

DISCOVERY LAND

Year 3 – 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,

Have you ever had a true “heart to heart” talk with someone? The following verses are a record of King David’s “heart to heart” talk with his son, Solomon.

“And you, my son Solomon, acknowledge the God of your father, and serve Him with wholehearted devotion and with a willing mind, for the Lord searches every heart and understands every motive behind the thoughts. If you seek Him, He will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will reject you forever. Consider now, for the Lord has chosen you to build a temple as a sanctuary. Be strong and do the work.” 1 Chronicles 28:9-10

The same passionate wisdom and love can flow out of you as you teach, lead, or assist each week. Make it a priority to prepare with excellence, point your students to God, and challenge them to have a close, personal relationship with God so their actions flow out of a loving, meaningful relationship with Him.

Each Bible lesson includes the 4 Rights: Know Right, Think Right, Do Right, Feel Right. If we truly *know* God and *think* about His Word, the outcome will be what we *do* and how we *feel* before Him. We want our students to have a biblical worldview, just like David - not just to have head knowledge, but true, authentic life transformation. Effective discipleship is not always easy; it takes time, prayer, and advanced preparation.

Whatever your position, you are important - important to God and to our kids. We are praying that He will work in mighty ways both in your life and in theirs.

Serving an incredible and powerful God,

Kris Smoll
Executive Director of Discovery Land Global

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Understanding the Curriculum

Overview

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

The curriculum was developed to teach students:

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

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

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

Leaders

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

LEADER TIPS

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

Smaller classes may combine the DT Leader and Shepherd positions.

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

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

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

Elementary Program Overview

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

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

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

SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

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

Pre-Service Review Game

LEADER TIPS

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

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

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

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

Worship

Worship is designed to:

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

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

LEADER TIPS

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

Discover Time

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

LEADER TIPS

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

Bible Lesson

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

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

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

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

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

Suggested steps for preparing your Bible lesson:

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

End-of-Class Review Game

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

LEADER TIP

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

Classroom Resources

The following teaching tools are provided in the classroom:

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

Tracker Tickets

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

Currency Rate

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

Tracker's Treasures

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

Elementary Syllabus

Year 3 – Quarter 1

Lesson 1

Quarter Review

- Know Right:** Review of David and the Israelites.
Think Right: 2 Peter 3:18a (Top 12)
Do Right: I will learn God's Word.
Feel Right: I can feel excited to learn God's Word.

Lesson 2

1 Samuel 18:1-9, 19:1-9, 20:1-42

- Know Right:** David and Jonathan's friendship begins with God.
Think Right: Mark 12:30-31 (Top 12)
Do Right: True friends will remain committed to God.
Feel Right: We can feel loyal when we remain committed to God.

Lesson 3

1 Samuel 24, 26, 31; 2 Samuel 1:1-16, 5:1-4

- Know Right:** King Saul tries to kill David.
Think Right: Proverbs 3:5-6 (Top 12)
Do Right: I will patiently trust God when I have problems.
Feel Right: I can feel peaceful when I patiently trust God with my problems.

Lesson 4

2 Samuel 4:4, 9:1-13

- Know Right:** David keeps his promise to Jonathan.
Think Right: John 14:2 (Top 12)
Do Right: I will keep my promises.
Feel Right: I can feel trustworthy when I keep my promises.

Lesson 5

2 Samuel 24 (Parallel account in 1 Chronicles 21)

- Know Right:** King David confesses his sin of counting his troops.
Think Right: 1 John 1:9
Do Right: I will admit, confess, and repent when I sin.
Feel Right: I can feel forgiven after I admit, confess, and repent when I sin.

Lesson 6

1 Chronicles 28:1-20, 29:26-28; 2 Chronicles 1:1-12, 3:1 - 7:22 (Parallel Account in 1 Kings 1-9)

- Know Right:** Solomon asks for wisdom.
Think Right: James 1:5
Do Right: I will ask God for wisdom.
Feel Right: I can feel wise when I ask and receive wisdom from God.

Lesson 7

1 Kings 9 and 11

- Know Right:** Solomon follows other gods.
Think Right: Mark 12:30-31 (Top 12)
Do Right: I will be faithful to God.
Feel Right: I can feel confident when I am faithful to God.

Lesson 8

1 Kings 17

Know Right: God provides for the needs of Elijah and the widow.

Think Right: Joshua 1:9 (Top 12)

Do Right: I will trust that God will provide for my needs.

Feel Right: I can feel secure when I trust God to provide for my needs.

Lesson 9

1 Kings 18

Know Right: Elijah challenges the prophets of Baal.

Think Right: John 14:6 (Top 12)

Do Right: I will only believe in the one, true, powerful God.

Feel Right: I can feel victorious when I believe in the one, true, powerful God.

Lesson 10

1 Kings 19:1-18

Know Right: Elijah flees out of fear.

Think Right: Joshua 1:9 (Top 12)

Do Right: I will know that God is always with me.

Feel Right: I can feel brave because I know God is with me.

Lesson 11

1 Kings 19:19-21; 2 Kings 2:1-18

Know Right: Elijah and Elisha see God's power.

Think Right: 1 Corinthians 15:58 (Top 12)

Do Right: I will look for God's power and tell others about it.

Feel Right: I can feel amazed when I see God's power.

Lesson 12

Review Day (Scavenger Hunt/Football Review Game)

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

Fruit of the Spirit

Know Right: God helps me to become more like Jesus.

Think Right: "But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

2 Peter 3:18a (Top 12)

Do Right: I will ask God to help me grow to become more like Jesus.

Feel Right: I can feel joyful when I grow to be more like Jesus.

Quarter Overview

Year 3 – Quarter 1

This past quarter we saw how Gideon, Ruth, Hannah, Samuel, and David followed God. We also learned from Samson, the Israelites, and Saul as they showed what it means to reject God's way and reap the consequences. We continue our journey with the Israelites in our quest to learn God's Word.

In this lesson, we learn what it means to have true friendship. King Saul was on a mission to destroy David, his anointed successor. Amazingly, Saul's son, Jonathan, allowed his best friend, David, to escape from his father's jealous wrath, even though he himself could have been hurt. David and Jonathan's friendship teaches us that true friends will remain committed to God no matter the situation.

David remained on the run, with Saul and his men in hot pursuit. Twice God allowed David to find Saul in vulnerable positions to see if David would take matters into his own hands. Each time David remained loyal to Saul and patiently trusted God to take care of his enemy. In God's perfect timing, Saul died in battle with the Philistines. Saul's death prepared the way for David to take the throne as the new king of Israel. From David, we learn that when we have problems, we should patiently trust God.

King Saul did not die alone in battle with the Philistines. David's loyal friend, Jonathan, was also killed. David had promised Jonathan that he would always be kind to Jonathan's family. After Saul and Jonathan were killed, David became the king. David kept his promise to Jonathan's son, Mephibosheth, who couldn't walk because of a disability. In order to make sure he would always be taken care of, David gave him everything that had belonged to Saul. David also showed great honor to Mephibosheth by inviting him to eat at his table. David showed us the importance of keeping our promises.

David is the only person in the Bible that God calls "a man after my own heart." Even with this incredible distinction, we learn that David, like all people, was sinful. One occasion of David's sin took place when he ordered a census of Israel. When he realized his sin, David admitted it, confessed it to God, and repented of it. David's response to his sin shows us that all Christians should be humble and admit, confess, and repent of their sins.

David's love for God led to his desire to build the temple in Jerusalem. God, however, had another plan. God told David He had chosen his son Solomon to be the next king and the one to build His earthly house. David gave Solomon God's plan, the materials, and the instructions for the temple. He implored his son to be strong and courageous and do the work that God had planned. God was with Solomon and allowed him to ask for whatever he wanted. Instead of asking for wealth, honor, or long life, Solomon selflessly asked for wisdom and knowledge to lead God's people. In turn, God gave Solomon all he asked for and more. This display of God's infinite grace encourages us to be like Solomon and ask God for wisdom.

Solomon had a huge job to do for God. Not only was he to build the new temple, but he was also the man God chose to be Israel's new king. God's desire was for Solomon to walk in the ways of his father, David, by loving God and obeying Him from the heart. God promised perpetual leadership in Israel for Solomon and his descendants, if they would be obedient and not turn from God's ways. God also warned Solomon of the consequences if he or his sons rebelled. This included Israel's removal from the Promised Land and destruction of the temple. Unfortunately, Solomon failed to heed God's clear warning and he turned away to follow other gods. Solomon's failure clearly illustrates we should always be faithful to God.

One consequence of King Solomon's unfaithfulness was the division of Israel into two separate kingdoms, Judah and Israel. As Israel's leadership and people sank further into rebellion against God by worshiping false gods, prophets were sent to pronounce the punishment. One of these prophets was Elijah, who was sent to tell evil King Ahab about the impending three years of drought. In spite of the drought and resulting famine, God took miraculous care of His obedient servant by using ravens at a brook in the wilderness and a widow in enemy territory. Through Elijah's experience in difficult circumstances, we can trust that God will provide for our needs.

When Israel remained in rebellion and continued to worship foreign gods, Elijah's job continued. God told Elijah to go present himself to Ahab, and He would send rain to end the three years of drought. To ensure that Ahab and all the Israelites understood that it was the one true God who was in control, Elijah challenged the prophets of Baal to a duel of the altars. God gave Elijah the victory by sending fire from heaven to consume His altar and by sending the rain to end the drought. When we have seen God's power, it helps us believe only in the one, true, powerful God.

When King Ahab told his wicked queen, Jezebel, about Elijah's victory from God, she vowed to kill the faithful prophet. In spite of his prior courage in the face of danger, Elijah became afraid and ran for his life. As God's discouraged servant retreated into the desert, his Heavenly Father took care of him and, in gentleness, told him that there was still work for him to do in the world. Elijah witnessed God's mercy and discovered that God is always with us.

Elijah's next assignment was to find and anoint Elisha to be his successor. Elijah obeyed God's command, and Elisha left his home and family to be Elijah's apprentice and attendant. Through the ensuing years, Elijah continued to do God's work and experience the power of his God. He trained Elisha to take over to become the next faithful prophet in Israel. When Elijah's time came to depart this world, God sent for him with a chariot and horses of fire and took Elijah to heaven in a whirlwind. Elijah's ministry challenges us to look for God's power and tell others about it.

As we come to the close of our Old Testament study and move on to the New Testament in the next quarter, we take a day to recall all God has taught us and make sure His truth is firmly planted in our hearts. We praise the one true God for all He has done and ask Him to help us remember His Word.

Lesson 1

Quarter Review

Know Right:	Review of David and the Israelites.
Think Right:	“But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.” 2 Peter 3:18a (Top 12)
Do Right:	I will learn God’s Word.
Feel Right:	I can feel excited to learn God’s Word.

GET READY!

We are excited to watch God work in your life and in the lives of your students this school year. As you study Scripture and prepare to serve, spend time in prayer for your classroom team and your students.

Pray: As you prepare to serve, ask God to lead you. Pray specifically for the students who will be sitting in your class this week. Pray that God will give you a clear understanding of Scripture and that the students in your class will truly have a desire to learn more about their Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and to grow in His grace.

Read: Review the lessons from the previous quarter (see the Previous Quarter Overview in the appendix).

Know Right: Review of David and the Israelites

This past quarter we saw how Gideon, Ruth, Hannah, Samuel, and David followed God. We also learned from Samson, the Israelites, and Saul as they showed what it means to reject God’s way and reap the consequences. We continue our journey with the Israelites in our quest to learn God’s Word.

GET SET!

Lead Teacher’s Notes:

- This week we will review our previous quarter so students can continue to build on this foundation in future lessons. It will also help connect new students to our ongoing three-year curriculum. Please note that the outline is different than during a regular week.
- It is very important to set expectations in your classroom during the Bible lesson. Students show respect in the room by listening and participating during the full hour. If students have questions, they should raise their hands and wait to be called on. Teaching students specific guidelines during the first week will impact the rest of the school year.
- Use the five count to teach respect for leadership and gain the attention of your students. Start with one and slowly count to five. Your goal is that children should be silent by three. The more you use this method, the quicker your children will respond which will result in more time for learning.

- The text below is to help guide you as you prepare. Be very familiar with your lesson so you can have good eye contact with the students. During this lesson, we will refer to many different people from the Bible. Students should be somewhat familiar with these people if they attended class on a regular basis during the previous quarter.

Creative Ideas for the Bible Lesson:

1. Use props to review the previous quarter: Wordless Book, milk and honey, a sword, a long-haired wig, a heart, a baby, a crown, a small paper footprint to represent David, and a large paper footprint to represent Goliath.
2. Create a "museum" of props by placing your props under an upside-down glass aquarium (see above for ideas). Or use more than one aquarium and place them around the room.
3. Make a fun pointer (yardstick with a brightly colored arrow tip) and point to specific pictures on the timeline as you talk.

GO!

Pre-Service Review Game and Worship

Worship Leaders lead review game, followed by worship. Details in Resources Booklet.

