well and loves you so much that He even knows the number of hairs on your head! *Refer to your Discover Time.* In Ephesians 2:10, He says we are His workmanship. That means each one of us is a masterpiece! He created Adam and Eve to be with Him, and He created you to be with Him, too! Let's close our eyes and think about this verse. You are a masterpiece of God, created for a purpose. Take a minute to thank God for creating you.

Adam and Eve lived and walked and talked with God. How could they do that? Because they hadn't sinned yet. God can only have a relationship with people who are without sin. But...what does Romans 3:23 say? *Have students recite.* We have all sinned. But because God loves you so much, He made a way for your sin to be forgiven, so you can be in relationship with Him. He sent His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross for your sin, and He raised Jesus from the dead, so you could walk with Him each day! Would God have done this if He didn't love you? (No way!) If you've never trusted in Jesus to save you from your sin, you can do it today. *Opportunity to share the Gospel through the Wordless Book and offer an invitation for salvation.*

### Talk thru Genesis hand motions:

- **Creation:** bring hands up to form a world
- **Adam and Eve:** one forearm up for each name

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

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

1. How did God make Adam? (He formed Adam from the dust of the ground and breathed the breath of life into him)
2. What home did God give Adam? (The Garden of Eden)
3. What job did God give Adam? (To work and take care of the Garden of Eden)
4. What command did God give Adam? (Don't eat the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil)
5. What did God say would happen if Adam ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil? (He would surely die)
6. How did God make Eve? (He caused Adam to go into a deep sleep, took out one of Adam's ribs, and made Eve from the rib)
7. Who created marriage? (God)
8. What is God's perfect design for marriage? (It should be between one man and one woman)
9. Do you believe God created you?

# Lesson 3

## Genesis 3

<b>Know Right:</b>	Sin enters the world.
<b>Think Right:</b>	“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” Romans 3:23 (Top 12)
<b>Do Right:</b>	I will understand that I have sinned.
<b>Feel Right:</b>	I can feel thankful that Jesus died for my sin.

### GET READY!

**A true understanding of sin and its eternal punishment has been lost in our generation. How do we help students develop a biblical worldview, so they can see sin for what it really is? We go back to Genesis. No matter your role, study the lesson ahead of time and pray that you and your students would learn to see sin through God’s eyes, so you can respond to it by turning to Jesus for His grace and forgiveness.**

**Pray:** Pray that your class will understand their need for a Savior and choose to embrace the grace and forgiveness found only in Jesus. Lead Teachers: Pray that God will give you a clear understanding of Scripture as you prepare your lesson.

**Read:** Genesis 3

#### **Know Right: Sin enters the world**

After God created Adam and placed him in the Garden to work and take care of it, He gave him one command. God told Adam not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God said that if Adam ate from that tree, he would die. However, instead of listening to and obeying God, Adam listened to his wife, Eve, who had been deceived by the serpent called Satan. Thus, both Adam and Eve disobeyed God and committed the very first sin, which brought death and suffering into our world. But man’s sin didn’t end there. As the Bible tells us, each and every one of us, born of Adam and Eve, have foolishly disobeyed God. Therefore, we can now understand that we have sinned.

### GET SET!

#### **Lead Teacher’s Notes:**

- Often students ask, “Why did God allow sin to enter the world?” The answer is that He gave us the ability to make our own choices. We are not robots, but humans who can choose to honor God or disobey Him.
- For a biblical explanation for why we believe the serpent was Satan, read this article: <http://www.answersingenesis.org/articles/2008/09/05/feedback-satan-lucifer-serpent>
- The simple sin of a child and the most evil sin of an adult both deserve the same punishment, eternal separation from God. Both sinful situations need the same Savior, who is Jesus Christ. Teach this lesson, so students understand the reality of sin and the forgiveness that can be found in Jesus.
- Please refer to the Children’s Ministry Resource Bible: page 142 (The Offerings: Pictures of Christ); page 664 (Children Learn About Angels); page 876 (The Problem of Sin Object Lesson).

## Creative Ideas for the Bible Lesson:

1. Continue to use the miniature “Garden of Eden” from the last two weeks. Add in an apple tree, pipe cleaner snake (or a real worm), and small toy people.
2. Tell the lesson with action figures and props: Adam, Eve, snake, fruit, tree, garden setting.
3. Pull props from a box: snake, fruit, garden flowers, leaves, a sign that says “Sin!”
4. Create a silent drama: select two mature students to be silent actors (or two puppets). Add in props around them as you teach. Add fruit, a snake, and place a dark towel on them when they sin.
5. For older students: Make full body outlines of Adam and Eve on paper. Highlight how clean Adam and Eve are at first. As you teach the lesson, write down the sins that they commit across their bodies. Eventually begin to challenge students about their own sin. Near the end of the class, take a moment to look at the once perfect “souls/bodies” that are now full of sin. Stress that these are the sins that Jesus died for. Ask students if their “soul outline” was on the wall, what would it look like?
6. As you introduce sin, use a clear jar of water, and add a few drops of black food coloring to demonstrate what happened when sin entered the world.

**GO!**

## Pre-Service Review Game and Worship

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

## Discover Time: Know it!

**Goal:** To help students memorize Romans 3:23.

### DT Activity: Sand Station

#### Supplies:

- Shovels (set off to the side)
- Buckets (set off to the side)
- Water (sand should be damp)
- Stopwatch
- Bell or whistle
- Tracker Tickets

**Alternate sand station set-up:** Substitute shovels with tablespoons and several 1 kg (2.2 lbs) containers filled with sand. A table or a bench can support the sand-filled containers.

#### Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Divide students into teams. These teams will work together to build the best sandcastle within a limited amount of time. At the beginning of the challenge, teams will not have any supplies. They will only use their hands to build.
2. Teams will have the opportunity to earn extra time and materials (for building their sandcastles) every time they recite Romans 3:23 as a team with actions. Each time the bell rings, the teams will need to freeze, then they will be challenged to confidently recite Romans 3:23.
3. Briefly review Romans 3:23 as a class and teach students the actions.  
**“For all (hands from center going outward) have sinned (two thumbs down and look sad) and fall short (squat) of the glory of God (stand up while pointer fingers twirl pointing up).” Romans 3:23**
4. Allow students to begin working on their sandcastles. Every 1-2 minutes, ring the bell to make the teams freeze, then prompt the teams to confidently recite Romans 3:23 with actions. If teams are successful, reward them with bonus time to work on their sandcastles or with shovels/buckets to use as they work. Repeat until time is up.
5. At the end of the challenge, the team with the best sandcastle will earn two Tracker Tickets each.

## Bible Lesson Introduction

**Lead Teachers ~ Connecting the DT to the Lesson:** How well do you know Romans 3:23? Let's practice it one more time! *Have students stand up and confidently recite Romans 3:23.* This verse helps us understand that everyone has sinned. Sin is anything that we think, say, or do that is against God. Today we are going to learn about how sin came into our world, but we're also going to learn about God's rescue plan to save us from our sin.

**Pray:** *Encourage one of your students to lead your class in prayer. This will help them learn to pray in a public setting and develop their spiritual leadership skills. Challenge your students to listen and silently pray along with the person praying. If they agree with what was said, have them say "Amen" at the end.*

**Find It:** Is Genesis in the OT or the NT? (OT) Let's open our Bible to the book of Genesis, chapter 3.

**Timeline:** *On the count of three, point to where Genesis is on the timeline. Note: If you continue to do this each week, you find that students will really become familiar with the timeline.* Let's review our Talk thru Genesis hand motions up to this point.

- **Creation:** bring hands up to form a world
- **Adam and Eve:** one forearm up for each name

### Introduction to the Bible Lesson:

We've learned that God created the world in six days, and on the sixth day He created the very first human beings – Adam and Eve. God placed Adam and Eve in a perfect home, gave them a job to do, and gave them one command: do not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God told Adam that if he ate of that tree, he would surely die. Today, we will learn how sin, suffering, and death came into our world. We will also learn more about God's promise to send Jesus to save us from our sin and give us victory over death.

## Scripture Outline: Genesis 3

### Satan tempts Adam and Eve

#### Read Genesis 3:1

**Recap:** Who was this serpent that we read about? (Satan) Crafty means that Satan is a liar, and he wanted others to sin. What was Satan trying to do? (He wanted Eve to be confused about what God said)

Is Satan real today? (Yes, but he's probably not going to appear in the form of a snake) Does Satan want you to be confused about what God says? (Yes) How can you make sure you're not confused? (Know God's Word in the Bible) Let's see if Eve was confused.

#### Read Genesis 3:2-3

**Recap:** What command had God given to Adam? Let me read it to you again.

#### Read Genesis 2:16-17 (from last week's lesson)

**Recap:** Was Eve right? Did God say they couldn't touch the fruit of the tree? (No, He said not to eat from the tree) Now that Eve was confused, Satan was ready to tempt her to disobey God. Let's see how.

#### Read Genesis 3:4-5

**Recap:** What did Satan do? (Satan lied) He called God a liar! Does God ever lie? (No!) Satan tricked Eve. He wanted her to believe that it would be good to know good and evil. But what did God want? (God wanted them to know only the good)

Does Satan try to trick us? (Yes) Does he want us to think that things will be good for us when they are really bad for us? (Yes) Does Satan try to get us to disobey God? (Yes) This is called temptation.

When we face choices, we are often tempted to sin even though we know what is right. We need the power of Jesus to confidently say “No!” to sin and walk away.

What about Eve? Did Eve believe Satan’s lie? Let’s find out.

### **Adam and Eve commit the first sin**

#### **Read Genesis 3:6**

**Recap:** Did Adam and Eve do things God’s way? (No) They did things their own way instead of obeying God. What is it called when we disobey God? (Sin)

What did God say would happen if Adam sinned? (God said that Adam would surely die) Let’s keep reading to see if that happened.

*Lead Teacher’s note: Scholars have some questions about what “her husband, who was with her” means. Some translations say “with her” and some do not have any form of this phrase. Because of this uncertainty, we will not directly address the implication of Adam’s possible presence. What is clear from the context of the Bible as a whole is that both Adam and Eve sinned.*

### **Adam and Eve try to cover their sin and hide from God**

#### **Read Genesis 3:7-10**

**Recap:** Adam and Eve knew they had disobeyed God. They felt shame, and they made coverings for themselves out of fig leaves and hid from God. Can you ever hide from God? (No) Do you ever think your sin is hidden from God, or do you know that God sees everything you do? Let’s find out what God said after Adam and Eve hid.

### **Adam blames Eve**

#### **Read Genesis 3:11-12**

**Recap:** What did Adam do? (He blamed Eve for his sin) Was it Eve’s fault that Adam sinned or was it Adam’s fault? (It was Adam’s fault)

Do you ever try to blame others when you do something wrong? You should never blame others. If you are a Christian, what should you do when you make the wrong choice and sin? (Admit your sin, confess it to God, and repent – turn away from sin and decide to do what is right) Let’s keep reading.

### **Eve blames the serpent**

#### **Read Genesis 3:13**

**Recap:** Eve blamed the serpent, Satan. Was it Satan’s fault Eve sinned? (No!) It was Eve’s fault.

Do you ever try to blame Satan for your sin? If you are a Christian, you have the Holy Spirit, Who will help you resist when Satan tempts you to disobey God. You can’t blame Satan for your sin. Remember, it was your choice.

*Lead Teacher’s note: If any students try to blame their Discover Time “visitor” who tempted them, you can use it as an illustration for this point.*

### **God gives the consequences of sin as well as the Gospel**

#### **Paraphrase of Genesis 3:14-20:**

The serpent, Adam, and Eve had to suffer the consequences of their sin. This is when suffering and

death came into the world. They came because Adam and Eve sinned. But God still loved Adam and Eve. He told them that He had a plan to make everything right again. He said that one of Eve's descendants would crush Satan's head. This meant that God would send a Savior to save them from their sin. Adam and Eve were the very first people to hear that Jesus was coming! Not only that but guess what else God did for Adam and Eve.

### **God covers Adam and Eve's nakedness**

#### **Read Genesis 3:21**

**Recap:** The fig leaves that Adam and Eve made weren't good enough to cover them, so God gave them clothes made of animal skin.

**Older students:** This means an innocent animal died, so Adam and Eve could have the right kind of clothes to cover them. This was the first time that blood was shed to make a cover for sin. Does this remind you of something? Think about the Top 12 verse Hebrews 9:22b: "...and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness." Can you think of how the death of this innocent animal might be a picture of something that would happen in the future? (Jesus shed His innocent blood, so we can be forgiven) Remember this, because we'll see another picture of the same thing next week!

**All students:** Remember what God said would happen if Adam and Eve ate the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil? (They would die) So did they? Let's find out.

### **Death comes**

#### ***Paraphrase of Genesis 3:22-24:***

Adam and Eve had to leave the Garden of Eden where they had lived a perfect life with God. They had to live outside the Garden, do hard work, and suffer in this world until they finally died, returning back to the dust they were made from. This was the beginning of people suffering and dying in this world.

## **Conclusion**

Adam and Eve's confusion and sin led to a broken world. If they had only lived God's way instead of their own way! But that didn't stop God's plan. He told Adam and Eve about the all-powerful Savior who would come to rescue them from sin and defeat Satan and death! Even though there is suffering and death in our world because of sin, Jesus will make everything perfect again someday.

## **Do Right and Feel Right**

It's easy to look at Adam and Eve and think how foolish they were to eat the fruit from that tree, especially when they had all the other trees in the Garden! They did not trust what God told them, and it led to sin. But we all have the same problem. I have sinned and you have sinned just like Adam and Eve. Today's Think Right verse tells us that. Can you recite it? *Recite Romans 3:23.*

Think about how you do things your way instead of God's way. What are some of the sins you struggle with? *Allow various answers.* This sin separates us from God. That is definitely bad news that we are separated from the God who made us and loves us, but do you remember what God told Adam and Eve? He would send someone to rescue us. Who is the only One who can rescue us? (Jesus) (red page – Hebrews 9:22/John 14:6) He offers you the best gift ever—forgiveness and eternal life. Have you received that gift? If not, would you like to learn more about that? *Opportunity to review the Gospel through the Wordless Book and offer an invitation for salvation.* You can choose to talk to Jesus today and tell Him that you trust in Him and that you want Him to be the leader of your life.

For those of us who have already trusted in Jesus, let's pray silently and thank God for sending Jesus as our Savior. *Pause for a brief time of personal prayer and reflection.*

### Talk thru Genesis hand motions:

- **Creation:** bring hands up to form a world
- **Adam and Eve:** one forearm up for each name
- **Sin:** take your two forearms and cross them like an “X”

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

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

1. Who was the serpent? (Satan)
2. What did the serpent do? (He lied to Eve about God)
3. Did Eve believe Satan’s lie? (Yes)
4. Did both Adam and Eve sin by eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil? (Yes)
5. What came into the world when Adam and Eve sinned? (Suffering and death)
6. What good news did God give to Adam and Eve after they sinned? (He would send a Savior, so they could be saved from the consequence of their sin)
7. Where did Adam and Eve have to live after they sinned? (Outside the Garden of Eden)
8. Which Top 12 verse tells us we are all sinners? (Romans 3:23)
9. Have you trusted in Jesus to save you from your sin?

# Lesson 4

## Genesis 4:1-16, 4:25-26

<b>Know Right:</b>	Cain sins against Abel.
<b>Think Right:</b>	"...and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness." Hebrews 9:22b (Top 12)
<b>Do Right:</b>	I will believe that God hates sin.
<b>Feel Right:</b>	I can feel loved because Jesus took the punishment for my sin.

### GET READY!

**In the world we live in, it's easier than ever to believe the lie that each person should do what seems right in their own eyes. But God's Word is clear: the only way to avoid the painful consequences of sin is to do what is right according to God. This week we will learn about the spread of sin and the tragic effect it had on the first family. Ask God to help you and your students see sin through His eyes, run from it, and embrace His forgiveness when you fall.**

**Pray:** Pray that your students' parents will prioritize coming to church, learning about God, and having spiritual conversations. Ask God for parents to notice spiritual growth in their children.

**Read:** Genesis 4:1-16, 4:25-26 (also for cross reference, read Hebrews 11:1, 4, 6 and 1 John 3:12)

#### **Know Right: Cain sins against Abel**

After Adam and Eve sinned and were banished from the Garden of Eden, God gave them a family. Unfortunately, all their children were born with their parents' sinful nature. Their son Cain became a farmer and their son Abel, a shepherd. The way they lived their lives displayed a significant disparity. Both brought offerings to God, but Abel lived God's way, obediently bringing the type of offering God wanted, and his offering pleased God. Cain did not live God's way, and his offering did not please God. Because Abel lived God's way, by faith, he was declared righteous and placed in the Hall of Faith. Because Cain lived without faith, he was punished for his sin, and he had to wander the earth instead of being a farmer. Because of this we can know that God hates sin.

### GET SET!

#### **Lead Teacher's Notes:**

- Please refer to the Children's Ministry Resource Bible: page 7 (Lesson: Cain and Abel—The First Children); page 136 (Introduction to the Pentateuch: Genesis); page 142 (The Offerings: Pictures of Christ); page 1118 (History of the Early World: Before the Flood); page 1538 (Hall of Faith); page 1604 (Teaching Doctrines to Children: The Doctrine of Man).
- The definition we use for sin is "Anything we think, say, or do that is against God." God cannot have anything to do with sin. He hates sin because it separates us from a relationship with Him. When using the word "against", it is important your tone of voice is serious and students understand that we are turning against God by doing something He hates when we make a choice to sin.
- Students often ask, "Why does God allow bad things to happen?" The answer is found in this lesson. It all connects back to the fall of man when sin entered this world.

#### **Creative Ideas for the Bible Lesson:**

1. Have a murder mystery in your class. Create a chalk or tape outline on the floor with a few clues

- around it. As you teach, have students solve the mystery.
2. Use simple props to illustrate the differences between the brothers.
  3. Draw out the lesson on a whiteboard, chalkboard, or large sheet of paper. Label pictures and add in speech bubbles and faces to match emotions.

**GO!**

## Pre-Service Review Game and Worship

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

### Discover Time: It's a sin!

**Goal:** To introduce and/or reinforce the definition of **sin**, the understanding of different kinds of **sin**, and the belief that **sin** is wrong.

#### DT Activity: Sand Station

##### Supplies:

- Water (sand should be damp)
- Sand tools
- One actor in a “bad guy” costume (should be obvious that they are an actor, not a leader)
- Camera (optional)

**Alternate sand station set-up:** Substitute shovels with tablespoons and several 1 kg (2.2 lbs) containers filled with sand. A table or a bench can support the sand-filled containers.

##### Instructions for the DT Leader:

Explain to students that they will work together to build the largest sandcastle in twelve minutes.

Optional: When time is up, a picture will be taken, and it will go on our social media page. Have them work as a team and get it done!

1. Right before time is up, the “bad guy” will run through the sand and smash the sandcastle right before their eyes. Students should be upset.
2. You (the DT Leader) should look frustrated and say, “Wow...I can't believe that just happened! Hey...this reminds me of what we will be learning about today. Let's head back to class.”

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

## Bible Lesson Introduction

**Lead Teachers ~ Connecting the DT to the Lesson:** What is sin? (Anything we think, say, or do that is against God) How does sin make you feel? *Allow students to answer.* Why does God hate sin? *Allow students to briefly answer.* God loves us and wants us to be with Him, but our sin separates us from Him because He is holy. Sin also causes suffering in our world and in our lives.

**Art Station:** In your DT activity, you made a poster about the Garden of Eden. How did you feel when someone put black spray paint on the picture? Did it wreck the picture? How did it make you feel? Sin brings pain and hurt.

**Box, Play-Doh, and LEGO Stations:** Was it fun to (knock out, smash, destroy) the sin during your DT activity? God wants to do this in your life! He wants you to trust in Jesus to forgive your sin, and then ask for His help to always walk away from sin! Why? Because He made you, He knows what's best for you, and He loves you.

**Sand Station:** How did you feel when someone smashed your sandcastle? What causes a person to do evil or mean things?

**All students:** In our Bible lesson, we are going to look at how much God hates sin.

*Note: If your DT was in the Mission Station, please highlight that because of sin, there are sad, hard things in this world. Missionaries go to the broken, hurting people to help them and bring them the hope and joy of Jesus.*

**Pray:** Encourage one of your students to confidently lead your class in prayer. Encourage the student to pray loud enough for the entire class to hear.

**Find It:** Is Genesis in the OT or NT? (OT) Let's open our Bibles to the first book, Genesis, and then find chapter 4. Visitors may need assistance.

**Timeline:** Where is Genesis found on our timeline? Review the pictures that connect with the hand motions and lessons we've studied. Let's review our Talk thru Genesis hand motions up to this point.

- **Creation:** bring hands up to form a world
- **Adam and Eve:** one forearm up for each name
- **Sin:** take your two forearms and cross them like an "X"

### **Introduction to the Bible Lesson:**

Last week, we learned how Adam and Eve committed the very first sin ever. What was their sin? (They disobeyed God and ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil) Because of their sin, two things entered the world: suffering and death. So, if you have ever wondered why bad things happen on this earth, you can know it is because of sin. What Good News did God give Adam and Eve after they sinned? (He would send a Savior to save them from the consequence of their sin) This meant that a Savior would be born someday. Where did Adam and Eve have to live after they sinned? (Outside of the Garden of Eden) Today, we will learn what happened to Adam and Eve after they left the Garden of Eden. Are you ready?

## **Scripture Outline: Genesis 4:1-16, 4:25-26**

### **Adam and Eve have children**

#### ***Paraphrase of Genesis 4:1-2a:***

Adam and Eve had their first child and named him Cain and a second child and named him named Abel.

### **Cain and Abel work**

#### **Read Genesis 4:2b**

**Recap:** A very important thing to remember is that Abel's job was a shepherd, where he watched and cared for sheep. Cain was a farmer, where he planted and harvested plants that produced food. An easy way to remember Cain was a farmer is a simple rhyme, "Cain grew grain." Now things are going to get really interesting!

### **Cain and Abel bring offerings to God**

#### **Read Genesis 4:3-5**

**Recap:** Cain and Abel brought offerings to God. Cain brought crops as his offering, and Abel brought fat portions from the firstborn of his flock as his offering.

Was God pleased with Abel's offering? (Yes)

Was God pleased with Cain's offering? (No)

Why was God pleased with Abel's offering but not Cain's? The Bible doesn't give us the answer to that question in the verses that we are learning about today, but in other verses (*Hebrews 11:4,6; 1 John 3:12*), we learn that Abel offered a blood sacrifice by faith, and God was pleased with that. We also learn that Abel gave God the first and best from his flock because he had faith and believed in God. It pleases God when we have faith in Him, and we give Him our first and best.

What is faith? Here's what Hebrews 11:1 says: (*Read Hebrews 11:1 from your Bible*). This means we trust God for everything, even though we can't see Him with our eyes. We can see what He does and what He created, but we can't see or touch Him. Abel had faith in God; that means he trusted God and believed in Him. Because of that, he was obedient and gave the type of offering he knew God wanted.

What is a blood sacrifice? Who knows Hebrews 9:22b? *Invite a student or the class to recite Hebrews 9:22b*. When Jesus died on the cross to forgive our sins, He became a blood sacrifice for us. In the Old Testament, before Jesus came as our Savior, God required His people to sacrifice and offer an animal to pay the cost for their sin. These sacrifices were very important to God's people in the Old Testament, and Abel's offering was an animal sacrifice.

How did Cain feel when God didn't like his offering? (Angry) *Refer to the Feel Right poster*. Let's listen to what God said to Cain.

### **God warns Cain**

#### **Read Genesis 4:6-7**

**Recap:** God told Cain that he didn't do what was right. It's clear that Cain had sinned. God didn't want Cain to keep sinning, so He warned Cain not to let sin control him.

Do you think God was giving Cain a chance to admit his sin, tell God about it, and then repent of his sin? (Yes) What have we learned to do when we sin? (Admit our sin, tell God, and repent—turn to do what is right) When you sin, do you admit it, tell God, and repent? I hope so! Do you think Cain did? Let's see.

### **Cain kills Abel**

#### **Read Genesis 4:8-9**

**Recap:** What??? How could this happen? We are only in chapter four of the Bible, and there is a murder! That's a big, horrible, terrible sin, isn't it? *Refer to the DT*.

God had just warned Cain that sin wanted to control him. Did that warning come true? (Yes) When you don't truly believe in God and haven't trusted in Jesus, sin like anger, jealousy, or selfishness can control your life.

God asked Cain a question, even though He knew the answer. He asked, "Where is your brother?" Why would God ask this question? (To give him a chance to confess) Did Cain tell the truth, or did he lie when he told God he didn't know where Abel was? (He lied)

Cain should have admitted his sin, told God, and repented after he gave his offering. But instead, he killed his own brother! And then did Cain admit his sin, tell God, and repent of killing his brother Abel? (No) Cain is really being controlled by his sin! What do you think will happen to Cain? Let's read and see.

### **God curses Cain**

#### **Read Genesis 4:10-14**

**Recap:** Now Cain was cursed! He couldn't be a farmer anymore. He would have to wander around the earth! But think about it for a minute. Do you think Cain was sorry because he killed Abel, or was he just sorry because he was being punished? (He was just sorry because he was being punished)

Are you ever like that? When you sin, are you truly sorry about it, or are you just sorry because you've been caught, and you are being punished? God is good to us even when we don't deserve it. That's called grace. Let's see what God did when Cain was afraid someone might find him and kill him.

### **God protects Cain**

#### **Read Genesis 4:15-16**

**Recap:** What did God do for Cain? (He put a mark on Cain, so no one would kill him) He did this even though he didn't deserve God's protection. Now think about Adam and Eve. What happened to their son Abel? (Cain killed him) What happened to Cain? (He had to wander the earth instead of being a

farmer) So, now Cain and Abel were gone. Let's see what else God did.

### **God gives Adam and Eve another son**

#### **Read Genesis 4:25-26**

**Recap:** God gave Adam and Eve another son named Seth. At that time, men began to call on the name of the Lord. This means they had faith in God. Can you guess who would come from Seth's family some day? (Jesus!) Let's think about what we learned.

## **Conclusion**

When God was displeased with Cain's offering, Cain could have admitted his sin, told God, and repented of his sin, but he didn't. Instead, he killed his innocent brother Abel. Do you see what happens when we sin? It's awful. That's why God hates it, and it's why there is punishment for our sin. What is the only way to have freedom from the punishment for our sin? (By believing in what Jesus did for us on the cross) What verse tells us that Jesus had to die, so we could be forgiven? (Hebrews 9:22b) Jesus had to shed His blood for our sins. He took this punishment for us.

## **Do Right and Feel Right**

Each one of us has sinned (*dark page*). We might not have killed someone, but maybe we lied, or disobeyed our parents, or watched something bad on a device. These are sins that separate us from God. Even though God hates our sin, He loves us so much that He sent His one and only Son, Jesus, to take the punishment for our sin by shedding His blood on the cross (*red page*). When you have faith in Jesus to forgive your sins and you make Him the leader of your life, God forgives you of all of that sin He hates (*clean page*). Because of this, you can feel truly loved by God. Let's make sure you truly understand. *Share the Gospel through the Wordless Book and give an invitation to be saved. Pause for a minute of silence. Allow students to silently pray and confess their sins, and encourage unsaved students to talk to God for the first time and ask for forgiveness.*

### **Talk thru Genesis hand motions:**

- **Creation:** bring hands up to form a world
- **Adam and Eve:** one forearm up for each name
- **Sin:** take your two forearms and cross them like an "X"
- **Cain & Abel:** two thumbs up and start a thumb war with yourself

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

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

1. Who were Adam and Eve's first two children? (Cain and Abel)
2. What were Cain and Abel's jobs? (Cain was a farmer, and Abel was a shepherd)
3. What were Cain and Abel's offerings to God? (Cain gave some of the crops he had grown, and Abel gave fat portions from the firstborn of his flock)
4. Whose offering pleased God? (Abel's offering)
5. Did Abel offer his sacrifice by faith? (Yes)
6. Did Cain offer his sacrifice by faith? (No)
7. Who became a blood sacrifice for us? (Jesus)
8. What is faith? (Believing even when you can't see – Hebrews 11:1)
9. How did Cain feel when God wasn't pleased with his offering? (Angry)
10. What did Cain do after he became angry? (He killed Abel)
11. What did God give Adam and Eve after they lost Cain and Abel? (Another son named Seth)
12. Who would eventually come from Seth's family? (Jesus)
13. Do you have faith in God? Have you trusted in Jesus to forgive your sins?

# Lesson 5

## Genesis 6:5-22

<b>Know Right:</b>	Noah builds the ark.
<b>Think Right:</b>	“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)
<b>Do Right:</b>	I will believe that only Jesus can save me from the punishment of my sin.
<b>Feel Right:</b>	I can feel concerned because people who don’t believe in Jesus will be punished.

### GET READY!

**“Saved” is a frequently used word in the church setting, but let’s take a moment to reflect on what we are saved from: eternal punishment. When we take time to realize how much God has saved us from, our worship will intensify, our actions will reflect Jesus at any cost, and the hope we have in Him will shine. Let’s spend time reflecting on this as we prepare to serve, giving our best to Him out of gratitude for all He’s done for us.**

**Pray:** Praise God for uniquely creating each student in your classroom. Pray specifically that unsaved students will crave to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, and that saved students will more fully understand what they are saved from.

**Read:** Genesis 6:5-22

#### **Know Right: Noah builds the ark**

Adam and Eve’s family continued to grow and eventually they had a descendant named Noah. By Noah’s time, God looked at the world and was grieved because of the magnitude of evil He saw. Fortunately, He also saw that Noah had faith in Him, so He revealed His plan to Noah—a plan to destroy the world with a flood. God told Noah to build an ark that would save his family and two of every living creature. Noah obeyed and built the ark—the only way he and his family would be saved. The ark is a picture of how Jesus can save us from the punishment of our sin.

### GET SET!

#### **Lead Teacher’s Notes:**

- This lesson is often taught as a cute Bible lesson, but it’s actually a serious lesson with a very deep meaning: God saves people. Pray and ask that God will move in the hearts of the students in your ministry.
- Please refer to the Children’s Ministry Resource Bible: page 1118 (History of the Early World: Before the Flood); page 1538 (Hall of Faith: Noah).
- How did God save people in the Old Testament? It has always been by faith. The OT people looked forward and had faith in the coming Messiah. We look to the past and have faith in what He did on the cross.

#### **Creative Ideas for the Bible Lesson:**

1. This is a great day to use action figures as props as you teach the lesson. One example to use is a model of the ark, like the Little People or Playmobil versions, if you know someone who has one.
2. Make a homemade ark out of a box and put a door in it. Make cardboard cutout animals and people to go along with it.
3. Use different props like a hammer, nails, wood, saw, and sandpaper to demonstrate the work Noah

had to do to build the ark.

4. Create a flood in an aquarium. Set the scene and at the right time, let the rain fill the tank.
5. **Older students:** Do a pop quiz to evaluate how much the students know about Noah and the construction of the ark. Make sure it is difficult, so students will value the lesson. Include the Know Right, Think Right, Do Right, and Feel Right with fill in the blanks. Have students make corrections throughout the lesson, so they all have 100% by the end of the lesson.

To help your class understand how the earth became filled with people, use your whiteboard or some other creative materials to illustrate a growing family tree with stick figures to represent the people. Also use your Bible timeline to show when this filling of the earth began to happen.

**GO!**

## Pre-Service Review Game and Worship

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

### Discover Time: What a save!

**Goal:** To help students understand the size of the job God gave Noah and also to introduce them to the concept of being **saved**.

**DT Activity:** large outdoor space (Water Station if weather doesn't permit)

**Supplies:**

- Cones and/or chalk spray (test in advance to make sure it does not stain)
- Tape measures

**Instructions for the DT Leader:**

1. Challenge the class to work as a team to measure out the ark and mark the outline with cones or with chalk spray. Dimensions for the ark: 450' long x 75' wide x 45' tall (three stories).
2. Have students use tape measures or walking strides to measure the length and width.
3. After the ark is measured out and marked, ask the class why they think the ark was so important. Their answer should be that it was the only way for any animal or human to be **saved** in the flood.

**Optional ideas:**

- Use jumbo helium balloons or a cluster of balloons on a string 45' long to illustrate how tall the ark was.
- Make this fun! Dress up as a construction worker and "order" your students to stand in strategic locations to make up the ark. Act as if you are really mapping out the ark.

**Indoor option:** Have students create model arks out of foil or craft supplies. (Using a scale of 1/2 inch for every 10 feet, the models would measure 22.5" x 3.75" x 2.25") See which boats float the best!

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

## Bible Lesson Introduction

**Lead Teachers ~ Connecting the DT to the Lesson:**

**Box Station (or outdoor space) and Sand Station:** During Discover Time, who **saved** you (or your sand art)? Someone jumped in and helped you or **saved** you from something bad. How does that connect to Noah and his ark, and why do you think we need to study this lesson today? And what does God want us to learn from it? Hopefully, you'll understand by the end of the lesson!