Discover Time: Let's learn God's Word!

Goal: To review the **Top 12** verses.

DT Activity: Art Station

Supplies:

- **Top 12** posters (one for each student) (see appendix)
- Fine tip markers
- Timer or clock with a second hand
- Tracker Tickets

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Explain to students that we are going to have a coloring contest.
2. The goal is to begin to color the poster but make it clear that they won't have time to finish it.
3. Warn them to NOT stop working when the timer goes off, but instead to keep going until time is 100% done.
4. Hand out the posters and then say, "Are you ready? Get set! GO!"
5. Set the timer for 60 seconds, and each time the timer goes off throughout the DT session, the most focused and artistic person will be given two Tracker Tickets.
6. Challenge students to finish their poster at home and to use it as a reminder to learn all of the **Top 12** verses this year.



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

Bible Lesson Introduction

Lead Teachers ~ Connecting the DT to the Lesson: Can you recite the **Top 12**? Our goal is that everyone can recite these 12 verses by the end of the school year. When you learn God's Word, you grow both in your understanding of Him and in your relationship with Him! This school year, I want you to be just as excited and focused to grow spiritually as you were to complete your DT challenges.

Pray: Each week when you begin your lesson, encourage a student to pray. For the first week, role model for your students how to pray (i.e., “Dear Heavenly Father, thank You for giving us the Bible and allowing us to learn from it. Help us to listen carefully, so we can grow closer to You and to use what we’ve learned in our lives every day. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”) Teach students that when we pray, we are talking to the one true God, and He hears us when we pray. Out of respect, we close our eyes, bow our heads, and fold our hands, so our mind is 100% focused on Him and the words that are spoken.

Find It: This past quarter, we learned about several people from the OT. Can anyone say the books of the OT without looking at the chart? Have a confident student come to the front of class and recite the books of the OT as you point to each book on the Books of the Bible wall poster. Award the student five Tracker Tickets for completing the challenge.

At this point, inform students about Tracker Tickets. Remind students how they can be earned in class: by bringing their Bible, winning a Discover Time challenge, displaying the fruit of the Spirit, and returning “family challenge” coupons from Tracker’s Treasures. The tickets are kept by the students, and they can choose how to use them at the Discover Market.

During class we will use our Bibles. The Bible is how God speaks to us. We know through historical evidence that every word in our Bible is true.

Write a sample verse on the whiteboard and have students open their Bibles. Teach that the reference is the verse’s “address” in the Bible. The big number is the chapter, and the little number is the verse.

For older students, if time permits, introduce them to a “Sword Drill.” Teacher should say the verse and students should repeat it, then the Teacher should say “Go!” Students will then look up the verse and the first student to put their finger on the verse and stand up wins.

Timeline: The Bible is one big book made up of little books. When put together, it shares one incredible true story of God’s love for us. In the OT (point to OT portion of the timeline), people were all looking forward to a Savior (point to the cross on the NT timeline), someone who could save them from their sins. The NT teaches us that this Savior came. What was His name? (Jesus)

Quarter Review

Today we are going to talk through what we learned this past quarter. If you were here during that time, you can help me. So listen carefully and be prepared to fill in some blanks and answer some questions. Our Shepherd(s) will be giving out Tracker Tickets occasionally to those who answer.

In studying the Old Testament, we learned about a group of people called the _____ (Israelites). They were the people God chose to be Jesus’ family. Point from the OT to the NT on the timeline.

Gospel

Even in the Old Testament, people did things their own way instead of God’s way. They wanted to be part of God’s family, but yet they dishonored Him with their words and actions; that’s called sin. One of the Top 12 verses in our Discover Time activity was Romans 3:23. Do you know what that verse says? Have students recite the verse. The punishment for sin (dark page) is separation from God (gold page). We use the gold color because it reminds us of heaven, but there is so much more! God loves you, He created you, and He wants you to be part of His forever family. Sin separates us from this incredible

and perfect God. This isn't good news for us. But God loved us so much He sent His one and only Son, Jesus, to pay the punishment for our sin by dying on the cross (*red page*). In our Bible, in Hebrews 9:22b, it says, "...and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness." Jesus didn't stay dead; He had victory over our sin, and He is alive today! It is only by admitting our sin, recognizing we need a powerful Savior, and asking forgiveness from Jesus that we can be saved and become part of His family. Once this happens, Jesus cleanses us and takes away the punishment that has been assigned to us because of our sin, and He becomes the leader of your life (*white page*). No one else can choose to follow Jesus for you; you have to make that decision yourself. Acts 16:31 says, "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved." Have you made this decision to truly believe and trust in Jesus? *Offer students the opportunity to make a decision to receive Christ.*

The Israelites

The Israelites were God's special chosen people. Many, many times they saw God's amazing miracles and power. After a long time, they finally made it to the Promised Land. This was the special place filled with good things that God promised to the Israelites, if they obeyed and followed Him. God always keeps His promises, and for those who obeyed and followed God alone, they were able to live in this incredible place. But guess what? Not everyone followed and loved God. Because of this, God sent people to help protect and keep the Israelites focused on God. Gideon was one of these people.

Gideon

Gideon was a regular guy who loved God. God gave him a really important mission! The mission was to protect the Israelites from their enemies, the Midianites. Gideon didn't think he could do it.

Read Judges 6:14-15

Recap: He was right. He wasn't strong enough all by himself; he had to trust in the one true God. Can anyone tell me a verse that tells us to trust in God? (Proverbs 3:5-6; a Top 12 verse) Gideon trusted God, and God helped Gideon's really small army defeat the Midianites' huge army! It's amazing to think that Gideon's God is the same God that is with you. He is with you when you go to bed, when you wake up, when you go to school, when you win a game, and when you lose a game. He's there when you're having a great day with your friend and when you're fighting. He's there when you're having a good day and when you're having a bad day. Just like Gideon, we need to trust in the one true God.

Samson

Read Judges 13:1

Recap: Sadly, even though the Israelites knew God, saw His miracles, and were blessed to be in the Promised Land, they continued to choose their own way instead of God's way. The consequence for this was that God allowed them to be attacked by their enemies and suffer, so they would repent of all the wrong things they had done and follow Him. When they cried out to God for help, He sent judges like Samson to lead them out of their troubles. Samson was known for his long hair which gave him _____ (strength). Even though God gave him very detailed instructions on how to keep his strength, Samson disobeyed God by falling in love with a woman named _____ (Delilah), who ultimately cut his hair. He felt the consequence of his sin, and he lost his _____ (strength). Do you know that even today, God allows us to experience the consequences of sin? Sin is real. God's Word teaches us how to stay away from sin because God loves us, and He hates to see us suffer.

Ruth, Boaz and Naomi

Ruth, Boaz, and Naomi showed us what it means to truly love and honor others the way God wants us to. Each of these three people could have put themselves first, but each of them put others first. That is true love. When we love other people like God wants us to love them, we have real joy. You can hear how much Ruth loved Naomi in this passage.

Read Ruth 1:16

Does this verse sound like something you would say or do?

Hannah and Samuel

We also learned about a woman who desperately wanted a baby. Do you remember her name? (Hannah) Hannah was a woman who knew the importance of praying.

Read 1 Samuel 1:15b-16

Recap: She knew God could help her. She prayed to God, and He heard her and answered her prayer with a 'yes'. Her baby was named _____ (Samuel). Samuel listened to God's voice and served God when he was a kid and when he was a grown up. Sometimes we have good days, and sometimes we have bad days. No matter what kind of a day we have, we can pray and talk to God. We know God loves us and can hear us, and He can give us peace on the inside.

A king chosen by men

Even after God sent the judges like Gideon, Samson, and Samuel, Israel continued to disobey God by worshiping false idols and doing the opposite of what God asked them to do. They even decided to find a king to lead them instead of letting God be their leader. God warned them that it was a bad idea for them to have a king, but they wanted one anyway.

Read 1 Samuel 8:19-20

Recap: God gave them what they asked for. Israel's first king was a man named _____ (Saul). But Saul became selfish and wouldn't follow God either, so our all-powerful and patient God chose a different king. His name was _____ (David).

David

David was a shepherd, a musician, a poet, and a brave warrior. God saw him and knew that he loved God.

Read 1 Samuel 16:7

Recap: God knows us on the inside. He knows what makes us happy, what makes us sad, and what we are afraid of. No matter what, God loves us very much. How amazing is that? It makes me want to praise God because He is an awesome God who knows everything!

David had to face a very big soldier. His name was _____. (Goliath) David trusted that God could help him defeat Goliath, and He did! Sometimes we face hard problems; maybe you are afraid during a storm, your parents might be going through a divorce, or someone is bullying you. We can be sure that God will help us, if we ask Him and trust in Him. He is our strength.

A king chosen by God

Next week, we will begin to study the life of David and how he became king over Israel. We can find this in the book of 1 Samuel. Let's open our Bible to the book of 1 Samuel and mark it so we are ready for next week.

Conclusion

This week let's pray and ask God to help us this school year to want to learn about Him and how great and powerful He is. This last quarter we learned about the importance of knowing, loving, and living for God. Let's pray that we will come to class with a positive attitude, and we'll be eager to learn and ready to grow. Let's pray that God will give us great opportunities, so we can go out and do what He is teaching us.

Also, when you leave each week, you'll get a copy of our weekly take-home paper called "Tracker's Treasures." It's a review of what we learned in class. Make sure to show it to your parents, so they can challenge you to apply the lesson throughout the week. Each week there is a Family Challenge in Tracker's Treasures. If you complete it, return the coupon the following week to a classroom leader for a Tracker Ticket reward.

Do Right and Feel Right

When I learn about all the people in the Bible and see how God perfectly designed people to accomplish a big plan, I get pretty excited about how God wants to use me. God knows each of us, just like He knew Gideon, Samson, Hannah, Ruth, and all the Israelites. God has a plan for your life as well. As a class, let's not only keep learning God's Word, but let's actually do what it says! Do you remember 2 Peter 3:18a, one of the Top 12 verses from our Discover Time activity? *Have students recite it.* Let's think about this verse. What is it teaching us? Another verse that connects to 2 Peter 3:18a is 1 Corinthians 15:58. Do you know this verse? *Have students recite it.* How do they connect? When we know God's Word, He wants it to change us, and He wants us to live it out!

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

1. Name three people in the Old Testament. (Gideon, Samson, Ruth, Hannah, Samuel, King Saul, David, etc.)
2. Why is it important to study God's Word? (So we can know God and live life His way)
3. Each week, when I come to class, I should bring my _____. (Bible)
4. How can I earn Tracker Tickets? (Family challenges, bring my Bible, participate in class, etc.)
5. Next week, we will learn more about _____. (David)
6. Parents can learn what you are learning by reading your weekly _____. (Tracker's Treasures)

Lesson 2

1 Samuel 18:1-9, 19:1-9, 20:1-42

Know Right:	David and Jonathan's friendship begins with God.
Think Right:	"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)
Do Right:	True friends will remain committed to God.
Feel Right:	We can feel loyal when we remain committed to God.*

* "We" in the Feel Right point refers to a set of true friends who have God as the foundation of their friendship.

GET READY!

Serving is a great way to develop friendships with other leaders. As you serve, we pray you find godly, life-giving community. This week, take a few minutes to reach out to a co-leader to encourage them. This could be the first step in building a true, Christ-centered friendship!

Pray: As you prepare to serve this week, ask God to lead you. Pray specifically for the students who will be in your class this week.

Read: 1 Samuel 18:1-9, 19:1-9, 20:1-42

Know Right: David and Jonathan's friendship begins with God

In this lesson, we learn what it means to have true friendship. King Saul was on a mission to destroy David, his anointed successor. Amazingly, Saul's son, Jonathan, allowed his best friend, David, to escape from his father's jealous wrath, even though he himself could have been hurt. David and Jonathan's friendship teaches us that true friends will remain committed to God no matter the situation.

GET SET!

Lead Teacher's Notes:

- Please refer to the Children's Ministry Resource Bible: page 363 (Lesson: Jealous Saul Attempts to Slay David); page 497 (The Life of David); page 1431 (The Work of the Holy Spirit in the Old and New Testaments).
- As you teach this lesson, remember you are introducing an important concept to those who have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ; that they are part of the global Church family. When we become a Christian, we have something in common: we have the same Heavenly Father. We are brothers and sisters in Christ. When we have relationships in the church, we can discover characteristics for true friendships both now and into the future.
- Today we are discussing "true/best friends." Friends who are committed to God can be truly committed to each other and hold each other accountable, pray for each other, and stand firm together through many of life's challenges and joys. This does not mean students shouldn't have friends who are non-Christians. We are called to show God's love and witness to those who do not know Christ as Savior.

Creative Ideas for the Bible Lesson:

1. Whenever you say the words “true friends”, have students quickly stand up.
2. Write “True Friends” on the whiteboard or on a sheet of paper and have students listen for statements that describe what true friends are. At the end of class, have students thank God for their true friends or pray God will bless them with a true friend.
3. Make an outline of David and Jonathan on your whiteboard and write in words that describe them (loyal, committed, courageous, loving, generous) as you teach the lesson.
4. Prior to class, make a paper chain with all the students’ names and hang it in your class for the quarter. Remind the class that we are true friends if we put God first in our lives.
5. Use drama and have David and Jonathan come to your class and role play 1 Samuel 20:1-17.

GO!

Pre-Service Review Game and Worship

Worship Leaders lead review game, followed by worship. Details in Resources Booklet.

Discover Time: Committed friends!

Goal: To help students begin to understand the concept of the word “**committed**”.

DT Activity: Play-Doh® Station

Supplies:

- Challenge cards with the following pictures: pancakes, snake, crown, ball, star, person, house, and flower (see appendix)
- Whiteboard or paper to keep track of points
- Optional: Velcro strips
- Tracker Tickets

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Divide students into teams of four; within each team create two sets of partners (set A/set B).
2. Each team will send their set of partners (A) to the DT Leader, who will show them one of the cards. The partners (A) will go back to the remaining partners (B) without telling them what the picture was.
3. Partners (A) will link their arms (or Velcro their wrists together) while they stand side by side. One partner will have a free left hand and the other will have a free right hand. The partners must remain **committed** to each other like this throughout the activity. If they separate, they are disqualified! Demonstrate this to students and emphasize how important it is to work together as friends.
4. Together, Partners A will create the object from the card out of the Play-Doh. Partners B will watch and try to guess what the object is. It is important that the partners remain **committed** to each other, and they do not look at other teams’ creations.
5. The set of partners (B) who can guess the object first while remaining **committed** to each other will win one point.
6. Switch roles and repeat the activity for each card.
7. The team with the most points at the end of Discover Time will each win five Tracker Tickets.

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

Bible Lesson Introduction

Lead Teachers ~ Connecting the DT to the Lesson: How many of you thought your activity was easy today? Why or why not? Is a **commitment** to a friend easy or hard? Sometimes they are easy and sometimes they are hard, right? When is it easy to be friends? When is it hard? Today we will study two guys who were best friends. They were such great friends their friendship could handle many hard challenges in life. Do you know why their friendship could handle many hard challenges? Listen and you will find out!

Pray: *Challenge one of your students to open the class in prayer. This will help them learn to pray in a public setting, build confidence, and develop their spiritual leadership skills. Remind students that when we pray the God of the universe hears us.*

Find It: *Ask the class if 1 Samuel is in the New Testament or Old Testament. Students will be tested at the end of the winter quarter on where people are found in the Bible. Write the verse reference on the whiteboard and have students open their Bibles and search for the verse. Recite the books of the Bible up to 1 Samuel to teach students how to pronounce the book titles as students search for the verse. Teach that the reference is the verse's "address" in the Bible. The big number is the chapter, and the little number is the verse.*

Timeline: *Point out the picture of David on the timeline. The purpose of the timeline is to challenge students to see the Bible as a big picture of God's perfect plan, rather than individual lessons that do not connect.*

Optional idea: Each week, place a paper arrow on the appropriate spot on the timeline to highlight that week's lesson (see appendix).

Introduction to the Bible Lesson:

I would like to introduce you to David. When David was young and only a shepherd, God chose him to become Israel's next king. David obeyed God not because he had to, but because he truly loved God with his whole heart. We saw how David loved and trusted God when he fought Goliath. David used the strength God gave him to kill the giant and save Israel! But David wasn't ready to be in charge of Israel yet. He needed more training, and God was going to teach him what he needed to know.

Scripture Outline: 1 Samuel 18:1-9, 19:1-9, 20:1-42

David and Jonathan become friends

Paraphrase of 1 Samuel 18:1-4:

King Saul had a son named Jonathan. If Saul had listened to and honored God, then Jonathan would have been the next king. Instead, David was going to be the new king. Jonathan could have been jealous of David, but he wasn't. Do you know what it means to be jealous? "Jealous" means you feel unhappy or even angry because you don't have something others have. Did you know being jealous is a sin? Sin is anything we think, say, or do that is against God. Even though David was going to be the king instead of Jonathan, Jonathan wasn't jealous of David. Why not? Jonathan and David were both committed to God. Because of their commitment to God, they loved each other as they loved themselves; they were like brothers.

Remember the verse Mark 12:30-31? *Point to the verse (Top 12 poster) and have students recite the verse. Let's think about what this verse means. Both friends loved God. Jonathan even gave David*

some of his clothes, his sword, and his bow! Jonathan and David were true friends! Do you have a true friend? Are you a true friend? True friends stick together, just like what happened in your Discover Time today.

King Saul becomes jealous

Paraphrase of 1 Samuel 18:5-9:

While Saul was still the king, David depended on God and became the best soldier in Israel. The people in Israel loved him and cheered for him. This made King Saul jealous; he was so jealous that King Saul wanted David to die!

Gospel

Wow, that is a major sin, right? What does Romans 3:23 say? *Have students quote the verse.* This verse tells us we are just as sinful as King Saul. The Good News is that God loved us so much He sent His one and only Son, Jesus, as a sacrifice to rescue us from the punishment for our sin. *Refer to the Wordless Book.*

Saul tries to kill David

Paraphrase of 1 Samuel 19:1-3:

King Saul even told his son, Jonathan, and his servants to kill David! But remember, Jonathan loved David as he loved himself. Jonathan told David about King Saul's plan. Now listen to what Jonathan said to his father, Saul:

Read 1 Samuel 19:4-5 dramatically

Paraphrase of 1 Samuel 19:6-9:

King Saul promised Jonathan that David would not be killed. Jonathan believed his father and he told David he would be safe. But guess what? King Saul kept trying to kill David!

David and Jonathan make a promise

Read 1 Samuel 20:1-17

Recap: David could not understand why Saul wanted to kill him; he didn't do anything against King Saul. He talked to Jonathan, but Jonathan would not believe that his own father was still trying to kill his true friend. Jonathan promised David he would find out what was going on and help David stay safe from King Saul. Then Jonathan asked David to always be kind to him and to his family. David said he would. Because he loved David, Jonathan promised to be loyal to him. Loyal means you are a true friend no matter the cost. Because David loved Jonathan, David promised to be loyal to Jonathan and his family. David and Jonathan both trusted in God, and they made a special plan.

Older students: *Go into more detail about the plan by reading 1 Samuel 20:18-23 if time allows.*

Friends from church should be like Jonathan and David. Why? Because you and your friends from church love and serve the same God. You are committed to God.

Older students: What would it look like today, to have a true friend who is committed to God? (Possible answers: you can stand up for what's right together while you're at school, you can tell each other the truth, you can help each other make good decisions, you can pray for each other, etc.)

5th Grade students: How does this truth impact your decisions about the person you have a "crush" on or even desire to date in the future?

Jonathan warns David

Paraphrase of 1 Samuel 20:18-23:

David knew he was in possible danger with King Saul, so Jonathan and David made a plan to help protect David. David would go to a field and hide behind a rock. If Jonathan felt that David was safe, he would shoot his arrows close to the rock. If it wasn't safe and David should leave, Jonathan would shoot the arrows past the rock. He would then send a boy to collect the arrows. If the boy had to go past him to collect the arrows, that would mean it was not safe.

Jonathan risks his life

Paraphrase of 1 Samuel 20:24-40:

Their plan worked perfectly, and Jonathan discovered that King Saul really was trying to kill David. Jonathan talked to his father and stood up for David again. This made Saul so angry he tried to kill Jonathan! Do you realize that some anger, like the kind Saul had against David, is sin? But Jonathan loved David so much he risked his life to make sure David would be safe from King Saul! That's a true friend! Do you realize God loves you more than Jonathan and David loved each other? He wants to have a relationship with you, just like Jonathan and David had with each other.

A sad goodbye

Paraphrase of 1 Samuel 20:41:

Now it was time for Jonathan and David to say goodbye to each other. David had to go away to be safe from Saul. This made David and Jonathan so sad they cried. Let's read what they said:

Read 1 Samuel 20:42 dramatically

Conclusion

Jonathan loved and protected David, even though David was taking Jonathan's place as the next king. These two friends loved each other as they loved themselves. They even committed that they would take care of their future children and family forever. They were true friends because they both made a commitment to God first and then to each other! Remember Mark 12:30-31, our Think Right verse? Let's say it together.

Do Right and Feel Right

Let's think back to our DT today. Did you remain committed to your friend while you _____? Was this hard or easy? This was just a simple activity on what commitment looks like; living it out in real life is not always easy or fun. That is why we need to make a commitment to God first and then find a best friend who also made this commitment. Think about your friends. Do you have one friend who is committed to God and you? If not, let's stop and think of how you can make a new true friend this upcoming year in our class, and then let's pray together and ask God to provide true friends.

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

1. Who was Jonathan? (King Saul's son and David's true friend)
2. What did King Saul want to do to David? Why? (King Saul wanted to kill David because he was jealous)
3. Was Jonathan a true friend to David? How do you know? (Yes, he loved David as he loved himself, and he risked his life to protect David from King Saul)
4. How could Jonathan and David be such true friends? (Jonathan and David were both committed to God first and then were committed to each other)
5. What verse teaches us to love others like we love ourselves? (Mark 12:30-31)
6. How can you feel when you are a true friend? (Loyal)

Lesson 3

1 Samuel 24, 26, 31; 2 Samuel 1:1-16, 5:1-4

Know Right:	King Saul tries to kill David.
Think Right: in all 3:5-6	“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.” Proverbs (Top 12)
Do Right:	I will patiently trust God when I have problems.
Feel Right:	I can feel peaceful when I patiently trust God with my problems.

GET READY!

Is there something you’re waiting for? Seasons of waiting can be challenging and frustrating. This week, we are teaching our students that they can patiently trust God, and that He always has the perfect plan. As you study this lesson’s Scripture passages, pray for God to fill you with peace as you patiently trust Him.

Pray: As you prepare to serve, ask God to lead you. Pray specifically for the students who will be in your class this week. Pray that they will be able to identify the problems in their lives and be willing to patiently wait for God to provide an answer regarding their problems.

Read: 1 Samuel 24, 26, 31; 2 Samuel 1:1-16, 5:1-4

Know Right: King Saul tries to kill David

David remained on the run, with Saul and his men in hot pursuit. Twice God allowed David to find Saul in vulnerable positions to see if David would take matters into his own hands. Each time David remained loyal to Saul and patiently trusted God to take care of his enemy. In God’s perfect timing, Saul died in battle with the Philistines. Saul’s death prepared the way for David to take the throne as the new king of Israel. From David, we learn that when we have problems, we should patiently trust God.

GET SET!

Lead Teacher’s Notes:

- In a world of “instant” and “fast”, our students need to understand that God works in His time and according to His perfect plan. This connects directly with the Think Right verse, Proverbs 3:5-6, as we challenge students to completely trust in God’s plan and not depend on *their own* understanding of the situation.
- This lesson covers several chapters of Scripture and requires us to briefly paraphrase most of the account of Saul and David. Suggestions for verses to read from Scripture are noted in the outline below.
- Why do we present the Gospel in each lesson? First, without the Gospel we are only teaching behavior modification without true spiritual transformation through the work of Christ. Second,

we aim to teach students how to share their faith with others. Each time you clearly present the Gospel using the Wordless Book, you are role modeling to your students how to share the Good News with others.

- For additional in-depth study, please refer to the Children's Ministry Resource Bible: page 681 (Lesson: David is Rewarded for Not Getting Even); page 683 (Psalm 57); page 774 (Lessons from Bible Young People); page 1124 (VSB: History of Israel: The Kingdom).

Creative Ideas for the Bible Lesson:

1. As students enter, have a robe, a piece of fabric from the robe, a water jug, and a spear on the floor. As you teach the lesson, have a student "step into the scene" as you teach the account. Feel free to add more scenes for students to "step into."
2. Create a miniature scene with army men. Distinguish between David, Jonathan, and Saul by painting the army men different colors.
3. Prior to class, assign different leaders to read different parts of the "READ" sections. Emphasize David's and Saul's dialogue by having leaders dramatically read these portions.
4. 3rd-5th grade tip: Occasionally pause and ask students what they would have done if they were in David's shoes. (Would you have been patient or sought revenge? How do you avoid seeking revenge?)

GO!

Pre-Service Review Game and Worship

Worship Leaders lead review game, followed by worship. Details in Resources Booklet.

Discover Time: Do you have patience?

Goal: To help students understand that trusting God does not always produce instant results. They need to wait **patiently** and trust that God has a perfect plan.

DT Activity Option 1: Sand Station

Supplies:

- Yardstick
- Tracker Tickets

Setup instructions: The sand should be dry and divided into four equal sections.

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Divide students into four teams.
2. Challenge teams to make the tallest tower of sand. As students build, they may get frustrated with the sand not packing.
3. Encourage students to be **patient** as they continually mound the sand.
4. As time runs out, measure to determine the tallest tower.
5. Award five Tracker Tickets to winning team members.