**Food Station:** If you lined up 1,350 pancakes long and 225 pancakes wide, what would that be the size of? The ark! During Discover Time, who **saved** your pancakes? Someone jumped in and helped you or **saved** you from something bad. How does that connect to Noah and his ark and why do you think we

need to study this lesson today? And what does God want us to learn from it? Hopefully, you'll understand by the end of the lesson!

**Water Station (or outdoor space) and Art Station (or outdoor space):** Why do you think God gave such clear directions on how to build the ark? Why do you think it was so critical that Noah did everything God's way? What would have happened if he compromised? Today, we are going to learn about a man who was righteous, even in a world where almost everyone else had rejected God.

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

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

**Find It:** Where do we find Genesis, in the Old or New Testament? (OT) Let's look up Genesis, chapter 6. If you are learning how to look up verses in your Bible, look for the big number six in the very first book of the Bible, Genesis.

**Timeline:** Point to the timeline and review what we have studied so far this quarter and review the Talk thru Genesis hand motions up to this point.

- **Creation:** bring hands up to form a world
- **Adam and Eve:** one forearm up for each name
- **Sin:** take your two forearms and cross them like an "X"
- **Cain & Abel:** two thumbs up and start a thumb war with yourself

### **Introduction to the Bible Lesson:**

Let's think back to the people we've learned about during the last few weeks. The first two people God created were Adam and Eve. God put them in the Garden of Eden where everything was perfect, but then Adam and Eve sinned and had to leave. God helped Adam and Eve have their first two sons, Cain and Abel, but then Cain killed Abel and had to wander the earth instead of being a farmer. Cain married his wife and they began to have children. God also gave Adam and Eve their third son, Seth, to take Abel's place. Seth grew up, married his wife, and began to have his own children, and then they had children and so on. For a few thousand years this kept happening until one day, a man named Noah was born. When Noah was 500 years old—people lived a really long time back then—he had three sons. Now there were many people on earth. And there was trouble!

## **Scripture Outline: Genesis 6:5-22**

### **People's sin makes God very sad**

#### **Read Genesis 6:5-6**

**Recap:** You see, the more people there were, the more sin there was. It spread like a virus, and many people really enjoyed doing things their own way instead of God's way – even if it hurt other people. It says that God was grieved. That means He was very sad and angry. Why do you think God was so sad and angry when He saw all this? *Allow some students to answer and respond to their answers appropriately.* God was sad and angry because He had created people to bring glory to Him and live with Him. Instead, people were making the world—that He created—a huge mess with their sin!

**Older students (4th and 5th Grade):** What do these verses teach us about God? How do you think it makes God feel when we sin today?

How do you think He feels about the terrible things available on the internet?

Or how some people treat others badly who are different than they are?

Or what about people who are very greedy and only care about themselves?

Our sin makes God sad and angry, in the right way, because they bring suffering and sometimes even death, and they separate us from Him. But remember, God always had a plan. Let's see what was next in His plan.

## **God plans to destroy everything that lives**

### **Read Genesis 6:7**

**Recap:** Wow! God's plan was to destroy everything that lived! Doesn't that seem awful? But guess what: there was still hope! Listen to these next verses.

## **Noah pleases God**

### **Read Genesis 6:8-10**

**Recap:** Noah was a righteous man. What does the word "righteous" mean? (A person made right before God) Does this mean Noah was perfect? (No) Does anyone remember what Romans 3:23 says? ("For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God") Noah was a sinner, too. So, what does "righteous" mean? It means that Noah didn't have to take the blame for his sin. Why? Because he had faith in God and the Savior that God would send someday. You see, in the Old Testament, people believed in the Savior who would come someday. We look back and believe in the Savior who did come! *As you explain this, draw a diagram on the whiteboard with a cross in the middle. Write "Noah" to the left and draw an arrow pointing to the cross in the middle, then write "You" to the right and draw an arrow pointing back to the cross in the middle.* God saved Noah because he had faith in the Savior who would come in the future! Who is that Savior? (Jesus) *This important point will be repeated in next week's lesson.*

Remember that Noah wasn't alone. He had a wife and three sons named Shem, Ham, and Japheth, and they had wives, too. Let's hear what God said to Noah.

## **God tells Noah to build an ark**

### **Read Genesis 6:11-16**

**Recap:** The ark would be huge! Building it would be a really tough job, and it would take a long, long time.

What would you have thought if you were Noah? *Have students share their thoughts.* What are some things God tells you to do? Does God tell you to do anything as hard as building a huge ark? If you are a Christian – you've trusted in Jesus to save you from your sin and made Him the leader of your life – God is always with you to help you do whatever He wants you to do. How? God gives you His Holy Spirit to help you. Who is the Holy Spirit? He is the Person of God who comes to live inside of people who trust in Jesus. He's your Helper, so no matter what He wants you to do, He will help you, and you will be able to do it even if it's hard. Isn't that awesome to know?

Noah had a choice to make. He could believe and obey God or not. Listen to what else God said.

## **God gives Noah His plan**

### **Read Genesis 6:17-21**

**Recap:** Just imagine how evil and sinful the people must have been for God to do this. God would save Noah, his family, and at least two of every kind of animal and bird, but everyone and everything else would be punished for their sin and die. But what did Noah have to do? (He had to obey God) You probably already know what Noah's choice was, but let's read it from the Bible.

## **Noah obeys God**

### **Read Genesis 6:22**

**Recap:** Aren't you thankful Noah obeyed God? We don't know exactly how long it took Noah to build the ark, but it was probably around 100 years. That's a long time, isn't it? What do you think the rest of the people did while Noah was building the ark? Do you think they might have been making fun of him and being mean to Him? Maybe they called him names. Just think about it—all these people would die, and Noah knew it.

## **Conclusion**

Do you think Noah was concerned for these people who would be punished for their sin? Do you think he tried to warn them during the time he was building the ark, so they could be saved? (Probably so) Peter says that Noah was a preacher of righteousness (2 Peter 2:5). Whatever Noah said to them, the

evil people never listened or turned toward God. The Bible tells us that they continued living sinfully like they always had, and because of that they were punished for their sin. It's very, very sad.

When we come back next week, we'll find out what happened when the ark was finished.

## Do Right and Feel Right

What about you? What do you need to be saved from? (Being punished for your sin) Who is the only One who can save you from being punished for your sin? (Jesus) What must you do to be saved? (Admit that you have sinned, trust in Jesus alone to save you from your sin, and make Him the leader of your life) Have you done that? If you have, then you are like Noah, who was safe. Let's say John 3:16. *Recite John 3:16.* What does this verse promise us if we believe in Him? (That we will have eternal life)

But, what about others? What will happen to people who don't believe in Jesus? (They will be separated from God and punished for their sin forever) Should you feel concerned about people who don't believe in Jesus? Should you tell them the Good News about Him and pray for them? (Of course!) That's what God has told Christians to do. We are supposed to help others to understand how much God loves them, so they can be saved from the punishment of their sin. Think of one person right now who needs to know about Jesus. Let's pause and silently pray for that person right now, asking God to give you an opportunity to tell that person that Jesus loves them and how they, too, can be saved from their sin.

If you have never trusted in Jesus to save you from your sin, would you like to do that today? We can tell you how right now while the rest of the students play a review game. *Opportunity to share the Gospel through the Wordless Book specifically with students who would like to better understand the Gospel and possibly make a decision to trust Christ.*

### Talk thru Genesis hand motions:

- **Creation:** bring hands up to form a world
- **Adam and Eve:** one forearm up for each name
- **Sin:** take your two forearms and cross them like an "X"
- **Cain & Abel:** two thumbs up and start a thumb war with yourself
- **Noah obeyed:** take your fist and pound it into your hand

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

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

1. What made God so sad during Noah's time on earth? (People had become very sinful)
2. What did God plan to do? Why? (Destroy everyone and everything that lived on earth because of their sin)
3. Did anyone please God? Why or why not? (Noah pleased God because he had faith in God)
4. What did God tell Noah to do? (Build a huge ark for himself, his family, and at least two of every living creature, so they would be saved from the flood)
5. What else did God tell Noah? (He would send a flood to destroy everything that lived on the earth)
6. Did Noah obey God? Why or why not? (He obeyed God because he had faith in God)
7. Does the Bible give us reason to think that Noah warned the people that God would send a flood to destroy them? (Yes) Did anyone repent? (No)
8. Has God told us who can save us from our sin? Who? (Yes, only Jesus)
9. Should you be concerned about other people who need to be saved from their sin? What can you do? (Yes, tell them the Good News about Jesus)

# Lesson 6

## Genesis 7:1 – 8:22, 9:8-16

<b>Know Right:</b>	God floods the world.
<b>Think Right:</b>	“Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household.” Acts 16:31 (Top 12)
<b>Do Right:</b>	I will believe in the promise that Jesus has saved me from my sin.
<b>Feel Right:</b>	I can feel safe because Jesus has saved me from my sin.

### GET READY!

**As Christians, we know that we are spiritually safe in Christ. God has promised this in His Word, for all who believe! When we trust this promise, we can live like Noah, who obeyed and followed God even when others rejected God.**

**Pray:** Pray that your students will whole-heartedly believe that God keeps His promises, even when they experience the disappointments and hardships of living in a fallen world.

**Read:** Genesis 7:1 – 8:22, 9:8-16

#### **Know Right: God floods the world**

About 100 years after God revealed His plan to Noah, God sent the flood. Pairs of every kind of bird and land animal, as well as Noah and his family, boarded the ark. Then God shut them in, and they were safe and secure from the flood. About one year later, Noah, his family, and the birds and animals that had been on the ark came out onto dry land. God made a promise to Noah: He would never again destroy the earth by a flood. The sign of God’s promise was the rainbow. God was faithful. He saved those who were on the ark from the flood. Like them, we who have believed in Jesus are safe and secure from being destroyed because of our sin. The account of Noah and the flood teaches each of us the promise that Jesus can save us from our sin.

### GET SET!

#### **Lead Teacher’s Notes:**

- Please refer to the Children’s Ministry Resource Bible: page 653 (The Origin of Life on Earth: Two Opposing Views #6); page 1119 (History of the Early World: After the Flood); page 1538 (Hall of Faith: Noah); page 1617 (Catastrophes Help to Explain What We Find on Earth’s Surface and in Buried Rocks).
- Below are links to two articles that address the fate of fish and sea creatures:  
<http://www.answersingenesis.org/Home/Area/feedback/feedback26-feb-2001.asp> <http://www.answersingenesis.org/articles/kw/flood-survival-feedback>

#### **Creative Ideas for the Bible Lesson:**

1. Re-enact the lesson as you teach by using an aquarium, a boat for an ark, animals, LEGO people, etc. Then flood at the right time by releasing a water bag (collapsible camping water bag; attach tube into the tank).
2. Have students act as Noah, his family, animals, and birds.
3. Create a sound symphony with rain sprinkles, downpour, thunder, animal sounds, calming sounds, birds chirping, etc.



**Older students:** In addition to using one of the ideas from above, begin the lesson holding a pack of Skittles. Open it up and start eating the “rainbow” of colors, naming the colors as you eat them. Ask your class to explain the biblical meaning of the rainbow. After providing this foreshadowing, “go back in time” and teach the lesson, eventually explaining how the first rainbow appeared in the sky and why it is so important!

**GO!**

## Pre-Service Review Game and Worship

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

## Discover Time: Nothing can separate us!

**Goal:** To introduce and teach the concept of eternal security, the belief that nothing can **separate** a Christian from their salvation.

Definition of “eternal security”: The belief that when God saves a person, they are given eternal life (John 3:16), they are made a permanent member of God’s family (Romans 8:38-39), and they receive the Holy Spirit as a guarantee of their salvation (Ephesians 1:13-14).

### DT Activity: Play-Doh Station

#### Supplies:

- Yellow and red Play-Doh (homemade or purchased), or modelling clay/ clay/ plasticine
- Tracker Tickets
- Optional: small plastic zipper bags (if students will take some Play-Doh home)

#### Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Challenge students to make as many animals as they can out of the yellow and red Play-Doh/ modelling clay/ clay/ plasticine. Tell them to be creative!
2. Give one Tracker Ticket for each animal they create.
3. When time is almost up, challenge students to mix the Play-Doh/ modelling clay/ clay/ plasticine together and roll it into one giant, long, orange snake.
4. When the snake is done say, “That is a great orange snake! For twenty Tracker tickets, can you **separate** the colors back to red and yellow?”
5. Encourage them to try as hard as they can to **separate** all the colors into red and yellow again.
6. After they’ve tried, say “I think this is impossible!”

**Optional:** Divide the snake into pieces and allow the students to take a piece of the orange Play-Doh home as a reminder, and/or use it as a teaching tool for the lesson.

## Bible Lesson Introduction

**Lead Teachers ~ Connecting the DT to the Lesson:** Can you believe that your DT Leader asked you to separate \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_ after you mixed them together? *Fill in the blanks with whatever was mixed during your DT.* How did it make you feel when you were asked to separate it? That \_\_\_\_\_ is stuck together forever! When you ask Jesus to take away your sin and become the leader of your life, nothing can separate you from Him. (Romans 8:38-39) That’s a promise! He will always be there for you. But how do you know this for sure? Do you ever doubt that once you’re saved, you are always saved? Let’s look in our Bible and find out what God says about it.

**Pray:** Remind your students that when we pray, we are talking to the God of the universe. Encourage one of your students to lead your class in prayer.

*Having a hard time getting students to lead your class in prayer?*

1. *Call them in advance (or ask the Sunday prior) and tell them that you view them as a leader in the class, and you would like them to open up the class in prayer on Sunday.*
2. *For 3rd grade and older, have them pray with a partner. This may seem odd the first week, but the more often you do it, the more relaxed they will get. After the partners pray, close the class in prayer.*

**Find it:** Is Genesis in the Old Testament or the New Testament? (OT) Open up your Bible to the first book of the Old Testament, Genesis, chapter 7.

**Timeline:** *On the count of three, have the class point to Genesis on the timeline. Let's review our Talk thru Genesis hand motions up to this point.*

- **Creation:** bring hands up to form a world
- **Adam and Eve:** one forearm up for each name
- **Sin:** take your two forearms and cross them like an "X"
- **Cain & Abel:** two thumbs up and start a thumb war with yourself
- **Noah obeyed:** take your fist and pound it into your hand

### **Introduction to the Bible Lesson:**

Last week, we learned that God told a man named Noah to build an ark. Let's see if you remember what we learned. If you raise your hand and give me the correct answer, you will earn one Tracker Ticket!

*For younger students, turn questions into true/false or multiple choice.*

- What made God so sad during Noah's time on earth? (People had become very sinful)
- What did God plan to do because of people's sin? (Send a flood that would destroy everyone and everything that lived on earth)
- Why did Noah please God? (Because he had faith in God)
- Who did God say would go into the ark to be saved from the flood? (Noah, his family, and at least two of every living creature)
- Does the Bible give us reason to think that Noah warned the people that God would send a flood to destroy them? (Yes)
- Did anyone repent? (No)

Good job! Now we'll find out what happened after the ark was finished.

## **Scripture Outline: Genesis 7:1 – 8:22, 9:8-16**

### **Noah is righteous**

#### **Read Genesis 7:1**

**Recap:** God said that Noah was righteous. What does righteous mean? (A person made right before God) Does this mean that Noah never sinned? (No!) Does anyone remember what Romans 3:23 says? ("For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.") Noah was a sinner, too. So, what does "righteous" mean? It means that Noah didn't have to take the blame for his sin. Why? Because he had faith in God and the Savior that God would send someday. In the Old Testament, people believed in the Savior who would come someday. We look back and believe in the Savior who did come! As you explain this, draw a diagram on the whiteboard with a cross in the middle. Write "Noah" to the left and draw an arrow that points to the cross in the middle, then write "You" to the right and draw an arrow that points back to the cross in the middle. God saved Noah because he had faith in the Savior who would come in the future! Who is that Savior? (Jesus!)

*Lead Teacher's note: This important point is intentionally repeated from last week's lesson.*

Think back to what we just read. Which people did God tell Noah to take into the ark? (Eight people—Noah, his wife, his three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth, and their wives) Let's keep reading to find out what else God wanted Noah to take into the ark.

### **Animals and birds go into the ark**

#### **Read Genesis 7:2-3**

**Recap:** How many of every kind of clean animal did God command to be on the ark? (Seven – male and female) What is a clean animal? Here, the clean animals were the ones that God said were ok to use as sacrifices to Him. The unclean animals were not supposed to be used as sacrifices. Later in the Bible, the Israelites were not supposed to eat the unclean animals. How many of every kind of unclean animal did God command to be on the ark? (Two – male and female)

Do you think Noah had to go find all these creatures and bring them to the ark? (No! The creatures came to Noah and the ark! Genesis 7:15) Let's keep reading.