Discover Time Tip: If you do not have sand, create a paperclip chain or line up dominoes to create a giant line that could tip over at any time.

DT Activity Option 2: Box Station

Supplies:

- Tracker Tickets

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Divide students into two teams.
2. Challenge teams to make the tallest tower of boxes.
3. Instruct students to **patiently** line up and take turns adding boxes to their tower.
4. As students stack, they may get frustrated as the boxes fall over.
5. Encourage students to be **patient** as they rebuild the tower.
6. As time runs out, count the number of boxes to determine the tallest box tower.
7. Award five Tracker Tickets to winning team members.

Box stacking tips: Stack boxes in a corner; the corner acts as a brace for the box tower. Stack by lifting the box from the bottom and putting the next box on the floor at the bottom of the stack. No need to rush, usually the slower stackers win the race due to the preciseness of placing boxes on top of/under each other.

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

Bible Lesson Introduction

Lead Teachers ~ Connecting the DT to the Lesson: Today, during our Discover Time, I saw many of you being very **patient** while you were _____ (*insert your activity*). How many of you liked being **patient**? Why or why not? Is it easier to be **patient** when you know something good will come because of your **patience**? Today, we will find out about a man who was very **patient** because he totally trusted God with his problems. He put Proverbs 3:5-6 into action. Let's open our Bibles to find out who this man was!

Pray: *Challenge two friends to open the class up in prayer, similar to David and Jonathan praying.*

Find It: *Ask the class if 1 Samuel and 2 Samuel are in the NT or OT. As students find the book in their Bible, recite the books up to 2 Samuel. Shepherds, make sure you are assisting any visiting or struggling students during this time.*

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

Optional idea: Each week, place a paper arrow on the timeline to highlight that week's lesson and use the arrows placed in previous weeks to review past lessons (see Resources Booklet).

Introduction to the Bible Lesson:

Last week, we learned that David and Jonathan loved each other and were committed friends to each other, and they were committed to God. We also learned that God chose David to be the next king of Israel because David loved and obeyed God from his heart. King Saul became so jealous of David that he wanted to kill him! This was a huge problem for David. Remember, David was young when God chose him. He wasn't ready to be the king yet, so he waited patiently and trusted God until he became king. As he waited, he allowed God to train and test him. Let's see how David learned from God.

Scripture Outline: 1 Samuel 24, 26, 31; 2 Samuel 1:1-16, 5:1-4

Manhunt for David

Paraphrase of 1 Samuel 24:1-7:

David knew King Saul wanted to kill him. Saul took 3,000 of his best men and began to hunt for David. Yikes! How would you feel if someone wanted to hurt you? David kept running away from Saul and his men to stay safe. One day, David and his men were hiding in a cave. Saul came into the cave, but he couldn't see David or his men.

David's men wanted him to kill Saul. David sneaked up really close to Saul, but Saul still couldn't see him. David got so close that he was able to cut off the corner of Saul's robe! Saul left the cave—he didn't even know it had happened! But David felt guilty about what he had done to Saul. He knew God had chosen Saul to be the first king. Listen to what David did next:

Read 1 Samuel 24:8-15 dramatically

Recap: David had a huge problem, didn't he? Did he try to take care of the problem himself by killing Saul when he had the chance? Or did he patiently trust God to take care of his problem? He patiently trusted God! Do you want to know what King Saul did?

Read 1 Samuel 24:16-22 dramatically

Recap: King Saul was so sorry about trying to kill David that he cried! Now David was safe from King Saul, right? No!

David patiently trusts God

Paraphrase of 1 Samuel 26:1-20:

King Saul didn't stay sorry about trying to kill David. He took his 3,000 men and started to hunt for David again. David found out he was still in danger.

Optional: Read: 26:7-11

One night, King Saul and his army slept outside on the ground. Saul had his spear and a water jug beside him. David sneaked into the camp and took the water jug and the spear, and no one woke up to see it! David could have killed Saul, but he knew he needed to patiently trust God. David went to a hill across from Saul's camp and shouted to everyone and woke them up. Saul realized that David could have killed him! Let's listen to what happened this time:

Read 1 Samuel 26:21-25 dramatically

Recap: King Saul was still trying to kill David, even after he had promised he wouldn't. Why would God let this happen? Why wasn't God taking care of David's problem? Did David still trust God? If you were David, what verse could you think about at a time like that? (Proverbs 3:5-6) *Discuss how to trust God with our problems, so He can make us more like Jesus. Encourage older students to understand Romans 8:28 and obey Philippians 4:6-7. Briefly share a time when you had to patiently trust God.*

The death of Jonathan and King Saul

Paraphrase of 1 Samuel 31:1-13:

After this, King Saul and his army had to fight the Philistines again. Sadly, the Philistines killed Jonathan, and his father King Saul also died in the battle.

David mourns the death of his friend

Paraphrase of 2 Samuel 1:1-16:

This made David very upset. David loved Jonathan like a brother, and even though King Saul had tried to kill him, David did his best to be good to Saul. This was because David never stopped trusting in God to take care of him. God used everything that happened to make David ready to be king.

David becomes king

Paraphrase of 2 Samuel 5:1-4:

Finally, when David was thirty years old, he became the new king of Israel!

Conclusion

King Saul wanted to kill David and that was a really huge problem. David could have killed Saul twice, but he chose not to. Instead, he patiently trusted God. God protected David from King Saul, and He used Saul, even though Saul was sinning, to help David get ready to be the new king. Next week we'll see how David patiently trusts God and keeps his promise to his best friend, Jonathan!

Do Right and Feel Right

When we have a problem in our lives, what do we do? Do we try to quickly take care of it ourselves, or do we ask God to help us and patiently trust Him? Just like our Discover Time activity, sometimes things don't happen instantly; it takes time. When we trust in Jesus to save us from our sin, God is our Heavenly Father. *Opportunity to share the Gospel through the Wordless Book.* He wants to take good care of us, and He wants to help us become more like Jesus. We can trust God because His timing is always perfect! That's why we should always patiently trust Him when we have problems. Let's pause right now and individually pray. Talk to God about your problems, and let Him know you will patiently wait for Him to answer.

Let's recite our Think Right verse, Proverbs 3:5-6. What does this teach us? *Allow students to share the meaning of the verse.* This week, when you face problems, remember this verse, and do what it says. Then cling to the peace only God can bring to you as you patiently trust Him.

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

1. Why did King Saul want to kill David? (He was jealous of David)
2. What did David do both times he had a chance to kill Saul? (He didn't kill Saul; he was patient and trusted God to take care of his problem)
3. Did God take care of David? How do you know? (Yes, God didn't let Saul kill him)
4. What happened to King Saul and his son Jonathan? (They died in the battle with the Philistines)
5. Who became the new king of Israel after King Saul died? (David)
6. What are some problems you have in your life?
7. Will you patiently trust God with all your problems?

Lesson 4

2 Samuel 4:4, 9:1-13

Know Right:	David keeps his promise to Jonathan.
Think Right: I am	"In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. going there to prepare a place for you." John 14:2 (Top 12)
Do Right:	I will keep my promises.
Feel Right:	I can feel trustworthy when I keep my promises.

GET READY!

Keeping a promise is not always an easy thing for children or adults. Discover the importance of keeping promises this week as you study the Scripture and the lesson. As you prepare, ask God to help you see ways you can put this lesson into practice.

Pray: As you prepare to serve this week, ask God to lead you. Pray specifically for first time visitors who will be in your class this week.

Read: 2 Samuel 4:4, 9:1-13

Know Right: David keeps his promise to Jonathan

King Saul did not die alone in battle with the Philistines. David's loyal friend, Jonathan, was also killed. David had promised Jonathan that he would always be kind to Jonathan's family. After Saul and Jonathan were killed, David became the king. David kept his promise to Jonathan's son, Mephibosheth, who couldn't walk because of a disability. In order to make sure he would always be taken care of, David gave him everything that had belonged to Saul. David also showed great honor to Mephibosheth by inviting him to eat at his table. David showed us the importance of keeping our promises.

GET SET!

Lead Teacher's Notes:

- Pronunciation of Mephibosheth: meh-FIB-oh-sheth
- For additional research, refer to the Children's Ministry Resource Bible: page 383 (Lesson: David and Mephibosheth); page 1456 (What Does God's Love Look Like?).
- Definition of love: a decision to care for another person without expecting something in return.
- This lesson covers only fourteen verses. The entire passage may be read dramatically to teach the account of David and Mephibosheth. 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 before you begin to study the lesson. Assistance may be required for younger grades or visitors.
- Note: This is not a "story", this is a lesson from the Word of God. For students, the word "story" often indicates fiction.

Creative Ideas for the Bible Lesson:

1. Create six boxes on your whiteboard or tape six large pieces of paper on your classroom wall. In advance, draw a picture or a symbol that represents that portion of the lesson in each box (notice that the lesson is

broken into six segments). Cover the boxes with paper. As you teach the lesson, reveal the picture or symbol at the proper time.

2. Challenge your class to stand up (or some other action) every time they hear the word “promise”. Award one Tracker Ticket to the first one to perform the action each time (or create boys vs. girls teams).
3. Create a fun, royal atmosphere in your room to represent King David’s palace. After Discover Time, invite your class to enter into a “royal” feast as you teach the Bible lesson. Have David present to be interviewed during the lesson. Ask him how he felt and what actually happened from his perspective.
4. Recruit a few parents to be guest readers in your class. Set out stools and provide a prop for each person. Readers would include King David (crown), Zeba (towel over his arm), Mephibosheth (crutches), and a narrator (scroll).

GO!

Pre-Service Review Game and Worship

Worship Leaders lead review game, followed by worship. Details in Resources Booklet.

Discover Time: Promises!

Goal: To teach/reinforce the meaning of a **promise**.

DT Activity: Sand Station

Supplies:

- Large clear jar
- Gold coins or marbles (enough to fill the jar; hide coins in the sand in advance, but make sure students will be able to find them so the jar will be filled, and you can keep your promise)
- Tracker Tickets (or a score sheet to track points)

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. As students enter the Sand Station, inform them that gold coins are hidden, and they must try to fill the jar in a limited amount of time.
2. **Promise** your class that if they fill the jar, they will receive three Tracker Tickets each.
3. Make sure to use the word “**promise**” multiple times to highlight the purpose of your DT.
4. At the end of the DT, when the jar is filled, award Tracker Tickets.

Discover Time Tips:

- If you have a large class, increase the size of the jar and the number of coins to make it a bigger challenge.
- Spray the sand area lightly with water to avoid dust.
- If you do not have sand, hide gold coins throughout a designated location.
- Optional: Create teams and have two jars. The first team to fill their jar wins the **promised** Tracker Tickets.

Bible Lesson Outline

Lead Teachers ~ Connecting the DT to the Lesson: During your DT activity, you were **promised** something. What was it? Before the **promise** was fulfilled, you needed to do something. What did you have to do? Was the **promise** fulfilled to those who did what was expected or who won the challenge? Do you remember when we talked about Jonathan and David as true best friends? They made a **promise** to each other. This wasn’t a **promise** that was fulfilled right away. It took time and a few unique situations happened before it was fulfilled. Let’s open our Bibles to see what happened!

Pray: Challenge one of your students to confidently lead the class in prayer. What does “lead the class in prayer” mean? It means that even though only one person is praying, we are all praying together as one large voice. To lead the class in prayer is an honor and a big responsibility.

Find It: Ask the class if 2 Samuel is in the New Testament or Old Testament. Challenge students to say the books of the Bible up to 2 Samuel. Write the verse reference on the whiteboard and have students open their Bibles. Be sensitive to visitors who may have never used a Bible before this class.

Timeline: Remind students that you are studying the Old Testament.

Introduction to the Bible Lesson:

David had become the new king of Israel. David loved and obeyed God from his heart, so God was with David and helped him be a good king. God helped King David and his army defeat their enemies. He helped David to conquer Jerusalem and it became the capital city of Israel. God also helped David keep his promises to Jonathan and Saul. Do you remember a few weeks ago when we learned what true friendships look like? David and Jonathan were committed friends, and they always kept their promises. Last week we learned that Jonathan and Saul had died when they were fighting the Philistines. Usually, a new king had the family of the old king killed. This happened because the new king thought the old king's family might try to take over the kingdom again. That's why Jonathan asked David to promise not to kill his family. David also promised Jonathan that he would always be kind to Jonathan's family. Did David keep his promises to Saul and Jonathan? Let's find out!

Scripture Outline: 2 Samuel 4:4, 9:1-13

David is a true friend

Read 2 Samuel 9:1 dramatically

Recap: Remember, Jonathan loved David as he loved himself. David had loved Jonathan, too. Even after David had become a very important king, he didn't forget his friend Jonathan. Do you have a true friend that loves God and keeps their promises? If you don't, pray and ask God to give you a true friend.

Ziba, the servant, talks to David

Read 2 Samuel 9:2-3 dramatically

Recap: Crippled or lame means he could not walk.

Mephibosheth

Paraphrase of 2 Samuel 9:4 and 2 Samuel 4:4:

Jonathan had a son named Mephibosheth. Mephibosheth was only five years old when Jonathan and his grandfather King Saul died. Mephibosheth had a nurse who took care of him when he was young. When she heard the news about Jonathan and Saul dying, she picked Mephibosheth up to run away so he wouldn't be killed by the new king. When the nurse grabbed him, Mephibosheth fell, and his legs were hurt so badly that he could not walk again. Now King David knew there was someone from Jonathan's family to treat kindly. What do you think David did? What would you have done?

Mephibosheth meets King David

Read 2 Samuel 9:5-8 dramatically

Recap: Can you imagine what it was like to go to the king's house and be treated like royalty? Mephibosheth didn't deserve this royal treatment. It was a gift to him from King David.

Gospel

This reminds me of our Think Right verse of the day, John 14:2. Let's say it together. This verse teaches us about our God, who is the King of the world and the Father of those who believe in Him. He has prepared an incredible place for us in heaven, so someday we can live with Him for eternity. Just like Mephibosheth didn't deserve David's kindness, we don't deserve to be part of God's kingdom because we have sinned. And out of God's love and grace, He invites us to be part of the King's family.

But each of us has to make that choice for ourselves. *Review the Wordless Book and highlight Acts 16:31.*

Mephibosheth was afraid King David might kill him. He didn't know David was a good king who loved and obeyed God from his heart. David didn't have to be afraid of Saul's family because he trusted God. Because David trusted God, he could keep his promises and take good care of Mephibosheth. Let's find out what happened next.

King David keeps his promise

Read 2 Samuel 9:9-13 dramatically

Recap: David was the new king. He could have kept everything that belonged to King Saul, but he didn't. Instead of keeping everything for himself, he kept his promise to Jonathan. He was kind to Mephibosheth, and he gave him everything that had belonged to Saul.

Other people didn't think Mephibosheth was important because he couldn't walk and because his grandfather, Saul, wasn't the powerful king anymore. People thought David was important because he was the king, and he had lots of power. What did David do with his power? He honored Mephibosheth! He even made sure that Mephibosheth would always eat with him. David treated Mephibosheth like he was a part of his own family. Mephibosheth was able to eat like a king!

Conclusion

Even though Saul had tried to kill David, David promised he wouldn't kill Saul's family. Mephibosheth had not done anything to deserve King David's love and kindness. However, David treated Mephibosheth like family out of his love for Jonathan and God.

Do Right and Feel Right

Just like Mephibosheth, we haven't done anything to deserve being in God's family. But God loves us so much, He sent Jesus to die for our sin, so we could be His children forever! If you have trusted in Jesus to save you from your sin, then you are in God's incredible family. This is a promise. *Refer to the Think Right verse, John 14:2, and John 3:16.* Because you are part of God's family, you should keep your promises like God does and just like David did. When you do this, you will feel like, and be, a trustworthy student.

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

1. Who was Mephibosheth, and what was wrong with him? (Mephibosheth was Jonathan's son and King Saul's grandson; he couldn't walk.)
2. Why did King David send for Mephibosheth? (David wanted to take care of Mephibosheth because he had promised Jonathan he'd always be kind to Jonathan's family)
3. Why was Mephibosheth afraid to see David? (David was the new king, and Mephibosheth was afraid David would kill him)
4. Did David keep his promise to Jonathan? How do you know? (Yes, David honored Mephibosheth: he treated him like his own family, gave him all of King Saul's property, and allowed him to always eat at the king's table)
5. Did Mephibosheth do anything to deserve King David's kindness? (No)
6. Who always keeps His promises? (God)
7. Who helps us keep our promises? (God)
8. Give an example of how you can keep a promise.

Lesson 5

2 Samuel 24 (Parallel Account in 1 Chronicles 21)

Know Right:	King David confesses his sin of counting his troops.
Think Right:	"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:9
Do Right:	I will admit, confess, and repent when I sin.
Feel Right:	I can feel forgiven after I admit, confess, and repent when I sin.

GET READY!

If we're honest with ourselves, at times we all make selfish choices, we dishonor others with our words and actions, and we elevate people, things, or experiences above God. Though we are created in God's image, we have a sinful nature, and our sin hurts us and others. David was a great king, a man after God's own heart, but he was far from perfect. This week's lesson gives us a glimpse into a time when David sinned against God. Read the Scripture passage and lesson plan to discover what David did in response to his sin.

Pray: As you prepare to serve this week, pause and spend some time with God first. Pray specifically that God will bring any unconfessed sin to your mind so you can admit, confess, and repent. Secondly, pray that your students will always be sensitive to their own sin and quick to admit, confess, and repent.

Read: 2 Samuel 24 (Parallel Account in 1 Chronicles 21)

Know Right: King David confesses his sin of counting his troops

David is the only person in the Bible that God calls "a man after my own heart." Even with this incredible distinction, we learn that David, like all people, was sinful. One occasion of David's sin took place when he ordered a census of Israel. When he realized his sin, David admitted it, confessed it to God, and repented of it. David's response to his sin shows us that all Christians should be humble and admit, confess, and repent of their sins.

GET SET!

Lead Teacher's Notes:

- Definition of confession: admitting my sin and telling God about it.
- Definition of mercy: showing undeserved kindness.
- Definition of repentance: turning away from sin and deciding to do what is right.
- Additional information for leaders only (we will not address this aspect at the elementary level) from Warren Wiersbe's, *The Bible Exposition Commentary*: 2 Samuel 24:1 states that God incited David to number the people, while 1 Chronicles 21:1 names Satan as the culprit. Both are true: God permitted Satan to tempt David in order to accomplish the purposes He had in mind. Satan certainly opposed God's people throughout all of Old Testament history, but this is one of four

instances in the Old Testament where Satan is named specifically and seen openly at work. The other three are when he tempted Eve (Genesis 3), attacked Job (Job 1-2), and when he accused Joshua the high priest (Zechariah 3).

- This lesson is written to the student who is already a believer. David had a relationship with God, and he needed to **confess** his sin to restore the relationship. As Christians, we are 100% forgiven of our sin, but we continue to sin. Because our God is a holy God, we need to confess our sin to restore our relationship with Him.
- This lesson covers a complicated chapter of Scripture (as well as a parallel chapter). This requires us to very briefly paraphrase and simplify most of the account of David's census.
- For additional personal growth go to the Children's Ministry Resource Bible: page 1124 (History of Israel: The Kingdom).

Creative Ideas for the Bible Lesson:

1. Give students index cards with the following words: sin, admit, confess, and repent. During the lesson, have students hold up the correct card when they hear people "do" the word. Allow students to take the cards home to think about what they learned.
2. Place a crown on a table and have students tell you as much as they can remember about King David. On paper tents, write out words that describe him and place them on the table in front of your class. Then ask: Did King David ever sin? How could a guy who did so much good ever sin? As you teach the lesson, write "pride" on a different colored paper, and explain that this incredible king sinned. After David confesses his sin, destroy the "sin" and remind students of the value of confessing and restoring our relationship with God.
3. Make three large posters with the words: admit, confess, and repent. Throughout the lesson, highlight the three words and challenge students to turn this into a personal pattern in their own lives.
4. Use army men or Sour Patch Kids (candy) to explain the lesson.

GO!

Pre-Service Review Game and Worship

Worship Leaders lead review game, followed by worship. Details in Resources Booklet.

Discover Time: Admit, Confess, Repent

Goal: To reinforce and repeat the following three words: **admit, confess, repent**.

DT Activity: LEGO® Station

Supplies:

- Green LEGO boards (or use wood blocks or green paper)
- Sign with "**ADMIT, CONFESS, REPENT**" (see appendix)

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Divide class into partners.
2. Give each set of partners a green board.
3. Challenge partners to write out the words **ADMIT, CONFESS, REPENT** in 3D (standing upright) on a LEGO board. Challenge students to be creative! (Hint: letters do not need to be flat on the green board)
4. When time is up, award five Tracker Tickets per person to the partners with the most creative creation.

5. Set aside the winning LEGO art for families to see after class.

Alternate Idea: Instead of using LEGO bricks, do this activity with magnetic letters or shapes on a magnetic wall.

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

Bible Lesson Outline

Lead Teachers ~ Connecting the DT to the Lesson: What three words did we focus on during Discover Time? (**Admit, confess, repent**) What do these words mean? Does anyone know a verse that specifically uses the word “**confess**?” (1 John 1:9) Why are these words so important to a person who is a Christian? Let’s open our Bibles and discover a person who got caught up in sin. I wonder what he will do by the end of our lesson.

Pray: *Encourage a student to open up the class in prayer.* Why is it an honor to lead the class in prayer? The person who is praying out loud helps us to speak as one to God with one big voice: thanking God, worshiping God, confessing to God, or asking something from God.

Find It: *Ask the class if 2 Samuel is in the NT or OT. Challenge students to say the books of the Bible up to 2 Samuel. Write the verse reference on the whiteboard and have students open their Bibles.*

Timeline: How many kings can you find on our timeline? Today we will continue to learn about King David.

Introduction to the Bible Lesson:

We learned that God chose David to be Israel’s king because he was a man after God’s own heart. That means David loved and followed God. Even though King David loved and followed God, he wasn’t perfect. He still sinned sometimes (Romans 3:23). What kind of sin do kids today struggle with? *Write/draw examples on your whiteboard.* What sin have you personally struggled with this week? *Challenge students to think about their own sin.* If you are a Christian, Jesus forgave all your sin - past, present, and future - when you accepted Him as your Savior, but as long as you walk on this earth, sin in your life will still be a problem. So, what can you do about this sin? What did King David do about his sin? Let’s open God’s Word to find out the answer.

Scripture Outline: 2 Samuel 24 (Parallel Account in 1 Chronicles 21)

The Israelites’ sin

Paraphrase of 2 Samuel 24:1:

God was angry with the people of Israel. God doesn’t tell us exactly why He was angry, but we know that it was because the Israelites had sinned in some way.

Lead Teacher’s note: Some commentators believe that the sinful behavior occurred when David’s son, Absalom, tried to take over as king. The men of Israel rebelled against King David and followed Absalom. After Absalom was killed, a man named Sheba, along with the men of Israel, rebelled against King David again. Israel was wrong to rebel against King David. God had made David the king and the men of Israel should have loyally followed him.

David also sinned when he chose to count all of the men who could be in his army. This is called a census.

Older students: God does not explain why taking the census was a sin. It may have been because David was starting to depend on his army instead of God. Remember what we learned about Gideon this past quarter? Gideon was supposed to fight the huge Midianite army. Instead of giving Gideon a large army, God took Gideon's army of 32,000 men and shrank it down to 300 men, so they would know it was God who really won the victory. Whatever the sin was, God allowed Satan to incite it in order to bring about punishment for Israel's sin. This is a perfect example of God's sovereignty! Isn't being "angry" a sin? Righteous anger is the right response to sin. Paul didn't say, "Don't be angry," he said, "Be angry, and do not sin." This is using the energy of your anger towards righteousness rather than letting it control your actions or attitude.

The census

Read 2 Samuel 24:2-4

Recap: Joab, the commander of Israel's army, told David he shouldn't take the census. Joab knew David was making a bad choice, but David wouldn't listen! Sometimes it's hard to admit when you sin.

Optional: insert a personal story about a time when it was hard for you to admit that you sinned.

Gospel

Romans 3:23 teaches us that we have all sinned, but Ephesians 2:8-9 gives us hope that we can be forgiven of our sin, not by our works, but by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. Once our sins are forgiven, then we need to learn to admit our sins, confess them to God, and repent. David had a hard time admitting his sin.

Counting the men

Paraphrase of 2 Samuel 24:5-9:

Joab and his helpers left Jerusalem and traveled around Israel for over nine months to count the fighting men. When they returned to Jerusalem, they told King David they had counted eight hundred thousand men!

David admits his sin

When David heard Joab's census report, he felt terrible! He knew he had made a very bad choice. Listen to what he said:

Read 2 Samuel 24:10 dramatically

Recap: David was "conscience-stricken", and he felt terrible! What did he do? He admitted he had sinned, he confessed his sin to God (prayed and talked to Him about it), and he repented (confessed his sin to God and turned away from it).

Have you ever been "conscience-stricken"? That means the Holy Spirit, which lives inside of you if you are a Christian, causes you to feel horrible because you sinned. This could happen after you lie, cheat, gossip, or disrespect a leader.

Let's think about what David did. Could something like that ever happen in our lives? Let's imagine this situation:

Feel free to change the following story to match the students in your classroom.

You are a Christian, so this means you've already trusted in Christ to forgive you for all of your sin. God told you through His Word in a Bible lesson not to be prideful.

You knew you were proud about being an excellent athlete and it was something you needed to work on. When school started, you had the chance to display items that were special to you. Instead of being humble, you took all your trophies and lined them up in the display case at school. You even made sure that a large poster of yourself was sitting right next to the trophies so everyone would know for sure who you were in case they wanted an autograph of a future soccer star. By lunchtime, you realized that you were being super prideful. You felt really bad and wanted to make it right. Just like David, you were “conscience-stricken” and wanted to make things right with God and other people.