### **Noah obeys and God sends the flood**

#### **Read Genesis 7:4-12**

**Recap:** How many days and nights did it rain? (Forty) Water was coming down from the sky above and up from the earth below, and there was no way to escape! It must have been terrifying for all the people!

**Older students:** What if you had been one of those people? How do you think you would have felt when the water was rising and there was no escape? *Allow students to ponder and briefly answer while looking at the Feel Right poster.*

#### ***Paraphrase of Genesis 7:13-16a:***

The flood began and Noah, his family, and the land animals and birds went into the ark. What do you think happened next?

#### **Read Genesis 7:16b** (“Then the Lord shut him in.”)

**Recap:** God Himself shut the door! Do you think everyone on the ark was safe now? Of course, they were!

### **The earth is flooded for 150 days**

#### ***Paraphrase of Genesis 7:17-24:***

There was so much water that it even covered the mountains with more than twenty feet of water and everything that lived and breathed on the earth died. Every land animal, bird, and person died except Noah, his family, and the animals and birds that were safe and secure on the ark. The earth was flooded for 150 days, but then . . .

### **God remembers all who are on the ark**

#### **Read Genesis 8:1**

**Recap:** The Bible tells us that God remembered. Do you think that God had forgotten Noah and everyone else on the ark? (No!) God never forgets the people who have faith in Him. Remembered means that God did something to take care of Noah, his family, and the creatures on the ark.

This is like your Discover Time activity. If you've trusted in Jesus to forgive your sin, you are like the (pudding/Play-Doh/water/paint). You are part of God's family forever. He will never separate from you!

### **Everything on the ark is safe**

#### ***Paraphrase of Genesis 8:2-22:***

Finally, Noah sent a dove out of the ark and the dove came back with an olive leaf. Noah knew that the flood had gone down. Then one day God told Noah, his family, and all the creatures on the ark to come

out. They were safe and secure. They had been saved from the flood that destroyed every other person, land animal, and bird on the earth. Imagine how thankful Noah must have been! God gave Noah one way to be saved, and Noah obeyed. Noah was so thankful; he made a sacrifice to God using some of the clean animals. This pleased God, and He made a special promise, called a covenant, to never destroy all living creatures again with a flood.

### **God gives the rainbow in the clouds to be a sign of His promise**

#### ***Paraphrase of Genesis 9:8-16:***

Do you know what the sign of God's special promise is? (The rainbow in the clouds) When you see a rainbow in the clouds, you can think about God's promise to never destroy all living creatures again with a flood. You can think about how God remembers and keeps His promises.

## **Conclusion**

Do you remember what God said about the world right after He created it? (It was very good) But what did people do? (People chose to sin, and the world became very evil) Because of this evil, God's heart was deeply troubled (Genesis 6:6). In order to get rid of the evil that had overtaken everything, He decided to destroy every living thing (people, land animals, and birds) on the earth. What was the one and only way to be saved from the flood? (The ark!)

## **Do Right and Feel Right**

Do you know that Jesus is our "ark"? Even though we all do things our own way instead of God's way, He has given His Son, Jesus, to save us, just like He saved Noah, his family, and all the creatures on the ark from the flood. So are you in the "ark"? Have you trusted in Jesus to save you from your sin and made Him the leader of your life? If you have, then you can feel safe and secure knowing that Jesus will never separate from you – you are part of His family now and forever. *Refer again to your DT activity.* You have eternal life and you won't be punished for your sin! Remember our Think Right verse, Acts 16:31? Let's say it now. *Have class recite Acts 16:31.* But what if you haven't trusted in Jesus? What will happen to you if you die without trusting in Him? Then you are not safe. You are like those people who were destroyed in the flood. You will be separated from God forever. But don't worry; there is a way out! Let's pause for a moment. Put your head down on the table and think about Acts 16:31. Are you saved? If you are, you can praise Jesus right now for rescuing you! If not, would you like to learn more about how to trust in Jesus today so you can be safe in Jesus and never be separated from God? *Opportunity to share the Gospel through the Wordless Book and provide a clear invitation.*

### **Talk thru Genesis hand motions:**

- **Creation:** bring hands up to form a world
- **Adam and Eve:** one forearm up for each name
- **Sin:** take your two forearms and cross them like an "X"
- **Cain & Abel:** two thumbs up and start a thumb war with yourself
- **Noah obeyed:** take your fist and pound it into your hand
- **A flood with a promise:** bring arms up like a flood and go up until you form a rainbow with your hands

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

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

1. Why did God say Noah was "righteous"? (He had faith in God and in the Savior God would send someday)
2. How many people did God command to be on the ark? (Eight—Noah, his wife, his three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth, and their wives)

3. How many of each kind of animal and bird did God command to be on the ark? (Seven of every clean kind, male and female; two of every unclean animal, male and female)
4. Where did all the floodwater come from? (The sky above and the earth below)
5. Who shut the door after everyone was in the ark? (God)
6. When it says, "God remembered Noah," does that mean God forgot Noah? (No, God doesn't forget those who have faith in Him)
7. What was the one and only way for Noah, his family, and the animals to be safe from the flood? (The ark)
8. What was the sign God gave to show He would never destroy the earth by flood again? (The rainbow)
9. Who is the "ark" that saves us from our sin? (Jesus)

# Lesson 7

## Genesis 11:1-9

<b>Know Right:</b>	The Tower of Babel is built.
<b>Think Right:</b>	“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.” Ephesians 2:8-9 (Top 12)
<b>Do Right:</b>	I will do things God’s way, not my way.
<b>Feel Right:</b>	I can feel focused when I do things God’s way, not my way.

## GET READY!

**Have you ever wondered why we have so many different languages in this world? Think of all the communication issues that could be solved if the whole world spoke the same language! As you read the Scripture passage and the lesson below, discover (or rediscover) the source of language barriers, the importance of doing things God’s way, and the unimaginable consequences that can result when we don’t.**

**Pray:** Pray that God will awaken the souls of your students, and they will crave God's Word.

**Read:** Genesis 11:1-9

### **Know Right: The Tower of Babel is built**

Noah and his family obeyed God by having children to fill the earth. However, many years later, their descendants decided to live life their own way instead of God’s way. They built a city because they wanted to make a name for themselves, and they did not want to be scattered around the earth. And they built a tall tower in the city because they wanted it to reach the heavens. God’s solution for this disobedience was to confuse their language and scatter them all over the earth. From the account of the Tower of Babel, we learn that we should always do things God’s way, not our way.

## GET SET!

### **Lead Teacher’s Notes:**

- Please refer to the Children’s Ministry Resource Bible: page 1452 (Think as Children Think; not directly related to this lesson, but good info); page 1560 (Helping Children to Grow).
- Although the study of the meaning of the word “Babel” is interesting, we will not discuss it in this lesson.

### **Creative Ideas for the Bible Lesson:**

1. Teach this lesson as a mystery (note the DT transition). Have different portions of the Scripture be “clues” to explain the lesson.
2. Teach the lesson and then hold up a world map. Challenge students to think about how this event changed history. Ask how John 3:16 fits into this event. What about the other Top 12 verses?

3. As you teach the lesson, create illustrations using paint or markers.
4. Use army men and Jenga blocks to illustrate as you teach the lesson.
5. Wrap a ladder with a brown sheet and place it in the center of your classroom. Use army men to surround the tower and place army men on the side of the towers to make them look like they are working. As students walk into your classroom, it will fuel their imaginations as you bring the Bible to life!



**GO!**

## Pre-Service Review Game and Worship

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

## Discover Time: What did you say?

**Goal:** To introduce students to **foreign languages**.

### DT Activity: Box Station

#### Supplies:

- Boxes, tins or plastic cups
- Tracker Tickets
- Special volunteer who speaks a **foreign language**

#### Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Divide your class into two teams.
2. The goal is for students to build a tall pyramid with boxes/ tins/ cups, but a special volunteer will be giving the instructions to the students in a **foreign language**.
3. Say, "I would like to welcome \_\_\_\_\_ (*volunteer's name*) to our class today. He/She will be leading our Discover Time activity. Make sure you listen and do what \_\_\_\_\_ says!"

4. **Special Volunteer:** In your **foreign language**, say, “Welcome to Discover Time! Today we will build a pyramid or tower with boxes. The team who builds the tallest pyramid will receive three Tracker Tickets. Does anyone have any questions?”
5. Most students will look confused.
6. **Special Volunteer:** Repeat the instructions and feel free to add in hand motions. Encourage the students to begin to work.
7. At this point, you (the DT Leader) should encourage students to start working. Have them guess what \_\_\_\_\_ said and tell them to begin building something with the boxes.
8. **Special Volunteer:** Walk around and coach the students in your **foreign language**. The goal is to keep them confused.
9. At the end of the activity, have the presenter let students know what language they were speaking and how they learned to speak that language. Then give three Tracker Tickets to each member of the team who built the tallest pyramid.

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

## Bible Lesson Introduction

**Lead Teachers ~ Connecting the DT to the Lesson:** How was your DT activity today? Was it confusing? Why? (The leader spoke in another language) Do you know there are over 7,000 languages in our world? Do you speak a foreign language? Who invented foreign languages, and why do they exist? Today, we will discover the who, what, where, when, and why behind this huge mystery!

*Note: If you are using Creative Idea #1 to teach your lesson, you may need to revise this transition, or tie the DT activity to your lesson after the mystery has been solved.*

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

**Pray:** Ask if anyone in your class speaks another language. If they do, have them open up your class in prayer in the other language they speak. After they pray, have them pray again in the language your class typically uses.

**Find It:** Is Genesis in the OT or NT? (OT) Let’s open our Bible to the book of Genesis, chapter 11.

**Timeline:** Last week we learned about the flood. Can you find the flood on the timeline? Let’s review our Talk thru Genesis hand motions up to this point.

- **Creation:** bring hands up to form a world
- **Adam and Eve:** one forearm up for each name
- **Sin:** take your two forearms and cross them like an “X”
- **Cain & Abel:** two thumbs up and start a thumb war with yourself
- **Noah obeyed:** take your fist and pound it into your hand
- **A flood with a promise:** bring arms up like a flood and go up until you form a rainbow with your hands

### Introduction to the Bible Lesson:

Let’s take a moment to see how much you remember about Noah and the flood. If you raise your hand and give me the correct answer, you will earn one Tracker Ticket. *For younger students, make the questions True/False or multiple choice.*

- Why did God choose Noah to build the ark? (Noah had faith in God and in the Savior God would send someday)
- What happened to every person, land animal, and bird that wasn’t on the ark? (They were

destroyed)

- Immediately after the flood, how many people were alive on the earth? (Eight: Noah, his wife, his three sons Shem, Ham, and Japheth, and their three wives)

Do you know what God told Noah and his sons' families to do? He said, "Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the earth." (Genesis 9:1) Have you heard that command somewhere before? That's what God told Adam and Eve to do! (Lesson 1, Genesis 1:28) There were no other people alive on the earth except Noah's family. It was their job to have children and fill the earth with people again. Noah and his family obeyed God. Noah's sons Shem, Ham, and Japheth and their wives had families. Their families grew and the people began to spread out and live in other places.

Right now, I want you to listen carefully, and you'll find out what happened next!

## Scripture Outline: Genesis 11:1-9

### At first, there is only one language

#### **Read Genesis 11:1**

**Recap:** Did you know that from the time God created the world until after the flood, everyone spoke one language? *Point to the first three pictures on the Bible timeline.* Just think how different that is from today. Have you ever wondered why people speak different languages? Well, the Bible tells us, so let's keep reading.

### The people want to build a city with a tower

#### **Read Genesis 11:2-4**

**Recap:** What did the people want to build? (A city with a tower that would reach to the heavens) What two reasons did they give for building a city and a tower that would reach to the heavens? (To make a name for themselves, and so they would not be scattered all over the earth)

Let's talk about the first reason—the people wanted to make a name for themselves. The people wanted to make their own name great and for everyone to think they were important. But should people want to make their own name great, or should they want to make God's name great? (They should want to make God's name great, not their own)

Now, let's think about examples of how people might do this today. Do you know a friend who wants to be a star athlete, singer, or artist, or they want to have the best grades, or something like that? Maybe you are like that. Why do people want to be the best at something? Most often, it's so that we'll be famous, and people will think we're special. We want our name to be great! That is called pride, and pride is a sin. Instead of just wanting to be better than everyone else at something, we should want to do a really great job telling people about God's greatness and the Good News about Jesus!

Let's talk about the second reason the people wanted to build a city—they didn't want to be scattered around the earth. Did God want people to stay together in a city, or did He want them to spread out and live all over the earth? (He wanted them to live all over the earth)

**Older students:** What would life be like if we hadn't spread all over the earth? *Have students brainstorm; some various problems could be overcrowded housing, pollution, disease, crime, starvation, etc.* Did God know what was best? (Of course!)

**All students:** Now, what about you? Do you want to do what you want instead of what God wants you to do? It could be obeying your parents, getting along with your brothers and sisters, helping someone, or telling someone about Jesus. Sometimes it's hard to do what God wants, but God's way is always better than our own way.

Now let's talk about the tower. Why did the people want the tower to be so tall? (To reach the heavens) What is the only way we can reach heaven? (We must have faith in Jesus to rescue us from our sin and make Him the leader of our lives)

Do you know that many people today think they can get to heaven by doing something other than trusting in Jesus? Is that right? (No) Our Think Right verse explains this. Let's say Ephesians 2:8-9 together. *Recite Ephesians 2:8-9.*

It's clear that the people who were building the city were doing things their way, not God's way. What is it called when we don't do things God's way? (Sin)

What do you think God did? Let's find out.

### **God knows that the people are doing things their way, not His way**

#### **Read Genesis 11:5-6**

**Recap:** God knew that the people weren't doing things His way, and He knew that their sin would only get worse. Do you remember what God's big plan was? (To send Jesus to save people from their sin) Could anything that people did stop God's plan? (No) This is what God did next . . .

### **God confuses their language and scatters them**

#### **Read Genesis 11:7-9**

**Recap:** The first thing God did to the people who were building the city was to confuse their language. God did this so they could not understand each other and, ultimately, they would scatter all over the earth. What did this stop the people from doing? (It stopped them from building the city with the tower) In the end, were things done the people's way or God's way? (God's way)

This reminds me of a very important word: sovereign. Do you know what the word sovereign means? (It means that God has all the power) Even though people may not do things God's way, God still has the power to make His plan happen. What an amazing thought! Our God is awesome!

*Lead Teacher's Note: If anyone asks why God said "us" in verse 7, tell them He is talking about the Trinity: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.*

## **Conclusion**

Wouldn't life be so much better if people lived their lives God's way? If the people back then had done things God's way, maybe we would only have one language today! Now think about this: when the people were building the tower, they were trying to make their own way to heaven. Do you know that people still do that today? Many people think that they can get to heaven by doing good things. Can you name some of the things people think might get them to heaven? *Have students give examples, e.g., saying you are a Christian, baptism, going to church, helping other people, doing more good than bad, trying to obey the Ten Commandments, etc.* Is that right? (No) Can any of these things get you to heaven? (No!) What is our Think Right verse today that tells us we can't get to heaven by doing what we think are good things? *Have students recite Ephesians 2:8-9.*

## **Do Right and Feel Right**

When we do things God's way, we can feel focused on what matters most. Are you doing things your way or God's way?

Or maybe you are sitting here today and know how to become a Christian, but you don't want to make this decision. Maybe you are still trying to be "good" enough to go to heaven. Let's say Ephesians 2:8-9 again. *Have students recite Ephesians 2:8-9.* And let's make sure you understand what having faith in Jesus means. *Share the Gospel with the Wordless Book.* Would anyone like to make the decision to have faith in Jesus today? *Take these students aside or outside your classroom to go through the Believe It or Not booklet to ensure they understand the Gospel. Then lead students, who want to follow Christ, in a prayer to ask Jesus to forgive their sins and make Him the leader of their lives.*

### Talk thru Genesis hand motions:

- **Creation:** bring hands up to form a world
- **Adam and Eve:** one forearm up for each name
- **Sin:** take your two forearms and cross them like an “X”
- **Cain & Abel:** two thumbs up and start a thumb war with yourself
- **Noah obeyed:** take your fist and pound it into your hand
- **A flood with a promise:** bring arms up like a flood and go up until you form a rainbow with your hands
- **The Tower of Babel, Babel, Babel:** create a pointed tower over your head

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

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

1. How many languages did people speak from the time of creation until right after the flood? (One)
2. What are the two reasons that the people wanted to build a city? (To make a name for themselves and so they would not be scattered all over the earth)
3. Whose name should we want to make great? (God’s name)
4. Where did God want people to live? (All over the earth)
5. Why did the people want to build the tower so tall? (To reach the heavens)
6. What is God’s way, the only way, for people to go to heaven? (Have faith/trust in Jesus to save you from your sin and make Him the leader of your life)
7. How did God stop the people from building the city with the tall tower? (He made them speak different languages, so they could not understand each other, and He scattered them all over the earth)
8. Even though the people chose to live their way, did God’s plan still happen? (Yes)
9. What is the special word we learned that means God has all the power? (Sovereign)
10. Will you live God’s way, not your way?