You **admitted** you sinned against God by being proud. Then you prayed and **confessed** to God that what you did was very prideful and wrong. Immediately, you **repented** by removing your current display and replacing it with some soccer balls and several team photos with your coach who invested a ton of time into you and helped you become a more skilled player. You did what all Christians need to do when they sin. You admitted it, confessed it, and repented of it by changing from your way to God’s way.

Now, before we move on, we need to remember something else really important. David wasn’t the only one who had sinned. Who else had sinned? The men of Israel sinned when they rebelled against King David. But God doesn’t tell us they admitted their sin, confessed it to God, or repented by changing their way to God’s way. So what happened?

Pick the punishment

Paraphrase of 2 Samuel 24:11-13:

God told King David to pick Israel’s punishment. He gave David three choices: three years of famine (not enough food), three months of war, or three days of plague (a bad sickness that kills people).

Let’s listen to what David picked.

Read 2 Samuel 24:14 dramatically

Recap: David trusted in God, so he picked three days of God’s plague because it was the most direct punishment from God.

Consequences of sin

Paraphrase of 2 Samuel 24:15-17:

There were 70,000 Israelites killed by the plague and this made God very sad.

King David was also very sad when he saw God’s angel killing the people. He was so upset he asked God to punish him and his family instead of the people of Israel.

David builds an altar

Paraphrase of 2 Samuel 24:18-25:

God heard David and told him to build an altar at the spot where the angel was. David bought the piece of land from the owner and did just as God told him to do. Because David obeyed, God showed His mercy and stopped the terrible plague. But think about it: there were still consequences because of David’s and the Israelites’ sins.

Conclusion

I pray that as you go through this week and the rest of your life, you will think about King David and his commitment to God. He recognized his sin (he was conscience-stricken), and he was humble enough to stop and admit he sinned, confess it to God, and turn to do the right thing.

Do Right and Feel Right

We all sin, and we all have to live with the consequences. Sometimes the consequences are really bad. But God wants you to do exactly like King David did. He wants you to first trust in Jesus to be forgiven of all your sin (this is when you become a Christian). Then, when you do sin, He wants you to admit, confess, and repent so you can continue to have a strong relationship with God! 1 John 1:9 teaches us that if we confess our sins, He will be faithful to forgive us.

Let's stop, bow our heads, and think about any sins we may need to confess. Now is the time to repent of that sin and change, just like King David. *Allow students time to pray.*

Next week we're going to learn more about King David's family and the special piece of land that David bought. I hope you come back next week to find out more about our awesome God!

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

1. In today's lesson, who sinned? (Israel and King David sinned)
2. How did David sin? (He took a census)
3. Give an example of five sins that students might struggle with. (Disobeying parents, lying, fighting, taking things away from others, making poor choices when on the Internet, being prideful, etc.)
4. If you are a Christian, what should you do when you sin? (Admit, confess, and repent)
5. What does it mean to admit? Confess? Repent? (Admit means to tell the truth about what we did, confess means to pray and talk to God about it, repent means to confess your sin to God and turn away from it)
6. In our Bible lesson, who admitted, confessed, and repented of his sin and asked God to forgive him? (King David)
7. Were there still consequences for King David's sin? What? (Yes, people died in the plague)
8. If your sins are forgiven (you are a Christian), how often should you admit, confess, and repent? (As soon as you realize you've sinned: because you have been forgiven, you should strive to live your life to honor God and stay close to Him by admitting your sins, confessing them to God, and repenting of them)

Lesson 6

**1 Chronicles 28:1-20, 29:26-28; 2 Chronicles 1:1-12, 3:1 - 7:22
(Parallel Account in 1 Kings 1-9)**

Know Right:	Solomon asks for wisdom.
Think Right: without	“If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all finding fault, and it will be given to him.” James 1:5
Do Right:	I will ask God for wisdom.
Feel Right:	I can feel wise when I ask and receive wisdom from God.

GET READY!

When we need insight and wisdom to deal with a difficult life situation we are facing, who do we go to first? The internet, our spouse, or maybe our friends? Or do we go to the One who always has the answer? God tells us that He is always willing to give wisdom to those who ask. Seek His wisdom as you get ready to teach and lead your students this week.

Pray: As you prepare to serve, think about each student in your class, then ask God to lead your preparation based on your students’ spiritual needs. Pray Proverbs 2:1-12 for your students.

Read: 1 Chronicles 28:1-20, 29:26-28; 2 Chronicles 1:1-12, 3:1 - 7:22 (Parallel Account in 1 Kings 1-9)

Know Right: Solomon asks for wisdom

David’s love for God led to his desire to build the temple in Jerusalem. God, however, had another plan. God told David He had chosen his son Solomon to be the next king and the one to build His earthly house. David gave Solomon God’s plan, the materials, and the instructions for the temple. He implored his son to be strong and courageous and do the work that God had planned. God was with Solomon and allowed him to ask for whatever he wanted. Instead of asking for wealth, honor, or long life, Solomon selflessly asked for wisdom and knowledge to lead God’s people. In turn, God gave Solomon all he asked for and more. This display of God’s infinite grace encourages us to be like Solomon and ask God for wisdom.

GET SET!

Lead Teacher’s Notes:

- This lesson is about asking for wisdom, not on the details of building the temple.
- Definition of wisdom: using the truth of God’s Word to understand the world and make right decisions.
- Take time to feel the emotions and the mindset of David and Solomon throughout this lesson. Put yourself in their “shoes” and really think about the incredible events of this passage of Scripture. This lesson covers several chapters of Scripture (as well as a parallel chapter). The length requires us to very briefly paraphrase and simplify most of the account of when Solomon became king. Suggestions for verses to read from Scripture are noted in the outline below.
- For additional information on Solomon refer to the Children’s Ministry Resource Bible: page 412 (Solomon’s Empire); page 512 (The Temple).

Creative Ideas for the Bible Lesson:

1. Create a royal scene and have King David sitting on a throne waiting for students to arrive at class. When they arrive, have him start your lesson by acting out 1 Chronicles 28:1-20. After he finishes, and you begin to look into 2 Chronicles, have King Solomon act out 2 Chronicles 1:1-12. Hint: early in the week, ask a few dads to play these roles of the kings.
2. For 3rd-5th grade students, show a video rendering of the temple such as: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s3aOO011JLU>
3. On your whiteboard, write "Ask for wisdom." Throughout the lesson, write/draw out the timeline from David to Solomon completing the temple. Throughout the lesson, emphasize the value of asking God for wisdom and make reference to our Think Right verse, James 1:5.

GO!

Pre-Service Review Game and Worship

Worship Leaders lead review game, followed by worship. Details in Resources Booklet.

Discover Time: Just ask...

Goal: To teach the importance of admitting weakness and **asking for** help from a person who has **wisdom**. (Please refer to "Connecting the DT to the Bible Lesson" for a better understanding on the purpose of this Discover Time)

DT Activity: Box Station

Supplies:

- Two sets of 24 boxes, each with one of the following words/pictures on it: the word "**Ask**" with a picture of a mouth, the word "**for**", and the word "**wisdom**" with a picture of praying hands and a Bible - print in color or print each set on different colored paper (see appendix)
- Tracker Tickets

Setup instructions: Both sets of boxes should be mixed up and in the center of the Box Station. Write "**Ask for wisdom**" on the Chalk Wall or on a poster board.

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Divide students into two teams.
2. Assign each team a set of colored boxes.
3. Point to the Chalk Wall/poster and have students repeat "**Ask for wisdom**" several times (repeat like a chant that gets louder and louder).
4. Demonstrate how to find a specific-colored set of boxes out of the large group, then how to stack the boxes in the correct pattern. Stack the boxes with "**Ask**" on the top, then "**for**", then "**wisdom**", so the command will be read from the top down. The teams will need to continue, **Ask, for, wisdom, Ask, for, wisdom**, etc. to the ceiling.
5. Round 1 – This should be a non-competitive challenge. If your students are unable to read, have them look at the Chalk Wall to match the words. Allow the students to complete the challenge themselves without any help. It is important not to give any extra instructions or assistance other than the basic directions.
6. Re-mix the boxes into one large group in the center between rounds.
7. Round 2 – Challenge the teams to compete to see who can stack their boxes the fastest. Before beginning Round 2, ask if any of the teams want some "**wise** advice." Huddle with students who **ask** for advice. Quietly tell them to stack their boxes against a wall instead of in the center of the room so the boxes won't tip over. Challenge them to stack from under the boxes and push the stack up using the wall as a support.

8. Announce the winner of Round 2 and award two Tracker Tickets before heading back to the classroom.

Alternate Discover Time Activity (Asking for wisdom)

In an open space (or in the classroom), set up a scavenger hunt by hiding the words: “ask,” “for,” and “wisdom” in areas where students cannot easily find them. Divide students into teams and instruct them to search for the hidden words. Students are allowed to come to the DT Leader to **ask for** help through hints/clues to locate the words. The first team to locate them earns three Tracker Tickets.

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

Bible Lesson Outline

Lead Teachers ~ Connecting the DT to the Lesson: How many of you were humble enough to **ask for** “wise advice” during Discover Time? Was **asking for wisdom** your first thought or did you try to do the activity by yourself at first? Why was it important to hear the **wise** advice? What made the advice so **wise**? (The person had experience and skill) In today’s Bible lesson, we will learn about a person who valued **wisdom**. He knew where and from whom to get **wisdom**! What happens when you **ask God for wisdom**? Let’s open God’s Word and find out!

Pray: *Challenge one of your students to open the class in prayer. This will help them learn to pray in a public setting, build confidence, and develop their spiritual leadership skills. If prayers are repetitive week after week, put a few statements on the whiteboard about the things they can pray for, such as: thanking God for our time together, thanking God for His Word, that our class will learn true wisdom, or that God will speak to us during the lesson. This helps students know how to focus on God and ask Him for the wisdom found in His Word.*

Find It: *Ask the class if 1 Chronicles is in the NT or OT. Challenge students to say the books of the Old Testament up to 1 Chronicles. We strongly encourage all students to bring their own Bible. By bringing their own Bible, they will personalize it and learn how to use it. If a student doesn’t bring their Bible, kindly remind their parents of the importance of bringing their Bible when the students are picked up.*

Timeline: *Point to the picture on the timeline that illustrates this specific lesson (King Solomon). The purpose of the timeline is to challenge students to see the Bible as a big picture rather than individual lessons that do not connect. It is critical that you refer to your timeline on a weekly basis.*

Introduction to the Bible Lesson:

Remember how we learned last week that God was angry with Israel because of their sin? God gave King David a choice of three different punishments for Israel. What punishment did David choose? (David chose three days of plague on the Israelites) When he saw so many Israelites die, David asked God to have mercy and stop the plague. God told him to build an altar on a special piece of land*. When David obeyed, God stopped the plague. David wanted to build a house for God on this special piece of land. This house would be called the temple and be a special place for all the Israelites to come to worship and make their sacrifices to God. It would replace the tent called the tabernacle that Moses and the Israelites had built a long time before. God didn’t want King David to build the temple. God had another special plan.

***Interesting fact:** *2 Chronicles 3:1 informs us that this special piece of land (Mount Zion) is on Mount Moriah, the area where Abraham was commanded to sacrifice Isaac (Genesis 22:2, 14).*

Scripture Outline: 1 Chronicles 28:1-20, 29:26-28; 2 Chronicles 1:1-12, 3:1 - 7:22

(Parallel Account in 1 Kings 1-9)

David announces the new king

Paraphrase of 1 Chronicles 28:1-8:

When King David grew old, his son Solomon became the new king of Israel. God had chosen Solomon to be Israel's next king and to build the new temple. Listen to what King David told his son Solomon:

Read 1 Chronicles 28:9-10 dramatically

Recap: King David told Solomon that he needed to follow God and do God's work.

Paraphrase of 1 Chronicles 28:11-19:

Then he gave Solomon the plans and the materials that God provided for the temple. Listen to what else King David said:

Read 1 Chronicles 28:20 dramatically

Recap: Would Solomon be strong and courageous and work for God like his father told him? What do you think? Let's see.

King David dies

Read 1 Chronicles 29:26-28

Recap: After a long life of wealth and honor, King David died. It was Solomon's time to be king.

Solomon asks for wisdom

Paraphrase of 2 Chronicles 1:1-6:

God was with Solomon and made him an exceedingly great king. Listen to what happened one night:

Read 2 Chronicles 1:7 dramatically

Recap: If God told you to ask for whatever you want, what would you ask for? What do you think King Solomon asked for? Let's find out!

Read 2 Chronicles 1:8-10 dramatically

Recap: King Solomon asked God to give him wisdom, so he could do God's work well and be a good king in Israel.