# Lesson 8

## Genesis 12:1-10, 13:1-18

<b>Know Right:</b>	Abram and Lot divide the land.
<b>Think Right:</b>	“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.” Mark 12:30-31 (Top 12)
<b>Do Right:</b>	I will love God and others.
<b>Feel Right:</b>	I can feel loved when I love God and others.

## GET READY!

**In a world obsessed with feelings, it's important for us to remember that “love” isn't just a feeling; it's also a verb – a “doing” word. When we choose to love God and others, we can feel loved. As we read this week's Scripture passage and lesson plan, let's pray that we will find ways to intentionally and genuinely love God and others.**

**Pray:** Pray that parents will understand the value of their children knowing God's Word. Also pray that our students will have a deeper understanding of God's love through this lesson.

**Read:** Genesis 12:1-10, 13:1-18

### **Know Right: Abram and Lot divide the land**

God's plan continued with a man named Abram. God told Abram to leave his country, his people, and his father's home and go to a land He would show him. God also promised Abram that he would be a blessing and he would receive blessings. Because Abram had faith in God, he obeyed and went. He took his wife Sarai and his nephew Lot. When they arrived in this new land called Canaan, there was trouble. Both Abram and Lot had huge herds and flocks, which caused conflict between their herdsmen. The land would not support them both if they lived together, so Abram gave Lot the choice of which land to take. Lot selfishly chose what looked like the better land, and Abram unselfishly took what was left. Abram's unselfishness demonstrated his love for God and for Lot. God blessed Abram by giving all of the land to him and his family forever. This land would one day be called Israel. Abram's example and God's faithfulness encourage us to love God and others.

## GET SET!

### **Lead Teacher's Notes:**

- Please refer to the Children's Ministry Resource Bible: page 18 (Travels of the Patriarchs); page 136 (The Pentateuch: Genesis); page 142 (The Offerings: Pictures of Christ); page 550 (Important Capital Cities); page 1079 (The Promised Messiah); page 1120 (History of Israel: The People); page 1538 (Hall of Faith).
- God's covenant with Abram in Genesis 15 is the focus of next week's lesson. This week, you

should emphasize God's general promise to Abram in Genesis 12:2-3 (below) to set up for next week's lesson. Because of this, we suggest that you read over next week's lesson to help you prepare for this week.

### Creative Ideas for the Bible Lesson:

1. Make an outline of Abram and Lot's bodies on paper. Stick the paper to your wall. As you teach, have students think about words that describe the two. Write the words on their bodies as you teach. At the end of the lesson, ask students if they are more like Abram or Lot.
2. Lay a brown and green sheet next to each other in your classroom. Add texture by creating hills with wadded up newspaper underneath the sheet. Use action figures and plastic sheep to represent Abram and Lot and their families and place them between the two sheets. This should be set up in advance so students will see it as they enter your classroom. Have students guess what the lesson is about before you begin teaching. Then use the props as a tool to teach the lesson.



**GO!**

## Pre-Service Review Game and Worship

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

### Discover Time: Love factor!

**Goal:** To challenge the students to examine how much “love” they have for others.

#### DT Activity: Sand Station

##### Supplies:

- Rope, flags, or cones (to divide the sand)
- Water (one half should be dry and the other half should be damp)
- Small shovels (on the damp side only)
- Additional “really fun” sand tools, shovels, etc. (must be hidden and off to the side)
- Tracker Tickets

**Alternate sand station set-up:** Substitute shovels with tablespoons and several 1 kg (2.2 lbs) containers filled with sand. A table or a bench can support the sand-filled containers.

**Setup instructions:** Divide the sand in half using rope, flags, or cones. One half should be dry and messy, and the other half should be smooth, and the sand should be damp. Or, if your sand is in multiple containers, half of them should have wet sand and half dry.

**Lead Teacher's note:** It is important that you observe whether or not the students show **love** by making generous and unselfish choices. The degree of sharing indicates the “**love factor**” of your class. Also watch for grumbling students. This illustration will be an excellent hook into your classroom lesson.

### Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Divide the class into two teams before arriving at the Sand Station. Explain that each team will need to choose which side of the Sand Station they will use when they get to the Sand Station.
2. When students arrive at the Sand Station, the sand should be divided into two sections.
3. Allow a few moments for the teams to choose their side. You may need to mention that not everyone can be on the side with the damp sand that's easy to work with, so some students will need to show love to others by being willing to use the other side.
4. Once sides have been chosen, inform students that the challenge today is to make the best team sandcastle.
5. The members of the winning team will receive two Tracker Tickets each.
6. Begin the challenge.
7. After a few minutes, unveil the hidden "really fun" sand tools, shovels, etc. and present them to the "dry" team. Also give them water to wet their sand.
8. At the end of DT, award two Tracker Tickets to the team members with the best sandcastle.

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

## Bible Lesson Introduction

**Lead Teachers ~ Connecting the DT to the Lesson:** Today's competition was very exciting! Who won? Do you realize that when I was watching you compete, I was looking for students who showed love to each other? I'm not talking about giving others hugs and kisses. I was looking for students who were open to sharing, having good sportsmanship, looking out for others first while still competing for fun. *Teachers, feel free to give out Tracker Tickets to a student who displayed a high "love factor" during the DT activity.*

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

The Bible tells us to love God and others. This isn't always easy! In today's lesson, we'll discover a person who loved God and others.

**Pray:** Why would a person want to stand up and lead our class in prayer? Because it's an honor to lead our class in prayer! The person praying is like the conductor of an orchestra, allowing us all to pray with one voice.

**Find It:** Is Genesis in the OT or NT? (OT) Let's open our Bibles to the book of Genesis, chapter 12.

**Timeline:** Last week we heard about the Tower of Babel. Can you find the Tower of Babel on the Bible timeline?

### Introduction to the Bible Lesson:

Let's take another look at our Bible timeline to remind us of what we've learned in our study of Genesis.

**Shepherd's note:** *Point to the lessons on the timeline as the students go through the Talk thru Genesis hand motions with the Lead Teacher.*

- **Creation:** bring hands up to form a world
- **Adam and Eve:** one forearm up for each name
- **Sin:** take your two forearms and cross them like an "X"
- **Cain & Abel:** two thumbs up and start a thumb war with yourself
- **Noah obeyed:** take your fist and pound it into your hand
- **A flood with a promise:** bring arms up like a flood and go up until you form a rainbow with your hands
- **The Tower of Babel, Babel, Babel:** create a pointed tower over your head

New this week...

- **Abram said, "Let's Go!":** right hand up with strong pumping movement
- **Divided land:** both forearms up and together tight in front of you, then divide the arms

*Have some fun and race to see who can do the hand motions the fastest!*

The people who lived during this time were the families of Noah's sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth. Their families kept growing. They were the ones who wanted to build the city with the tower. What did God do to stop the people from building the city with the Tower of Babel? (He made them speak different languages and scattered them over all the earth)

Today, we'll talk about a very special man who came from Shem's family. His name was Abram, and he was born hundreds of years after the flood. Here's what happened to Abram when he was 75 years old.

## Scripture Outline: Genesis 12:1-10, 13:1-18

### **God calls Abram**

#### **Read Genesis 12:1**

**Recap:** God told Abram to leave his country, his people, and his father's home and go to a land God would show him. Does this seem like a big deal to you? What if God told you to leave your parent's home, leave almost everyone you know, and go somewhere He'll show you, but you don't know where that place is? Now does it seem like a big deal? Would you be afraid to obey God? I think probably so! Listen to what else God told Abram.

### **God promises Abram that he will be a blessing and that he will receive blessings**

#### **Read Genesis 12:2-3**

**Recap:** God promised to make Abram into a great what? (Nation) What does this mean? It means that Abram would have a family so large that it would become a whole nation! That's pretty big!

And God said that He would bless Abram and make Abram's name what? (Great)

This means that Abram would be special, and many people would know who he was! God told Abram that he would be a blessing to all people on earth! God also said that He would bless the people who blessed Abram, and He would curse the people who cursed him. To sum this all up, God promised Abram that he would be a blessing, and he would receive blessings.

Do you know what a blessing is? (It's a favor or gift from God)

What do you think Abram did?

### **Abram obeys God**

#### ***Paraphrase of Genesis 12:4-10:***

Abram took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, and everything they owned and went to the land God showed them in Canaan. *Point out on your Bible Times map.*

Did Abram obey God? (Yes) The Bible tells us that we love God by obeying His commands. (1 John 5:3) Let's say our Think Right verse again. *Recite Mark 12:30-31.* The first part of the verse says that we should what? (Love God) Did Abram love God? (Yes) What does the second part of the verse say? (Love your neighbor as yourself) Let's see if Abram did that!

### **The land cannot support Abram and Lot**

#### ***Paraphrase of Genesis 13:1-7:***

Remember that Abram took his nephew Lot with him when he left his home. Abram had become rich—he had a lot of silver and gold, servants, sheep, cattle, donkeys, and camels. Lot had a lot of animals, too. They had so many animals that the herdsmen who took care of the animals started to argue over the land. Listen to what Abram said to Lot.

### **Abram lets Lot choose where he wants to live**

#### **Read Genesis 13:8-9**

**Recap:** Abram was unselfish and let Lot choose where he wanted to live. Abram could be unselfish because he trusted God so much. Abram's unselfishness showed that he loved God, and he loved Lot. Which land do you think Lot chose?

### **Lot chooses the best land for himself**

#### **Read Genesis 13:10-12**

**Recap:** Which land did Lot choose for himself? (The land that looked the best to him) Was Lot being selfish or unselfish? (Selfish) People's actions often show what's in their hearts. When Abram allowed Lot to choose, he was demonstrating that he trusted God, not the things he owned, to take care of him.

**Lead Teacher's Note:** *2 Peter 2:7 calls Lot a righteous man who was distressed by the filthy lives of lawless men and tells us that Lot had a saving faith in spite of the selfishness he displayed in this week's lesson.*

What about you? Are you unselfish or are you selfish? *Pause to refer to the Discover Time.* Do you try to get the best for yourself, or do you let others have the best? Is it a sin when you are selfish? (Yes) Can you think of a time when you were selfish? Unselfish? *Allow students to briefly share.*

It seems like Lot took the best land to live in, doesn't it? But remember one thing – Abram loved and obeyed God. When you love and obey God, He always takes care of you. Let's see what happened with Abram and Lot.

### **Lot chooses a land where men are wicked**

#### **Read Genesis 13:13**

**Recap:** Does the land Lot chose seem as good now? (No!) Why? (Because it was full of people who were living a wicked lifestyle) But what about the land where Abram would live? Let's find out some more about it.

### **God will give Abram and his family the land of Canaan**

#### **Read Genesis 13:14-18**

**Recap:** God would give all this land to Abram. This land would one day be called Israel!

## **Conclusion**

Even though it seemed like Lot chose the best land to live in, God promised to give the land of Canaan to Abram and his family. The Bible says that Canaan was a land flowing with milk and honey. It was really good land. Abram loved God and others, and God took care of Abram. Not only that, but eventually Lot lost his land when God destroyed it because the people who lived there were so sinful.

## **Do Right and Feel Right**

When we become selfish and try to get the best for ourselves, we never do. But when we love God and love others, He will give us what is best for us. Will you follow Abram's example by loving God and truly loving others? Let's stop and think about how we can put this lesson into action this week, and how we can "do" right based on what we know and think.

If you really want to love God and love others, the first thing you must do is trust in His Son, Jesus, to forgive your sin and make Him the leader of your life. When you trust in Jesus to save you from your

sin, you become part of God's family! If you've never made the decision to trust in Him, you can do it today. How do you trust in Jesus? I'll show you. *Present the Gospel using the Wordless Book.* Do any of you want to pray and ask Jesus to forgive your sins and make Jesus the leader of your life today? *Take any students to a quiet place, like the hall, to explain salvation using the Wordless Book or the Believe It or Not booklet. Lead any who choose in prayer for salvation.*

### Talk thru Genesis hand motions:

- **Creation:** bring hands up to form a world
- **Adam and Eve:** one forearm up for each name
- **Sin:** take your two forearms and cross them like an "X"
- **Cain & Abel:** two thumbs up and start a thumb war with yourself
- **Noah obeyed:** take your fist and pound it into your hand
- **A flood with a promise:** bring arms up like a flood and go up until you form a rainbow with your hands
- **The Tower of Babel, Babel, Babel:** create a pointed tower over your head
- **Abram said, "Let's Go!":** right hand up with strong pumping movement
- **Divided Land:** both forearms up and together tight in front of you, then divide the arms

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

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

1. What did God tell Abram to do? (Leave his country, his people, and his father's home and go to a land God would show him)
2. What did God promise Abram? (He would be a blessing, and he would receive blessings)
3. Did Abram obey God and go to the land God would show him? (Yes)
4. Why did Abram and Lot need to divide the land? (They had to separate because they had so many animals and their herdsmen were quarreling)
5. Why did Abram allow Lot to choose the land he wanted? (Abram trusted God, and he loved God and Lot)
6. Which land did Lot choose? (The land that looked the best to him)
7. What happened to Abram's land? (God blessed it)
8. What happened to Lot's land? (He lost it when God destroyed it because the people were so sinful)
9. Will you love God and others?

# Lesson 9

## Genesis 15:1-18

<b>Know Right:</b>	God makes a covenant with Abram.
<b>Think Right:</b>	“In my Father’s house there are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you.” John 14:2 (Top 12)
<b>Do Right:</b>	I will trust in God’s promises.
<b>Feel Right:</b>	I can feel excited about God’s promises.

### GET READY!

The word “promise” has lost its significance in our culture because promises are constantly broken. But God is the eternal promise-keeper. We never have to wonder if He will do what He says He will do. We can put our trust in Him and rest in the fact that each one of His promises will absolutely come to pass. Let’s meditate on this as we study the Scripture passage and the lesson plan below.

**Pray:** Pray that your students will depend on God and trust in His promises during all seasons of their lives. Also pray that they will have wisdom to use the verses they have memorized in life situations both now and into the future.

**Read:** Genesis 15:1-18

#### **Know Right: God makes a covenant with Abram**

After Abram arrived in Canaan, God spoke to him in a vision and explained more of His special promise, called a covenant. Even though Abram was old and had no children, God promised him a son that would come from his own body. He also told Abram he would have as many descendants as there are stars in the sky. These descendants would be given the land of Canaan to live in. But, before that, they would be enslaved in a foreign country and mistreated for four hundred years. After that, they would leave that country with great possessions. Just like God promised all of this to Abram, He promises eternal life to those of us who trust in His Son, Jesus, to save us from our sin. Abram believed what God promised him. May we always trust in God’s promises.

### GET SET!

#### **Lead Teacher’s Notes:**

- Include your DT Leader or Shepherd by pre-assigning them a part in the lesson; have them read in a specific voice, hold up certain props, or draw as needed.
- Take a look at this interesting article that discusses the number of stars in the heavens: <https://answersingenesis.org/astronomy/stars/counting-the-stars/>
- Visitor Tip: If you have classroom Bibles available for visitors, mark the book and chapter with a bookmark. This will eliminate the feeling of “not knowing” as students are opening their Bibles.
- Many of our students have had promises made to them and then broken. This is a great opportunity to show them how even though in today’s culture the concept of “promise” is taken very lightly, God always keeps His promises.

- For New Testament insight into Abraham, read Romans 4:1-25, Galatians 3:1-25, Hebrews 6:13-20, and Hebrews 11:8-12.

### **Creative Ideas for the Bible Lesson:**

1. Develop a “comic strip” on your whiteboard and have your DT Leader or Shepherd draw pictures as you teach. Communicate with your artist in advance so they can mentally prepare and/or draw portions of the pictures in advance.
2. As you teach, have students stand, ring a bell, or jump up every time you say the word “promise.”

**GO!**

## **Pre-Service Review Game and Worship**

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

## **Discover Time: Star search scavenger hunt!**

**Goal:** To teach students the meaning of a **promise**.

### **DT Activity: Play-Doh Station**

#### **Supplies:**

- Play-Doh, modelling clay, clay soil, or plasticine
- Tracker Tickets

#### **Instructions for the DT Leader:**

1. Challenge students to make as many stars out Play-Doh/ clay/ plasticine as they can in the time allowed.
2. Make a **promise** that the person who makes the most stars will win ten Tracker Tickets when the time is up.
3. Throughout the activity, emphasize the word “**promise**”.
4. At the end of the activity, have students count the stars and give ten Tracker Tickets to the winner – just like you **promised!**
5. As you leave your DT, ask students if they can guess why they made so many stars today.

**Alternative:** Provide students (individually or in pairs) with or construction/ manilla papers and a pair of scissors to make cut-out stars.

## **Bible Lesson Introduction**

### **Lead Teachers ~ Connecting the DT to the Lesson:**

**LEGO Station:** How many LEGO stars did you all make? Who won the competition?

*Ask the winner:* Did \_\_\_\_\_ (*insert DT Leader’s name*) give you Tracker Tickets like they promised? How many stars do you think there are in the universe? Here is a mystery/riddle: What do the words “star” and “promise” have in common? You’re about to find out in our Bible lesson!

**All other stations:** Did you enjoy your cookies? I’m sure glad your DT Leader kept their promise! How many stars did you find? How many stars do you think there are in the universe? Here is a mystery/riddle: What do the words “star” and “promise” have in common? You’re about to find out in our Bible lesson!

**Pray:** Do you know that the God of the universe actually hears us when we pray? It’s amazing that we can start our class by talking to God, before we listen to Him as we study His Word. Who would like to lead our class in prayer today?

**Find It:** Today we are going to study chapter 15 in the book of Genesis. Is Genesis in the OT or the NT? (OT) Can anyone recite the books of the Old Testament?

**Timeline:** Where is Genesis on our timeline? Let's review our Talk thru Genesis hand motions up through this lesson.

- **Creation:** bring hands up to form a world
- **Adam and Eve:** one forearm up for each name
- **Sin:** take your two forearms and cross them like an "X"
- **Cain & Abel:** two thumbs up and start a thumb war with yourself
- **Noah obeyed:** take your fist and pound it into your hand
- **A flood with a promise:** bring arms up like a flood and go up until you form a rainbow with your hands
- **The Tower of Babel, Babel, Babel:** create a pointed tower over your head
- **Abram said, "Let's Go!":** right hand up with strong pumping movement
- **Divided Land:** both forearms up and together tight in front of you, then divide the arms.

### **Introduction to the Bible Lesson:**

*Use the Bible timeline to reinforce the big picture of Genesis.*

Let's think back to the people we've been learning about since we began this quarter. I want you to fill in the blanks for me. If you give me the correct answer, you'll get one Tracker Ticket.

1. The first man God created was named \_\_\_\_\_. (Adam)
2. Adam and Eve's first two sons were named \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. (Cain and Abel)
3. Cain killed Abel, so God made Cain leave his home. After that, Adam and Eve had a son named \_\_\_\_\_. (Seth)
4. The man who built the ark came from Seth's family. His name was \_\_\_\_\_. (Noah)
5. Noah's three sons were named \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_. (Shem, Ham, and Japheth)
6. The man we learned about last week came from Shem's family. God told him to leave his country, his people, and his father's household and go to a place God would show him. His name was \_\_\_\_\_. (Abram)
7. Can you remember the promise God made to Abram last week? (He would be a blessing, and he would receive blessings)
8. What is a blessing? (A favor or gift from God)

We're about to take a closer look at the very special promise God made to Abram. After Abram and Lot divided the land, there was a war. The enemy soldiers took Lot and his family captive, and Abram bravely rescued them.

## **Scripture Outline: Genesis 15:1-18**

### **God makes a special promise to Abram**

#### **Read Genesis 15:1-3**

**Recap:** Wow, could you imagine God saying, "I am your shield, your very great reward"? Even though God said this to Abram, Abram wasn't very patient. Because he had no children, Abram thought that his servant's son would be his heir. An heir is a person who gets your money and the things you own when you die.

#### **Read Genesis 15:4-5**

**Recap:** This promise that God made with Abram was very special. It is called a covenant. What did God promise Abram? (He would have a son) How many people would be born into Abram's family? (As many as there are stars in the sky)

Did you know that astronomers estimate that there are over 100 billion stars in our galaxy alone? (*Side note: Who created all these stars? Gen. 1:1*) How could any person ever count all the stars in the

heavens? What promise was God making to Abram? That even though Abram was more than 75 years old and had no children yet, his family would be huge! Do you think Abram believed God? Let's find out.

### **Abram believes God**

#### **Read Genesis 15:6**

**Recap:** Abram did believe God! What does it mean when it says God credited Abram with righteousness? It means that Abram was right before God – his sins were forgiven – because he had faith in God and the Savior that God would send someday!

But if Abram's family would be so huge, where would they live? Guess what else God promised Abram?

### **God also promises to give the land of Canaan to Abram and his family**

#### **Read Genesis 15:7**

**Recap:** God promised to give the land of Canaan to Abram and his family.

***Lead Teacher's note:** The rest of the lesson is geared to 3rd grade and up because of its depth. K-2nd grade should go to the conclusion and then review the Gospel.*

But Abram had a question.

### **Abram wants to be sure that he will really get the land**

#### **Read Genesis 15:8**

**Recap:** What did Abram ask God? (How can I really know I'll get the land?) Abram may have thought, "Ok, you brought me out of Ur so that my family would live in this land, but what if I'm not able to get the land?" So, God gave Abram a sign. Do you want to know what the sign was? Let's find out.

### **God tells Abram what will happen in the future**

#### **Read Genesis 15:9-11**

**Recap:** This seems weird, doesn't it? We'll figure out why Abram did this in a minute. Let's keep reading.

#### **Read Genesis 15:12-16**

**Recap:** God told Abram what would happen to his huge family in the future. Can anyone figure out what God was talking about? Do you remember when the Israelites became enslaved in Egypt? Then God sent Moses to lead them out through the Red Sea. Finally, after 40 years of wandering in the desert, Joshua led them into Canaan. That's what God told Abram about.

Just think, what if God told you what would happen to your family many, many years from now? Wouldn't that be awesome to know?

But then God did something else. Remember, Abram wanted to know how he could be sure that he and his family would get the land. Have you ever made a promise with someone, and you shook hands on it? *Demonstrate if necessary.* Or when your parents buy something and they use a check or a credit card, they sign their names to show that they promise the company will get their money?

Well, way back in Abram's time, people agreed to keep their promises in a different way. They cut animals in two and the people making the promise to each other would walk through the center of the dead animal halves. They were saying something like this, "If I don't keep my promise, may I be cut in two like these animals!" It showed that they were really serious about their promise, and it sealed the deal. That's why God told Abram to bring the animals and cut them in half. But listen to how God showed Abram that He would keep His promise.

### **God guarantees His promise**

#### **Read Genesis 15:17-18**

**Recap:** The smoking firepot with the blazing torch was a symbol for God. It showed that God was walking through the dead animal halves alone. God was saying something like this: "Abram, this won't be up to you to get the land for your family. I will do it for you."

## Conclusion

God would keep His promise no matter what. And it's a good thing, because next week, we'll learn about something Abram did that he shouldn't have.

## Do Right and Feel Right

What does this mean for us? It means something pretty important. What has God promised to give us when we trust in Jesus to forgive our sins? (To be part of His family and have eternal life with Him; John 14:2) Let's make sure we all understand what it means to trust in Jesus to forgive our sins. *Explain the Gospel through the Wordless Book. Take any students aside or to the hall to explain salvation using the Wordless Book or the Believe It or Not booklet. Lead any who choose in prayer for salvation.* Now, after we trust in Jesus, do we have to go out and do more stuff to get our eternal life? (No!) God has promised it to us, and He'll give it to us just like He promised! How does God let us know that we have eternal life? He gives us His Holy Spirit to seal the pact! (Ephesians 1:13) Let's say our Think Right verse again. *Recite John 14:2.* Will you trust in God's promise? Do you feel excited about your eternal life in heaven? You should!

*As a fun review, have two students come to the front of the class and see who can accurately do the Talk thru Genesis hand motions the fastest.*

- **Creation:** bring hands up to form a world
- **Adam and Eve:** one forearm up for each name
- **Sin:** take your two forearms and cross them like an "X"
- **Cain & Abel:** two thumbs up and start a thumb war with yourself
- **Noah obeyed:** take your fist and pound it into your hand
- **A flood with a promise:** bring arms up like a flood and go up until you form a rainbow with your hands
- **The Tower of Babel, Babel, Babel:** create a pointed tower over your head
- **Abram said, "Let's Go!":** right hand up with strong pumping movement
- **Divided Land:** both forearms up and together tight in front of you, then divide the arms
- **God's Covenant:** take fingers and create sparkling stars over your head

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

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

1. What was Abram's problem? (He didn't have children)
2. What did God promise to give Abram? (A son)
3. How many people would be in Abram's family? (As many as there are stars in the sky)
4. Did Abram believe God? (Yes)
5. Where would Abram's huge family live? (In the land of Canaan that God would give them)
6. Will you trust in God's promise of eternal life for everyone who accepts Jesus as their Savior?

### For younger students:

Ask Wordless Book review questions.

### For older students:

7. What did God tell Abram would happen to his family in the future? (They would be enslaved in Egypt, and after that, they would finally live in Canaan)
8. Did Abram's family end up enslaved in Egypt? (Yes)
9. How did God show Abram He would keep His promise no matter what? (God walked through the middle of the dead animals alone)

# Lesson 10

## Genesis 16:1 – 18:15

<b>Know Right:</b>	Abraham and Hagar have Ishmael.
<b>Think Right:</b>	“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight.” Proverbs 3:5-6 (Top 12)
<b>Do Right:</b>	I will patiently depend on God for everything.
<b>Feel Right:</b>	I can feel peaceful when I patiently depend on God for everything.

### GET READY!

How do you respond when God’s answer to your prayer request is “wait”? Do you have a sense of peace knowing He is orchestrating things behind the scenes for your good and for His glory, or are you tempted to take matters into your own hands? It is so comforting to remember that God is in control, and He can be trusted at all times and in all situations. Consider your own life – can you think of a time when God said “wait”, and later you were able to see that it was because He was busy making things beautiful? He is always taking care of us! This week, let’s prepare to serve with peace, knowing that God is doing beautiful work for our good as we patiently depend on Him.

**Pray:** Pray that your students will be able to patiently depend on God through the good and difficult times in their lives.

**Read:** Genesis 16:1 – 18:15

#### **Know Right: Abraham and Hagar have Ishmael**

Abram was now 85 years old and still had no children. Instead of patiently depending on God to keep His promise, Sarai convinced Abram to have a son through her Egyptian maidservant, Hagar. Hagar gave birth to Abram’s son; he was named Ishmael. As soon as Hagar was pregnant, conflict erupted between her and Sarai. This conflict was a consequence of Abram and Sarai not patiently depending on God. God told Abram that Ishmael was not the son He had promised. Because of this, we learn to patiently depend on God for everything.

### GET SET!

#### **Lead Teacher’s Notes:**

- Students often get frustrated when God does not answer their prayer requests immediately. Does this mean that God isn’t powerful enough, or that He doesn’t care, or that He is mad? Help students understand that God knows the past, present, and future, and often when He says “wait”, He is healing, teaching, and molding us to become more like Him.
- This is a long lesson; edit out items depending on age level and paraphrase more verses as needed.
- Please refer to the Children’s Ministry Resource Bible: page 664 (Children Learn About Angels); page 1120 (History of Israel: The Abrahamic Covenant).
- This is a two-part lesson. Read both lessons (this week and next week) in advance so you can

understand how they flow together.

- Fast food, fast internet, I want it *now*...this is the culture we live in. How does this relate to our lesson today? What is God teaching us? What will God teach your students this week about His perfect timing?

### **Creative Ideas for the Bible Lesson:**

Draw stick people on brown paper lunch bags or use stick puppets to represent each person listed below. As you teach, pull props out of the bag that go along with each character. Ideas for props:

- Abram: clock, wedding prop, "Happy Birthday!" sign
- Sarai: sign that says "Wait," frowny face
- Hagar: wedding prop, frowny face, tissues
- Ishmael: sign that says "It's a boy!"
- Angel: flashlight
- Abraham and Sarah: nametags

# GO!

## **Pre-Service Review Game and Worship**

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

### **Discover Time: What's the rush?**

**Goal:** To teach students the importance of **patience**.

#### **DT Activity: Box Station**

##### **Supplies:**

- Boxes
- Tracker Tickets

##### **Instructions for the DT Leader:**

1. Divide students into two teams.
2. Challenge the teams to **patiently** build the tallest tower with boxes. If students rush, the towers will fall.
3. Encourage students throughout the DT to have **patience** as they build their towers.
4. When time is up, award the winning team members three Tracker Tickets each.

**Alternate idea:** Divide class into teams of four students. Each team will need to stack small blocks, cards, or Jenga blocks to create the tallest tower.

## **Bible Lesson Introduction**

**Lead Teachers ~ Connecting the DT to the Lesson:** Were you in a rush during your Discover Time today? Did you rush because you wanted to win a prize? In the world we live in today, it seems like we are always in a rush, doesn't it? We want things done right now, and we want it our way! We want to win, we want to be successful...but what happens when God says "Slow down...be **patient**...depend on Me"? Is this hard? In today's Bible lesson, we will learn about several people who needed to slow down, be patient, and depend on God.

*Note: If your DT was in the Mission Station, talk about how missionary kids have to patiently depend on God every day.*

**Pray:** Encourage one of your students to lead your class in prayer. Encourage them to speak loud enough so the whole class can hear and to pray from their heart, remembering that God is really present with them, just as much as if they could physically see Him.

**Find It:** We are still in the book of Genesis. Is Genesis in the OT or NT? (OT) Open your Bible to Genesis, chapter 16.

**Timeline:** On the count of three, everyone point to Genesis on the timeline. 1, 2, 3! Let's review our Talk thru Genesis hand motions up to this point.

- **Creation:** bring hands up to form a world
- **Adam and Eve:** one forearm up for each name
- **Sin:** take your two forearms and cross them like an "X"
- **Cain & Abel:** two thumbs up and start a thumb war with yourself
- **Noah obeyed:** take your fist and pound it into your hand
- **A flood with a promise:** bring arms up like a flood and go up until you form a rainbow with your hands
- **The Tower of Babel, Babel, Babel:** create a pointed tower over your head
- **Abram said, "Let's Go!":** right hand up with strong pumping movement
- **Divided Land:** both forearms up and together tight in front of you, then divide the arms
- **God's Covenant:** take fingers and create sparkling stars over your head

### Introduction to the Bible Lesson:

*Optional: award correct answers with one Tracker Ticket.*

Let's think back to what we've learned about Abram over the last few weeks.

- How old was Abram when God told him to leave his home and go to Canaan? (75 years old; his wife, Sarai, was 65 years old)
- Did they have any children? (No)
- What did God promise Abram about having a family? (He would have a son and a huge family)
- How many people would be in Abram's future family? (As many as there are stars in the sky)

Now we'll fast-forward ten whole years and take a look at what was happening with Abram, who was now 85 years old, and Sarai, who was now 75 years old! God had promised Abram that he would have a son but think about how old he and Sarai were. Do people that old have babies? (No!) People at that age are usually grandparents or even great-grandparents. Would Abram and Sarai depend on God? How would God keep His promise? Are you ready to find out?

## Scripture Outline: Genesis 16:1 – 18:15

### Sarai convinces Abram to have a child with Hagar

#### **Paraphrase of Genesis 16:1-4:**

God promised to give Abram a son, but it hadn't happened yet. They waited, and waited, and waited....

Unfortunately, Abram and Sarai didn't wait patiently enough, and they decided to have a son their own way. Sarai told Abram to have a baby with her maidservant, Hagar. Instead of depending on God, Abram listened to Sarai. Should Abram have listened to Sarai? (No) Should he and Sarai try to have a son their own way instead of patiently depending on God? (No)

Do you ever rush God, rather than waiting for Him? Maybe you don't have a friend at school and instead of waiting for God's timing, you quickly choose a friend who encourages you to do what is wrong, instead of what is right. This is what Abram and Sarai did. They were not patient, and they didn't trust God.

### **Sarai mistreats Hagar**

#### **Read Genesis 16:5-6**

**Recap:** As soon as Hagar found out she would have a baby, she began to hate Sarai. This caused Sarai to mistreat Hagar, and Hagar ran away.