Gospel

You can tell Solomon loved and honored God by putting Him first based on his response. What about you? Do you love and honor God? God loves you very much! What verse teaches us about God's love? *Have students recite John 3:16.* It's amazing to think He would love us so much He would send His one and only Son to rescue us from our sin. *Explain the Wordless Book.* James 1:5 tells us that once we become a Christian, we can ask for wisdom just like Solomon.

Let's move back to Solomon. Do you think God's wisdom was a good thing to ask for? What do you think God said? Let's keep reading.

Read 2 Chronicles 1:11-12 dramatically

Recap: God was so pleased with Solomon's request for wisdom, He promised to give Solomon wisdom and knowledge and riches and honor! He also promised to give Solomon a long life if Solomon obeyed Him (1 Kings 3:14). God always wants to give us His best!

The temple is built

Paraphrase of 2 Chronicles 3:1 - 7:22:

With God's help, King Solomon and the people of Israel started working and built the temple on the special piece of land King David had bought. When you go home, you can read all the details that went into the temple in chapters 3-7. These chapters include how big it was, the sculptures, the furnishings,

and more. It took seven years to build the huge temple (1 Kings 6:38). When it was finished, the Israelites had a great celebration. They worshiped God and sang, "He is good; His love endures forever." God came and filled the temple with a great cloud of His glory!

Listen to how the Israelites felt when King Solomon sent them home after the celebration of God's temple:

Read 2 Chronicles 7:10 dramatically

Recap: King Solomon and the Israelites felt blessed!

Conclusion

God had a very special plan to build a temple in Jerusalem where all the Israelites could come worship Him and make their sacrifices. He wanted Solomon to be in charge of the work. Solomon wanted to do God's work, so he asked God for wisdom and knowledge. God gave him what he asked for, plus many other blessings. Then King Solomon obeyed God and built the temple.

Do Right and Feel Right

The God Solomon loved and honored is the same God we love and honor! God can hear you just as much as He could hear Solomon when he asked for wisdom. *Read James 1:5.* God wants us to ask for His wisdom. With God's wisdom, we can make the right decisions to live our lives to please God. For example, if you had to make a difficult decision, you could ask God to give you wisdom to help guide your thoughts. Or, if you are walking through a difficult situation, you can ask (pray) for wisdom on how to act or talk. By asking God for wisdom, you are acknowledging Him as the expert (like your DT) of your life. Let's stop right now, bow our heads, and think about what we learned. Do you need God's wisdom to help you through a situation? He tells us to ask for wisdom; let's do that now. *Allow students to silently pray.* This week, continue to seek God and ask for wisdom.

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

1. What did King David want to build? (A house/temple for God)
2. Whom did God choose to be the new king and build the temple? (King David's son, Solomon)
3. What did King Solomon ask God for? (Wisdom)
4. What did God promise to give King Solomon? (Wisdom, knowledge, riches, honor, and a long life if Solomon would obey Him)
5. What did God do when the temple was finished? (God came and filled the temple with a cloud of His glory)
6. How do you get wisdom? (Ask God; James 1:5)
7. Why is God's wisdom valuable to you?

Lesson 7

1 Kings 9 and 11

Know Right:	Solomon follows other gods.
Think Right:	“‘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)
Do Right:	I will be faithful to God.
Feel Right:	I can feel confident when I am faithful to God.

GET READY!

Solomon was the wisest man and yet he became ensnared in sin. He had everything he could ever want (and more!), and he still dishonored God with his attitudes and actions. How could that happen? Solomon suffered from the same problem we all do - a sin nature. And yet, incredibly, God gives us grace through Jesus! What a gift!

Pray: Pray that many students will come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ at your church this weekend. Also ask God to help your students remain faithful to God their whole lives.

Read: 1 Kings 9 and 11

Know Right: Solomon follows other gods

Solomon had a huge job to do for God. Not only was he to build the new temple, but he was also the man God chose to be Israel's new king. God's desire was for Solomon to walk in the ways of his father, David, by loving God and obeying Him from the heart. God promised perpetual leadership in Israel for Solomon and his descendants, if they would be obedient and not turn from God's ways. God also warned Solomon of the consequences if he or his sons rebelled. This included Israel's removal from the Promised Land and destruction of the temple. Unfortunately, Solomon failed to heed God's clear warning and he turned away to follow other gods. Solomon's failure clearly illustrates we should always be faithful to God.

GET SET!

Lead Teacher's Notes:

- This lesson covers two chapters of Scripture. The length requires us to paraphrase and simplify most of the account of Solomon's unfaithfulness. Suggestions for verses to read from Scripture are noted in the outline below.
- Teachers should always have their Bibles open during the entire lesson, so students know that the account is coming from the Bible.
- All students should open their Bibles to the Scripture passage before you begin to study the lesson. Assistance may be required for younger grades.

Creative Ideas for the Bible Lesson:

Use a poster board and create a picture of Solomon. Before class, cut the poster into puzzle pieces and tape the complete picture on your whiteboard. As you teach the lesson, point out how Solomon had it all together when he obeyed God. Throughout the lesson, take off pieces and write how he sinned, placing the pieces to the side. The students will see how his life fell apart as a consequence for not being faithful to God.

GO!

Pre-Service Review Game and Worship

Worship Leaders lead review game, followed by worship. Details in Resources Booklet.

Discover Time: How faithful are you?

Goal: To challenge students to remain **faithful** with their thoughts, words, and actions.

DT Activity: Water Station or large open space

Supplies:

- Painter's tape (create a line maze; see setup instructions for details)
- Prize bucket filled with small prizes, such as candy, pencils, stickers, and/or Tracker Tickets
- Blindfolds (one for every two students)
- Stopwatch or timer

Setup Instructions: Using painter's tape, create a line maze with a prize bucket at the end of the maze, which should be at the center. Make the maze semi-challenging so students cannot quickly walk to the prize bucket. Make several paths to the prize bucket and at least twelve lines leading to the central maze so each set of partners can start at the same time and merge into the difficult portion of the maze.

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Divide students into pairs. Partner A will be the guide and Partner B will be blindfolded and will walk backwards.
2. Determine a time limit and let the students know.
3. Clearly state the goal, which is for Partner B to remain **faithful** to their partner and get to the prize bucket as fast as they can.
4. Rules:
 - Partner B must remain blindfolded, walk backwards, and keep eyes closed.
 - Partner A is not allowed to touch Partner B. They must lead by voice commands only.
 - If Partner B walks off their line, they will be sent back to the starting line.
 - Partner B must remain **faithful** to Partner A.
 - Partner B needs to understand that there will be distractions and temptations, but they must remain **faithful** to the true voice of their partner.
5. Classroom leaders should look for students who "fall off the path", or students who are cheating. If this happens, send them back to the start.
6. The partners that reach the end of the maze within the time limit can choose a prize.
7. If time allows, have the partners switch positions and try again.

Bible Lesson Outline

Lead Teachers ~ Connecting the DT to the Lesson: In our Discover Time today, you heard the word “faithful” many times. What does the word **faithful** mean? *Allow students to answer. A faithful person would listen and do exactly what was told to them even when it was hard. Are you faithful? Being faithful is not always easy. It’s not always fun to be true to one thing with your thoughts, words, or actions. Faithfulness takes a lot of self-control, which is a fruit of the Spirit! Today in our lesson, we will learn about a guy who had specific instructions and a huge prize in front of him, if he was faithful to God alone. Guess what he did? Let’s open our Bibles and find out!*

Pray: *Challenge a student to stand up and pray before you begin your lesson. Have older students pray with a partner by going “knee to knee” with a friend (knees touching or almost touching) and asking, “How can I pray for you?” Then have one friend pray for the other friend. This may seem strange to the students the first week and you may need to role model it first. But after several weeks of doing it, it will be something familiar.*

Find It: *Ask the class if 1 Kings is in the NT or the OT. Challenge students to say the books of the Old Testament up to 1 Kings. By reciting the books each week, your students will become familiar with the books and how to pronounce them. Optional Idea: Create a bookmark so students can quickly find their place in the Bible each week. It will also help them recognize that we are teaching through the Bible.*

Timeline: *Have students point to all the kings on the timeline. Then point out King Solomon.*

Introduction to the Bible Lesson:

In past weeks, we learned how the Israelites were punished for their sin. Because God loved them so much, He wanted them to admit, confess, repent, and be forgiven. He wanted them to turn from their disobedience and follow Him like King David had done. When Solomon became the new king, he was strong and courageous, and along with the Israelites, he did God’s work by building the new temple. The Israelites had a great celebration when the temple was complete. The Israelites left the celebration feeling “joyful and glad in heart for all the good things the Lord had done for His servant David and His people Israel.” (1 Kings 8:66b) God was good to King Solomon and the Israelites. He gave King Solomon great wisdom, knowledge, wealth, and honor. He also gave Israel rest from their enemies. Do you think Solomon and the Israelites remained faithful to God after all the good things He had done for them? Let’s open our Bibles and discover what happened.

Scripture Outline: 1 Kings 9 and 11

God wants the best for Solomon

Paraphrase of 1 Kings 9:1-3:

After Solomon built the temple, the Lord appeared to him a second time. Listen to what God told Solomon after the temple celebration:

Read 1 Kings 9:4-9 dramatically

Recap: God told Solomon that he and the Israelites needed to be faithful to Him. He said they needed to have hearts that truly loved God and to follow all of His laws and commands. God warned King Solomon that there would be terrible punishment if he and the Israelites weren’t faithful to Him.

Paraphrase of 1 Kings 9:10-28:

God blessed Solomon. Solomon became known as one of the greatest builders in the history of Israel. He built armies, cities, and ships. I'm sure King Solomon recognized that his great wealth and abilities were from God, and, because of this, he would always remain faithful to God...right?

Solomon disobeys God

Paraphrase of 1 Kings 11:1-5:

King Solomon started out well when he first became the king, but then he went way off track and became unfaithful to God in some big ways! How?

Let's hear about some of God's commands for the kings:

(Most of these are from Deuteronomy 17:14-20)

- Don't buy many horses for yourself. Solomon did.
- Don't go back to Egypt to buy horses. He did.
- Don't marry many wives. He did.
- Don't marry anyone who worships other gods. He married many women who worshiped other gods.
- Don't save up a lot of silver and gold. He did.
- Don't give Israel's land away. He did.
- Don't think you're better than other people. He did.
- Don't serve and worship other gods. He did.
- Read God's Word every day and obey it. Solomon didn't.

Why did God give these commands? He gave them because He wanted the best for Solomon and the Israelites. God knew if the Israelites did these bad things, they would turn away from Him and start worshiping and serving man-made gods that weren't even real. That's exactly what Solomon and the Israelites did! Listen to what happened:

Read 1 Kings 11:6 and 11:9-13 dramatically *(Skip 1 Kings 11:7-8)*

Recap: Solomon did not stay faithful to God. He also led the Israelites to turn away from God.

Gospel

How disappointing. Solomon chose to do things his own way, even though he knew his loving God had a great plan for him. Do you know who is like Solomon? We are! *Have students recite Romans 3:23.* There is no way that any of us can be perfectly faithful to God. We all end up choosing our own way sometimes.

God is a holy and righteous God; being unfaithful to Him dishonors Him and separates us from Him. The only way we can be made right with God is to trust in Jesus to save us and free us from the power of sin in our lives. What verse teaches us to believe in Jesus? (Acts 16:31) *Continue to use the Wordless Book to present the plan of salvation.*

King Solomon's Punishment

Paraphrase of 1 Kings 11:14-43:

Because of Solomon's unfaithfulness, God would not allow King Solomon's family to keep ruling over the whole kingdom. When King Solomon grew old and died, his son became the new king and the country of Israel divided into two parts: one part was called Judah and the other part was called Israel.

God had been so good to Solomon and the Israelites. Why would they become unfaithful to Him and have their country torn in two? It was very sad. Now there would be one king over Judah and a different king over Israel. Even though this was a terrible punishment for the Israelites, God was still in control.

Conclusion

God came to Solomon and told him exactly what to do. He blessed Solomon with everything he asked for and more! Solomon should have stayed faithful to God all the days of his life. But that's not what happened. Solomon sinned and turned away from God. (Romans 3:23) He and the other Israelites worshiped wealth and make-believe, man-made gods. When they did this, they had to live with terrible punishment. Israel was divided, and their enemies returned. In Proverbs 15:16 Solomon said, "Better a little with the fear of the Lord than great wealth with turmoil." Solomon and Israel learned this truth the hard way!