Could this really happen? Sarai caused this problem, and now she is angry with the results of her own sin. When you sin, it seems like it grows, and it causes additional sin. There are always consequences to sin. Some consequences will take place right away and others could take place at a later time.

### **Gospel**

When a person's sins haven't been forgiven, the ultimate consequence is that they cannot have a personal relationship with God. *Insert Wordless Book/Gospel.*

Let's keep reading and find out what happened with Hagar.

### **Hagar knows that God cares**

#### **Read Genesis 16:7-16**

**Recap:** Hagar tried to run away, but God's angel told her to go back and do what Sarai told her. Our God knows and cares for His people. It wasn't by accident He sent an angel. He did it because He cared for Hagar.

**Lead Teacher's note:** Highlight verse 13, "You are a God who sees me..."

Hagar went back, but there were more problems ahead. God's angel told Hagar that her son would be a troublemaker!

Once again, you can see that when we try to rush and live our own way instead of patiently depending on God, there are consequences.

Hagar did have a son, and his name was \_\_\_\_\_. (Ishmael)

Abram was 86 years old at that time. Is this the end of the lesson, or did God continue to work in their lives even though they did things their own way?

### **God explains more about His promise to Abram**

#### **Paraphrase of Genesis 17:1-8:**

Thirteen years passed....

When Abram was 99 and Sarai was 89, God spoke to him again. God reminded Abram of the promise He had made to give him a huge family. God also gave Abram a new name. Can you guess what it was? (Abraham!) Let's find out what else God said to Abraham.

*Due to content, we will skip Genesis 17:9-14.*

### **Name changes and more...**

#### **Read Genesis 17:15-16**

**Recap:** God also gave Sarai a new name. What was it? (Sarah!) God also told Abraham that he and Sarah would have a son.

If you were a hundred years old and someone told you that you were going to have a baby, what would you do?

#### **Read Genesis 17:17**

**Recap:** Abraham laughed! Would you have laughed?

#### **Read Genesis 17:18-22**

**Recap:** What name did God tell Abraham to name his and Sara's first son? (Isaac) Many nations and

kings would come from this son. God had a plan; the key was that Abraham and Sarah had to do things God's way – not their way.

We can really learn from this. God is in control of all things, and we need to remember to patiently depend on Him, even when we don't understand His plan.

Abraham wanted God to bless his son Ishmael. God promised He would, but He told Abraham that His special promise was for Isaac. Even though Abraham had sinned by having a son with Hagar, Abraham ultimately believed God and depended on Him. (Hebrews 11:11-12)

*Due to content, we will skip Genesis 17:23-27.*

### **The Lord appeared to Abraham**

#### ***Paraphrase of Genesis 18:1-5:***

While Abraham was busy near his tent, the Lord appeared to him. Abraham was very careful to be attentive during this important visit. Let's find out what happened.

#### **Read Genesis 18:6-15**

**Recap:** Sarah laughed because she thought it was impossible for her to have a baby since she was so old. But the Lord said to Abraham, "Is anything too hard for the Lord? I will return to you at the appointed time next year and Sarah will have a son." Wow, nothing is impossible for God!

## **Conclusion**

What will happen? Will Sarah have a baby at age 90? Is that even possible? Come back next week, and we will find out.

## **Do Right and Feel Right**

Let's think about this lesson – what should we do with what we learned today?

Number One: We shouldn't worry about how God will do something that seems impossible. We should think about a verse like Proverbs 3:5-6 and trust that God is powerful enough to do whatever He says He'll do!

Number Two: We shouldn't sin like Abraham and Sarah did by rushing to make something happen. It was wrong for Abraham to have a son with Hagar because it showed that they did not trust God's plan.

What would be an example of this for someone your age? What about when someone is mean to you? Do you do something mean back, or do you patiently depend on God to help you with the problem? Does this mean you should let people pick on you? No, but you can calmly tell an adult or teacher about the situation, pray for that person, and patiently depend on God to help you.

What about if you need to get a good grade on a test? Do you study hard and ask God to help you do your best, or do you cheat to get a good grade?

What about when you are tempted to lie about something, so you get things your way? Do you lie, or do you tell the truth and ask God to help you? Lying is often a shortcut to getting your way quickly, instead of patiently depending on God.

Number Three: We should do what God tells us to do. We should read our Bible and obey it, pray for God to lead us, talk to other strong Christians for wise counsel, and wait on God to do what only He can do. Doing these things will help us feel peaceful when we patiently depend on God for everything!

If you are not a Christian, depending on God begins when you trust in Jesus to rescue you from the consequence of your sin and depend on Him to be the leader of your life. Let's go through the Wordless Book to make sure we all understand what it means to have your sins forgiven. *Take any students who haven't made this decision aside or to the hall to explain salvation using the Wordless Book or the Believe It or Not booklet. Lead those who choose in a prayer for salvation.*

### Talk thru Genesis hand motions:

- **Creation:** bring hands up to form a world
- **Adam and Eve:** one forearm up for each name
- **Sin:** take your two forearms and cross them like an "X"
- **Cain & Abel:** two thumbs up and start a thumb war with yourself
- **Noah obeyed:** take your fist and pound it into your hand
- **A flood with a promise:** bring arms up like a flood and go up until you form a rainbow with your hands
- **The Tower of Babel, Babel, Babel:** create a pointed tower over your head
- **Abram said, "Let's Go!":** right hand up with strong pumping movement
- **Divided Land:** both forearms up and together tight in front of you, then divide the arms
- **God's Covenant:** take fingers and create sparkling stars over your head

*Two new hand motions will be added next week.*

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

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

1. What did Sarai convince Abram to do? (Have a son with her maidservant, Hagar)
2. What was Abram and Hagar's son named? (Ishmael)
3. Was Ishmael the son God promised to Abram? (No)
4. What did God change Abram and Sarai's names to? (Abraham and Sarah)
5. Whom did God say would have Abraham's promised son? (Sarah)
6. What did Abraham do when he heard Sarah was going to have a baby? (Laughed)
7. What did Sarah do when she heard she was going to have a baby? (Laughed)
8. Do you really believe God can do anything?
9. On a scale of 1 to 10, how good are you at patiently waiting for God's perfect timing?

# Lesson 11

## Genesis 21:1-21

<b>Know Right:</b>	Abraham and Sarah have Isaac.
<b>Think Right:</b>	“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight.” Proverbs 3:5-6 (Top 12)
<b>Do Right:</b>	I will patiently depend on God for everything.
<b>Feel Right:</b>	I can feel peaceful when I patiently depend on God for everything.

### GET READY!

**Last week we began to learn about how we can patiently depend on God for everything. Abraham and Sarah chose to do things their way, and the consequences were painful. However, despite their lack of trust, God chose to keep His promises. As we study this week’s lesson, let’s pause to praise God for His faithfulness and goodness!**

**Pray:** Pray that your children will have open hearts and minds this week. Pray specifically for children who come from homes in crisis.

**Read:** Genesis 21:1-21

#### **Know Right: Abraham and Sarah have Isaac**

God changed their names to Abraham and Sarah, and when Abraham was 100 years old and Sarah was 90, she gave birth to a son named Isaac. The conflict between Hagar and Sarah escalated, and Abraham had to send Hagar and his beloved Ishmael away—another tragic consequence of not patiently depending on God. In spite of Abraham and Sarah’s impatience, God kept His promise and continued His plan to bring Jesus to save us from our sin. The bittersweet saga of Abraham’s family begs us to patiently depend on God for everything.

### GET SET!

#### **Lead Teacher’s Notes:**

- This is part two of a two-part lesson. Read the Scripture passage from last week to see how the lessons connect.
- God’s timing, not my timing – what is God teaching you through these lessons?

#### **Creative Ideas for the Bible Lesson:**

1. Before students enter the classroom, place a baby doll in a small crib, dim the lights, and have soft baby music playing. Have students be super quiet as they enter and as you teach the lesson about the baby being born. Invite actors to play the role of Sarah, Abraham, Ishmael, and Hagar.
2. Create paper bag people or use stick puppets to represent Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Hagar, and Ishmael.

# GO!

## Pre-Service Review Game and Worship

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

### Discover Time: Proverbs 3:5-6 challenge!

**Goal:** To teach students **Proverbs 3:5-6**.

#### DT Activity: Art Station

##### Supplies:

- One to three large banners on roll paper or construction/ manilla paper (depending on class size):
  1. "I Need to..."
  2. "Trust in the Lord"
  3. "**Proverbs 3:5-6**"
- Paint and paint brushes (for all students)
- Water cups
- Paper fans (one per student)
- Song "Trust in the Lord" by Rob Biagi

##### Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Students will work together for the first ten minutes of Discover Time to paint the banners, while listening to the song, "Trust in the Lord".
2. For the last five minutes, have students patiently use paper fans to help their banners dry.
3. Hang banners when they are dry (this could be during the week depending how wet the paint is).

## Bible Lesson Introduction

**Lead Teachers ~ Connecting the DT to the Lesson:** Who can recite Proverbs 3:5-6? Is this verse easy or hard to follow? How would this verse connect with Abraham and Sarah? *Make students think!*

**Pray:** *Before a student opens up in prayer, ask students this question: If Jesus physically walked through our door today, what would you tell Him? Now, what if I told you to find a spokesperson for the class to speak with Jesus as He walked in, who would you pick? Each week, we pray as a class. I will ask who would like to pray. If you would like to lead the class in prayer, raise your hand. Our goal is that everyone has the opportunity to lead our class in prayer. Encourage one of your students to lead your class in prayer.*

**Find It:** Today we are in the book of Genesis, chapter 21. Is Genesis in the OT or the NT? (OT)

**Timeline:** Can anyone find where we left off on the timeline? Let's review our Talk thru Genesis hand motions up to this point.

- **Creation:** bring hands up to form a world
- **Adam and Eve:** one forearm up for each name
- **Sin:** take your two forearms and cross them like an "X"
- **Cain & Abel:** two thumbs up and start a thumb war with yourself
- **Noah obeyed:** take your fist and pound it into your hand
- **A flood with a promise:** bring arms up like a flood and go up until you form a rainbow with your hands
- **The Tower of Babel, Babel, Babel:** create a pointed tower over your head

- **Abram said, “Let’s Go!”:** right hand up with strong pumping movement
- **Divided Land:** both forearms up and together tight in front of you, then divide the arms
- **God’s Covenant:** take fingers and create sparkling stars over your head

### **Introduction to the Bible Lesson:**

*Optional: award correct answers with one Tracker Ticket.*

Let’s think back to what we’ve learned about Abraham over the last few weeks.

- Who was Abraham’s wife? (Sarah)
- Did Abraham and Sarah have any children? (No)
- What did God promise Abraham about having a family? (He would have a son and a huge family)
- How many people would be in Abraham’s future family? (As many as there are stars in the sky!)

God had promised Abraham he would have a son but think about how old he and Sarah were! Do people that age have babies? (No!) People that age are usually grandparents or even great-grandparents! Would Abraham and Sarah depend on God? How would God keep His promise? Are you ready to find out?

## **Scripture Outline: Genesis 21:1-21**

### **God keeps His promise**

#### **Read Genesis 21:1-2**

**Recap:** Can you imagine? Abraham was 100 years old, and Sarah was 90 years old, and they had a baby, just like God had promised! That would be like your great, great grandma and grandpa having a baby! God kept His promise! This was an amazing miracle!

This reminds me of something we learned about God a few weeks ago, when we were talking about the Tower of Babel. Do you remember what the word “sovereign” means? (God has all the power) Even though people may not do things God’s way, God still has the power to make His plan happen in His perfect time.

But what would they name this little boy?

#### **Read Genesis 21:3 and 5** *(Due to content we will skip verse 4)*

**Recap:** They named him Isaac. Do you know what the name Isaac means? Let’s read on.

#### **Read Genesis 21:6**

**Recap:** Isaac means laughter!

*Introduce the new Talk thru Genesis hand motion:*

**Isaac is born, ha, ha, ha:** rock baby in your arms

But, because Abraham and Sarah had not depended on God, there was still trouble ahead for Abraham’s family. Let’s find out what the trouble was.

*Due to content, we will skip Genesis 21:7.*

### **Ishmael picks on Isaac**

#### **Read Genesis 21:8-11**

**Recap:** Ishmael was picking on Isaac, so Sarah asked Abraham to send Hagar and Ishmael away. This upset Abraham greatly. What do you think happened? Let’s keep reading.

### **Hagar and Ishmael have to leave Abraham**

#### **Read Genesis 21:12-13**

**Recap:** Do you realize this “nation” – the family of Ishmael – is still living today? Most of them follow a false religion called Islam. Followers of Islam are called Muslims. They claim to believe in the God of the Bible, but instead of studying the Bible, they study a book called the Quran that teaches many false things about God and denies that Jesus is the Savior of the world.

## Read Genesis 21:14-21

**Recap:** What do you think? Did God take good care of Hagar and Ishmael?

Did God keep His promises even though Abraham and Sarah sinned and made a mess of things? (Yes) God is sovereign. Even though Abraham and Sarah didn't do everything the way they should have, God still worked out His plan in their lives. Does anyone know what that plan was?

## Conclusion

*Use the Bible timeline to talk through this genealogy. You can also draw a family tree with smiley faces on a whiteboard.*

God's plan went like this: Abraham had Isaac. Isaac had Jacob. Jacob had twelve sons that became the twelve tribes of Israel. One of these sons was named Judah. King David came from Judah's family. Do you know who came from King David's family? (Jesus!) God's plan was to send Jesus to save us from our sin!

Even though it took thousands of years and everyone along the way did things they shouldn't have done, God still worked out His plan to send us a Savior who could live a perfect life and die on the cross to rescue us from the consequence of our sin. He also took good care of all of those people who had faith in Him.

## Do Right and Feel Right

What about you? If someone looked at your life, would they say that you depend on and trust in God? Or do you panic when things don't go your way or when God says "no" or "wait"? Remember, when we ask God for something, He answers with "yes," "no," or "wait," and we need to depend on Him to answer in the way that is best for us. How can others see that Proverbs 3:5-6 is what you truly believe?

### Talk thru Genesis hand motions:

- **Creation:** bring hands up to form a world
- **Adam and Eve:** one forearm up for each name
- **Sin:** take your two forearms and cross them like an "X"
- **Cain & Abel:** two thumbs up and start a thumb war with yourself
- **Noah obeyed:** take your fist and pound it into your hand
- **A flood with a promise:** bring arms up like a flood and go up until you form a rainbow with your hands
- **The Tower of Babel, Babel, Babel:** create a pointed tower over your head
- **Abram said, "Let's Go!":** right hand up with strong pumping movement
- **Divided Land:** both forearms up and together tight in front of you, then divide the arms
- **God's Covenant:** take fingers and create sparkling stars over your head
- **Isaac is born, ha, ha, ha:** rock baby in your arms
- **Hagar, Ishmael:** wipe a tear from each eye

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

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

1. How old were Abraham and Sarah when they had a son? (Abraham was 100, and Sarah was 90)
2. What was Abraham and Sarah's son named? (Isaac)
3. What does the name Isaac mean? (Laughter)
4. What did Hagar and Ishmael have to do? (They had to leave Abraham)
5. Who took care of Hagar and Ishmael after they left Abraham? (God took care of them)
6. Will you patiently depend on God for everything?

# Lesson 12

## Review Day

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

## GET READY!

**This quarter, your labor in the Lord was not in vain. Every hour you invested in prayer, studying the lesson, and teaching or assisting in the classroom will make an eternal difference in the lives of your students. Be encouraged, God is at work, and He will help your students recall these lessons for years to come.**

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

**Read:** Review the lessons from this quarter.

### **Know Right: Reviewing what we’ve learned**

As we come to the end of the quarter, we take a day to remember and celebrate all that God has taught us through the study of His Word. Next quarter we will return to the New Testament to learn how God’s promise of a Savior came true. God bless you for humbly serving Him.

## GET SET!

### **Lead Teacher's Notes:**

- Review Day can be overwhelming for visitors. The following tips will help them to feel included in the review activity:
  - Give them a specific item to draw on their portion of the timeline.
  - Pair a visitor with a student with strong leadership skills and/or put them in a group with two other students, so their group has three in it.
  - Do not expect the visitor to speak about the picture; the teacher or partner should explain.
- Hang timelines so parents can view them as they pick up students. Or invite parents into your classroom to see the finished timelines.

## GO!

### **Pre-Service Review Game and Worship**

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

### **Discover Time**

**Note: There will be no Discover Time this week. Worship will be extended to 20 minutes. Review the “Talk thru Genesis” hand motions several times.**

## Review Activity

### Classroom Supplies / Setup:

- Large sheet of roll paper divided into eleven sections like a comic strip; write the lesson titles from this quarter (in order) at the bottom of each section, with the Scripture reference
- Tables (set up to accommodate large roll paper and space for students to stand or sit as they work)
- Crayons
- Thin and thick markers
- Tape
- A copy of the current quarter's syllabus (Cut out the section for each lesson.)
- Optional: for larger classes, cut paper into sections and tape together once complete
- Optional: use individual poster boards for each pair of students instead of large roll paper



### Lead Teacher's Instructions:

1. To begin the review, read the lesson titles in order to the class to reinforce the overview of the quarter. Optional: Write the lesson titles on the whiteboard or draw out a simple timeline of the lessons on the whiteboard.
2. Divide students into pairs. Larger classes may need to have two or three timelines to work on in order to accommodate every student pair. This means that there will be duplicate lesson drawings. Or group students into groups of three instead of two.
3. Assign a lesson square to each set of partners and give them the corresponding section from the syllabus.
4. Make sure all students have a Bible and have it open to their assigned reference. Some students may require assistance for this.
5. Challenge groups to draw a picture of the lesson in their assigned square. They may refer to the Scripture reference in their open Bibles if they have questions.
6. If possible, have students write the Do Right point above their drawing. All leaders should be ready to assist or to write out the Do Right point for any students who need help.
7. Allow the class to work on the project for fifteen minutes.
8. Have students write their names in small letters at the bottom of their section.
9. Then hang the timeline on the wall using tape. If multiple timelines were made, hang one or all of the timelines on the wall.
10. Ask the student pairs to come up one at a time and have them explain what happened in their lesson, as well as what God taught them. This might be difficult for some students; assist and encourage them!
11. Have your class look at the timeline to see the big picture of God's Word and what He has taught us.
12. Finish the review by presenting the Gospel with the Wordless Book.

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

After the review is done, play a review game as parents pick up students.

# On Track Map

## Topical Lesson: The Bible is Truth

<b>Know Right:</b>	The Bible is true because it is God's Word.
<b>Think Right:</b>	"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." 2 Timothy 3:16-17
<b>Do Right:</b>	I will trust the Bible is true because it is God's Word.
<b>Feel Right:</b>	I can feel peaceful when I believe the Bible is true.

### GET READY!

This lesson is designed to help students articulate that what is found in the Bible is truth. When asked why they believe the Bible is true, they need to be confident in its truth and prepared to explain the facts. God orchestrated history beautifully to prove the Bible's authenticity. He knew people would have questions, and He provided amazing ways for us to have confidence that the Bible is His Word and is trustworthy. Spend time this week praising God for His Word, the Bible.

**Pray:** Pray that God will give you a clear understanding of Scripture and that the students in your class will genuinely understand that the Bible is true.

**Read:** 2 Timothy 3:16-17

**Know Right: The Bible is true because it is God's Word**

### GET SET!

#### Lead Teacher's Notes:

- Students often ask, "How do you know the Bible is true?" This lesson addresses that question with evidence they can use tomorrow at school.
- Use props so students can remember each key point. Review often so students can confidently give an answer.
- Encourage students to give answers to people's questions about what they believe in a way that is respectful and loving.

#### Creative Ideas for the Bible Lesson:

1. Use the following props as you teach the lesson: a painting with a set of paints, a history book, and the sound of breaking glass (available on YouTube). As you tell about how the Dead Sea Scrolls were found, have an assistant who is out of sight play the "sound of breaking glass"; the sound will make the actions of the shepherd much more real. *This idea is written into the lesson.*
2. Using construction/manilla paper, have students write a friendly word or phrase with a permanent marker pen. Give them each an eraser to rub what they have written. Just like it is impossible to do away with written words, it is also impossible to change God's Word.

# GO!

## Pre-Service Review Game and Worship

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

### Discover Time: Tower stack!

**Goal:** To give students the opportunity to learn the books of the Bible.

**DT Activity: Location:** large open space

**Supplies:**

- Painter's tape, masking tape, yarn, or chalk dust
- List of the books of the Bible (see Resources Booklet)
- Tracker Tickets

**Setup instructions:** Place two parallel tape/ yarn/ chalk lines on the floor about 12"-18" apart, long enough for all students to stand between.

**Instructions for the DT Leader:**

1. Have all students stand in between the lines.
2. Explain the rules: One at a time, you will call out a book of the Bible. If the book is in the New Testament, all students will jump over the tape to the right, keeping their feet together. If the book is in the Old Testament, all students will jump over the tape to the left. You will confirm the correct answer and then students will jump back to the center before you shout out another book.
3. Get faster and faster at shouting out the names, according to how quickly the students answer.
4. After a few practice rounds, have students who jump to the wrong side sit out.
5. The last student(s) still in the game when time is up will receive five Tracker Tickets.

## Bible Lesson Introduction

**Lead Teachers ~ Connecting the DT to the Lesson:** In our Discover Time activity, you really had to know the book of the NT (and OT)! Do you know there are 66 books that make up the whole Bible? God helped men put the books in a specific order so they point to Jesus and so we can best understand God. Jesus came to earth to show us how we can have a relationship with God after being separated by our sin. When God sent Jesus to rescue us, He did so because He loves us so much. The Bible is God's love letter to us.

**Pray:** Encourage one of your students to lead your class in prayer. Remind them that it is a privilege to pray and to lead our class in prayer. When we pray, the God of the universe hears each person's words. And when we pray together it is a beautiful sound, like a choir of prayers to God.

**Introduction to the Bible Lesson:**

The Bible is not a bunch of fairy tales or made-up stories. The people in the Bible actually lived. Moses, Noah, Peter, Jonah, and Paul were real people just like me and you. The Bible is true! But how can we know that all of it is true?

If someone asked you how you know the Bible is true, what would you say? It's very important that we be able to share with others how we know what is written in the Bible is true. What an interesting subject! God has given us lots of ways to prove that His Word is true. Let's look at five special ones.

## Lesson

### **The Bible was written by many people from different walks of life, different levels of education, different cultures, different nationalities**

Imagine an artist. The artist uses different colored paints, markers, pencils, or crayons to create something beautiful. God used different people to create the Bible.

The Bible is different from all other books. It is the one book that God inspired certain men to write, so all people could know Him. Other books talk about God, but the Bible is God speaking to us through these words. Through the Holy Spirit, God spoke into the thoughts of each writer, so they could communicate the exact message God wanted to deliver. It is the only book that is literally inspired by God. This reminds me of our Think Right verse. **Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17.**

The books that other religions use as scripture were written by just one person. One person can write a book and say whatever they want in it. No one holds them accountable. They are not required to have someone look at their book and make sure it's all true before they can publish it. The people who wrote the Bible were very different from one another. They had all kinds of jobs. They grew up in different ways. They lived in different countries. With so many people writing the Bible - 40 different people in fact - you would expect them to not agree on some things, but they do agree. You would think they would argue with one another. But they don't. With lots of people writing the Bible, we can check them against one another. They agree!

Our first way of knowing the Bible is true is that 40 different people were part of writing it. The second way is ...

### **The Bible hasn't changed**

*Bring ten students to the front of the room to play a whispering game. Some people call this game Telephone or Gossip. You will whisper this sentence in the ear of the first student: "The cat climbed into a box that got shipped across the country." They are not allowed to repeat it if the listener didn't hear it well. The first person will turn to the second person and repeat what they thought they heard. Continue doing this until everyone in the group has received and passed along the message. Share what the last person heard. Be ready for some laughter.*

In just a few minutes, the original sentence changed in big ways. Can you imagine what would happen if we passed along a message much bigger than this for hundreds of years? There's a good possibility that every word would be different!

Let me tell you what happened many years ago, in 1947, before your parents or maybe even your grandparents were born. Something amazing took place that convinced many unbelievers that the Bible is true. In the desert hills outside of Jerusalem, a shepherd left his flock to go find a stray animal. He looked everywhere, including the caves that were carved out of the rocky hillsides. When he got to one of the caves, he wondered if the lost animal had gone inside. So, he threw a stone into the cave thinking it would startle the animal if it was in there. *Pretend to throw a stone into the cave.* Instead, he heard the sound of a pot breaking. *Have someone stationed out of sight play the "sound of breaking glass".* When the shepherd went into the cave to investigate, he found clay pots. Most of them were empty, but some had very, very old scrolls in them.

How does this help us believe the Bible is true? On the scrolls that were found in this cave and caves nearby were written almost all the Scriptures of the Bible. Up to this time, when the Scriptures that were written down on scrolls got old, they copied them and threw away the old scroll. The Scriptures had been copied hundreds of times. How could you be sure that it didn't change from one copy to the next? Remember what happened in our whispering game? These special scrolls were called the Dead Sea

Scrolls. The Dead Sea Scrolls had been written down about the time Jesus walked the earth. That's over 2,000 years before these scrolls were found. What was written on those scrolls matched what we have in our Bibles today. Nothing had been changed. Amazing! That's another way we can know that the Bible is true.

Our first way of knowing the Bible is true is that 40 different people were part of writing it. The second way is that the Bible hasn't changed. *Each time you review the reasons, give the students a chance to say the reasons, rather than you saying them.* Let's look at number three.

### **History that was written by people who weren't Christians supports it**

You might expect people who believe in Jesus to stand up for the Bible being true. But there were people writing down history who were not believers in Jesus who wrote about Jesus and the miracles He did. The things they wrote about Jesus match what is written in the Bible.

Our first way of knowing the Bible is true is that 40 different people were part of writing it. The second way is that it hasn't changed. The third way is that people who weren't Christians wrote about Jesus. Let's look at number four.

### **Prophecy**

This may be a new word to you. A prophecy is what God tells us about the future. The Bible contains around two thousand prophecies that have already come true! No other religious book can say that. God gave a message to a prophet. The prophet told it to the people. Then, years later—maybe hundreds of years or even a thousand years—the exact thing happened. All these things happened just as the prophet said it would happen!

- Can you tell what will happen tomorrow?
- How about a hundred years from now?
- What do you think the chances are of you being right?
- Knowing that so many prophecies have already come true, we can be sure that the ones for the future are also going to happen!

Let's look at just a few of these amazing prophecies. This is an exciting thing to think about. *Refer to the timeline as you teach this portion of the lesson.*

Is Micah in the New or Old Testament? (OT) The Old Testament was written long before Jesus was born.

#### **Read Micah 5:2**

**Recap:** What does that sound like to you? It's talking about Jesus being born in Bethlehem.

#### **Read Isaiah 53:10**

**Recap:** Isaiah is also in the Old Testament. Any idea what this prophecy was about? Jesus would die for our sins but would continue to live and it was God's plan. Isaiah prophesied this 700 years before Jesus was crucified!

#### **Read Isaiah 44:28**

**Recap:** This amazing prophecy in Isaiah 44:28 says that Cyrus would rebuild the temple. What's so amazing about that? Cyrus hadn't even been born yet and Isaiah says the name of who would rebuild the temple—Cyrus. Two hundred years later, Cyrus ordered the temple to be rebuilt!

God is all-knowing. He is the only One who knows what will happen in the future—not fortune cookies, not fortune tellers with a crystal ball, not priests in other religions. None of them have ever had every prophecy come true.

Our first way of knowing the Bible is true is that 40 different people were part of writing it. The second way is that the Bible hasn't changed. The third way is that people who weren't Christians wrote about Jesus. And the fourth way is that many of the prophecies of the Bible have already come true. Let's look at the last way.

### **When you live by it, you are blessed**

Go ahead, test it for yourself! It may not be scientific proof with scrolls, history, and prophecies, but you can judge for yourself if life is better when you follow God's Word. You can judge whether you have confidence that you are living in God's plan. You alone can tell the difference between what your life was like without God and His Word and what it's like with God and His Word. And, at the end of your life, you will know the blessing of spending eternity in heaven. You know the Bible is true when it changes your life.

Let's review. Our first way of knowing the Bible is true is that 40 different people were part of writing it. The second way is that the Bible hasn't changed. The third way is that people who weren't Christians wrote about Jesus. The fourth way is that many of the prophecies of the Bible have already come true. And lastly, we know the Bible is true because it changes our lives.

## **Conclusion**

God provided us with His Word, which tells of His great love for us. Through all kinds of people, God gave His message—His love letter. By reading the Bible, you can learn to love Jesus and discover how you can have a relationship with God. Although we believe the Bible is true because God's message has changed our lives, we can know that it's true because it is different from any other book. All the writers agree, it is still the same as it was thousands of years ago, and many of the prophecies have actually happened. God provided ways for us to have complete trust that His Word is true.

## **Do Right and Feel Right**

Do you trust that God's Word is true? If someone asked you, "How do you know God's Word is true?", what would you say and how would you feel after you gave the answer? Let's pray and ask God that we will remember what we learned today.

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

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

1. Is the Bible true? (Yes)
2. How were the writers of the Bible different from one another? (Different levels of education, different backgrounds, different occupations)
3. How many people wrote the Bible? (40)
4. What did the shepherd boy find in the cave when he threw a rock in? (Clay pots with scrolls that had the Scriptures written on them)
5. Did people who did not believe Jesus was the Son of God ever write about Jesus' miracles? (Yes)
6. What are prophecies? (Messages from God that tell us about the future)
7. Why is it amazing that Isaiah 44:28 says that Cyrus will rebuild the temple? (Because Cyrus wasn't even born yet)
8. Does reading the Bible and following God's plan for our lives change us? (Yes)

# End-of-Class Review Games

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

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

## **Sink or Swim**

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

## **Waterfall**

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

## **The Big Race**

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

## **Dice Roll**

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

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

## **Tic-Tac-Toe**

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

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

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

### **Trash Can Basketball**

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

### **Spin and Win**

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

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

### **All In**

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



### **Score Big**

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

### **Cup Stacking** (supplies: two sets of cups)

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

### **Push-Ups**

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

### **Cup of Goodness** (Limited prep needed in advance)

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

### **Four Corners**

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

### **The Hot Seat**

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

### **Just Give Points**

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

### **Beach Ball**

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

## **Around the World**

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

## **Swatter**

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

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

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

# Talk thru Genesis

Students will learn one or two new hand motions each week during worship and/or in the classroom. By the end of the quarter, students should be able to confidently “Talk thru Genesis.”

*Say the word as you do the motion.*

- **Creation:** bring hands up to form a world
- **Adam and Eve:** one forearm up for each name
- **Sin:** take your two forearms and cross them like an “X”
- **Cain & Abel:** two thumbs up and start a thumb war with yourself
- **Noah obeyed:** take your fist and pound it into your hand
- **A flood with a promise:** bring arms up like a flood and go up until you form a rainbow with your hands
- **The Tower of Babel, Babel, Babel:** create a pointed tower over your head
- **Abram said, “Let’s Go!”:** right hand up with strong pumping movement
- **Divided Land:** both forearms up and together tight in front of you, then divide the arms
- **God’s Covenant:** take fingers and create sparkling stars over your head
- **Isaac is born, ha, ha, ha:** rock baby in your arms
- **Hagar, Ishmael:** wipe a tear from each eye

# Elementary Printable Resources

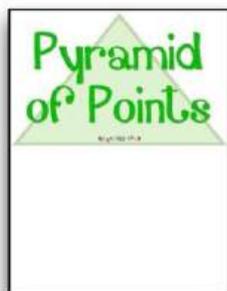
## Year 1 - Quarter 1



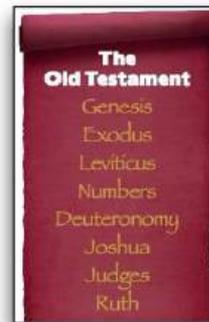
**Lesson 1 - Art**  
**"Look what God created" activity sheet**



**Topical Lesson:**  
**The Bible is Truth**  
**Opt 1 - Books of the Bible**  
**bookmark**



**Pre-Service Review Game**  
**"Pyramid of Points" pockets**  
*(fold in half to create a pocket)*



**Topical Lesson:**  
**The Bible is Truth**  
**Opt 2 - Books of the Bible posters**

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

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

**DISCOVERY LAND**

**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 14:31**, it says that if we believe in the Lord, Jesus Christ (point to the red page) you can be saved (dark page) from your sin (clean page).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Adapted from CEF salvation training.

**DISCOVERY LAND**

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

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



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



**I BELIEVE!**

Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved; you will also be baptized. Acts 16:31

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

BELIEVE!  
 I believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved; you will also be baptized. Acts 16:31  
 I believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved; you will also be baptized. Acts 16:31

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.

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# DISCOVERY

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