Do Right and Feel Right

God wants His best for us, but to receive His best, we must be faithful to Him. That means the first thing we must do is trust in Jesus to save us from our sin and allow Him to be the leader of our lives. Then we should think about and live out Mark 12:30-31. When we do this, our actions, words, and thoughts will show we are faithful to God. Let's stop for a moment and close our eyes so we can really think. When is it easy to be faithful to God? (When we are at church, when our parents are watching us, etc.) When is it hard? (When we are at school, when someone makes fun of you for being a Christian, during a sleepover at a friend's house, watching a YouTube video, etc.) Are you willing to remain focused and faithful to God this week? How will this make you feel? *Close in prayer.*

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

1. What did God give Solomon after he asked for wisdom? (Wisdom, knowledge, wealth, and honor)
2. What did God allow Solomon and the Israelites to build? (The new temple)
3. What did Solomon and the Israelites do right after the temple was built? (They had a great celebration)
4. How did the Israelites feel when they left the celebration? (They were joyful and glad in heart because of all the good things God had done for them)
5. What warning did God give Solomon? (Don't turn away from Me to serve and worship other gods; remain faithful to God)
6. What did Solomon end up doing? (He served and worshiped other gods; he was unfaithful)
7. What happened to Solomon and the nation of Israel when they turned away from God? (Israel was torn in two, Solomon's family could no longer rule the whole kingdom of Israel, Israel's enemies returned)
8. Will you always be faithful to God?

Lesson 8

1 Kings 17

Know Right:	God provides for the needs of Elijah and the widow.
Think Right:	“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.” Joshua 1:9 (Top 12)
Do Right:	I will trust that God will provide for my needs.
Feel Right:	I can feel secure when I trust God to provide for my needs.

GET READY!

God is the great Provider! Take some time this week to reflect on the many ways that God has provided for you and those you love. Praise and thank Him for what He has done, and then prepare for this week by reading the Scripture passage and the lesson.

Pray: As you prepare to serve, ask God to bring all your students to class this week and to move in a very powerful way. Also pray for your co-volunteers in your class. Pray that they will remain physically, spiritually, and emotionally healthy so they can serve wholeheartedly.

Read: 1 Kings 17

Know Right: God provides for the needs of Elijah and the widow

One consequence of King Solomon’s unfaithfulness was the division of Israel into two separate kingdoms, Judah and Israel. As Israel’s leadership and people sank further into rebellion against God by worshiping false gods, prophets were sent to pronounce the punishment. One of these prophets was Elijah, who was sent to tell evil King Ahab about the impending three years of drought. In spite of the drought and resulting famine, God took miraculous care of His obedient servant by using ravens at a brook in the wilderness and a widow in enemy territory. Through Elijah’s experience in difficult circumstances, we can trust that God will provide for our needs.

GET SET!

Lead Teacher’s Notes:

- Please refer to the Children’s Ministry Resource Bible: page 427 (Lesson: God Provides for Elijah); page 396 (History); page 434 (The Life of Elijah); page 850 (Introduction to the Major Prophets); page 1672 (Definition of prophet: one who speaks for God, giving His message to others); page 1288 (Jesus talks about Elijah and the widow in Luke 4:16-30).
- Pronunciation of Baal: BAY-uhl
- This lesson covers one chapter of Scripture and allows us to dramatically read the entire passage to teach the account of Elijah, the ravens, and the widow.
- You may think in the USA that our students have limited physical needs, but you may be surprised how many families struggle financially to provide for some of their basic physical

needs. Other students may have all their physical needs met, but they may need a good Christian friend or physical protection due to difficult situations. Really personalize this lesson for students and teach them how to trust in God in the midst of their own personal circumstances. Challenge them to read their Bible, listen to His promises, keep their eyes focused on Him, think about memory verses, etc. Always remember to emphasize the students' biggest need, which is Jesus.

Creative Ideas for the Bible Lesson:

1. Have a small jar of flour and a small jar of oil available as you teach. When you talk about the bread, actually share a small piece of bread (or a roll) with each student. (*Check for allergies as students arrive*)
2. Have a bread machine in your classroom to create the scent of fresh bread.
3. Draw the scene on your whiteboard as you teach. Before the lesson, create the general landscape of the lesson using multiple colors.
4. Assign leaders to be the voice of Elijah and the widow as you teach the lesson
5. Download free pictures at freebibleimages.org or <https://www.unfoldingword.org/sweet-publishing/>

GO!

Pre-Service Review Game and Worship

Worship Leaders lead review game, followed by worship. Details in Resources Booklet.

Discover Time: I want it!

Goal: For students to think about what they **need** versus what they **want**.

Discover Time Tips: Make your stations pop! Paint the words “Needs vs Wants” on three pieces of poster board using bright colors. Display so students are introduced to the Do Right immediately when they arrive.

DT Activity: Chalk Wall Station

Supplies:

- Chalk
- Eraser
- Index cards with the following words: boat, Bible, school, shelter, church, fruits and veggies, parents/guardians, bed, sports car, air, water, sunshine, skateboard, cell phone, TV, clothes, etc. (see appendix)

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Divide the class into two to four teams depending on the size of your class.
2. Explain the general rules of Pictionary. One member of the team will draw a picture of what is written on their card. The first team to guess what the person is drawing wins that round!
3. Bonus points will be added if that team can tell the class if the item is a “**need**” or a “**want**” and explain why it would fall into that category. The better the explanation, the more points awarded.
4. Announce the winning team at the end of the game.

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

Bible Lesson Outline

Lead Teachers ~ Connecting the DT to the Lesson: What is the difference between **wants** and **needs**? What happens to our attitude when we constantly say, “We **want** more?” (We become more demanding, greedy, self-centered) Do you know that God will provide for your **needs**? Today we will learn about a person who was very confident God would provide for all of his **needs**. Let’s open our Bibles and learn more about God.

Pray: *This week the Lead Teacher should open up the class in prayer to role model how to pray specifically for the Bible lesson time and for our friends in the classroom. Note: Many children may feel like they do not have friends. Using the word “friends” helps students feel like they are part of a class filled with friends.*

Find It: *Ask the class if 1 Kings is in the NT or the OT. Challenge students to say the books of the Old Testament up to 1 Kings by using the chart on the wall. If time permits, ask students what their favorite book of the Bible is.*

Timeline: *Quickly review the previous lessons by pointing at pictures and highlighting where we are starting the lesson today.*

Introduction to the Bible Lesson:

Last week we learned that King Solomon and Israel did not stay faithful to God. They dishonored God by choosing to sin, even though God had been so good to them. The country of Israel was divided into two parts as their punishment. The two parts were Judah and Israel, and they each had their own king. None of Israel’s kings were faithful to God, but King Ahab was the most evil yet! King Ahab’s wife was named Jezebel, and she was evil, too. King Ahab and Queen Jezebel didn’t love and follow God. Instead, they worshiped make-believe gods named Baal and Asherah. King Ahab even built a temple and an altar for Baal and said the Israelites should worship this false god. People who worshiped Baal thought he was the god who controlled the weather. They trusted Baal instead of God to provide for their needs. Let’s open our Bibles and discover what happened when God sent His prophet named Elijah to talk to King Ahab.

Scripture Outline: 1 Kings 17

God sends a prophet named Elijah

Read 1 Kings 17:1 dramatically

Recap: Elijah was one of God’s prophets. Do you remember what a prophet is? It’s someone who gives God’s messages to people. Many times, God’s prophets were killed because the king didn’t like what God was telling them. Now God was going to show that He was the real God who provided everything they needed! Elijah told King Ahab the only way it would rain in Israel for the next few years was if God said so!

Isn’t our God powerful? This meant Israel’s land would dry up (drought) and prevent them from growing food (famine). Now Elijah was in danger, but he knew God was with him and would provide for him. This reminds me of a verse, Joshua 1:9. *Have students recite the verse.* How would God provide for his needs? Let’s keep reading.

Elijah obeys, and God provides for his needs

Read 1 Kings 17:2-6 dramatically

Recap: Wow! Elijah obeyed God, and God used a miracle to provide for his needs. God told Elijah to go to the brook so he could be safe and have water to drink. He sent ravens to bring Elijah bread and meat. Notice I said bread and meat, not a fast-food cheeseburger and a chocolate cake! Do you remember another time when God sent bread and meat? *Allow students to answer.* A long time before Elijah, God sent the Israelites manna and quail when they were in the desert. *Point back to the timeline.* Do you think this miracle made Elijah confident God would provide for his needs? Think for a minute. What kinds of things do you need right now? *Allow students to share.* Do you feel confident God will provide everything you need? Many times, people don't trust in God. Instead, they trust in other people, other things, or themselves. Can you think of some things that people trust in other than God? *Allow students to share; be prepared with examples—money, a job, friends, other people, etc.* Let's keep reading and see how God kept providing everything Elijah needed.

The widow obeys

Read 1 Kings 17:7-9 dramatically

Recap: When the water in the brook dried up, God told Elijah to go to a city called Sidon and a widow would give him food. This wasn't as easy as it sounds. Sidon was not in Israel. It was the city where evil Queen Jezebel was from, and her husband was the king there. The people in Sidon didn't worship the real God; they worshiped the fake god Baal. Elijah had to trust God to protect him in Sidon where he might be in danger again. Let's see what happened next.

God provides for their needs

Read 1 Kings 17:10-16 dramatically

Recap: Elijah obeyed God, went to Sidon, and there was the widow! God had already commanded the widow to give Elijah food, but she only had a tiny bit of flour and oil.

She believed she and her son were going to starve to death. Elijah told her if she made some bread and gave it to him, she would have all the flour and oil she needed until God sent rain to grow more food. The widow obeyed God, and He sent a miracle! The widow had all the flour and oil she, her son, and Elijah needed! Do you think this miracle made Elijah, the widow, and her son even more confident God would provide for their needs?

Right now, think about what you need again. Will you obey God and trust Him for everything? *This would be a great time to insert a very brief personal story about how God has provided for your needs and how you have grown more confident in Him.* God wasn't finished with Elijah, the widow, and her son. He was going to show His power even more! Let's keep reading!

The widow's son

Read 1 Kings 17:17-18 dramatically

Recap: Oh no! After all God had done to provide for the widow and her son, now her son had died! She thought her son died because of her sin! What would happen now?

God provides for the widow

Read 1 Kings 17:19-24 dramatically

Recap: Wow! God brought the widow's son back to life! He allowed the widow's son to die, so she could see God's true power! Now she knew God was the real God who could take care of all her needs! Think again about what you need. How confident are you that God will provide for you?

Conclusion

God knew exactly what Elijah, the widow, and her son needed. They trusted God, and He provided everything they needed. God also knew what the Israelites needed. They needed to know God was the

one true God, and He has all the power. Baal was no god at all. Next week we'll find out how God showed the Israelites just how all-powerful He is!

Do Right and Feel Right (Gospel included)

Our God is the real God. He is all-powerful, and He can provide everything we need. The most important thing we need is to have a personal relationship with God. He wants to be our Heavenly Father, and He has a very big plan for your life. The one thing that separates us from this is our sin (dark page). He loves us so much (gold page) He sent His Son, Jesus (red page), to break the power of sin and take our punishment. Have you trusted in Jesus to take care of your greatest need - are you saved from your sin (clean page)? If you haven't been saved from your sin, you can be today. *Give an invitation to receive Christ.*

Once we're saved from our sin, God tells us He is with us (Joshua 1:9) both now and forever. God will provide for our needs in His perfect timing either here on earth or in heaven. Remember our Discover Time activity? We learned there is a difference between our needs and our wants. Like Elijah, the widow, and her son, we should trust in God for our needs, look for His power, and feel confident that He is our great provider! How can you trust God for your needs this week?

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

1. What message did Elijah give to the evil King Ahab and Israel? (There will be no dew or rain in the next few years unless God says so)
2. Who did King Ahab, Queen Jezebel, and Israel trust for rain? (The make-believe god, Baal)
3. What did God provide for Elijah at the brook? (Water from the brook to drink and bread and meat from the ravens)
4. How did God provide for Elijah, the widow, and her son? (God kept the flour jar and the oil jug from running out)
5. What happened when the widow's son died? (God brought the boy back to life)
6. How did Elijah and the widow feel when God provided for them? (Confident)
7. What are some things you need to trust God to provide?

Lesson 9

1 Kings 18

Know Right:	Elijah challenges the prophets of Baal.
Think Right:	“Jesus answered, ‘I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.’” John 14:6 (Top 12)
Do Right:	I will only believe in the one, true, powerful God.
Feel Right:	I can feel victorious when I believe in the one, true, powerful God.

GET READY!

Who or what are we worshiping? Where do we direct our affection, our attention, and our resources? The world offers an array of false gods to divert our attention from the one true God. While these "gods" tempt us with a deceptive form of temporary happiness, they are powerless. We were not made in their image and worshiping them will only leave us feeling empty. But thanks be to the one true God for allowing us to know Him and serve Him! Let's honor Him by reading the passage from His Word, praying for our students, and studying the lesson below, so we can serve Him with the excellence He deserves.

Pray: Before you begin to study the lesson, pray for each of your students by name. Ask for God to bless each of them with a desire to recognize and understand His power in their lives!

Read: 1 Kings 18

Know Right: Elijah challenges the prophets of Baal

When Israel remained in rebellion and continued to worship foreign gods, Elijah's job continued. God told Elijah to go present himself to Ahab, and He would send rain to end the three years of drought. To ensure that Ahab and all the Israelites understood that it was the one true God who was in control, Elijah challenged the prophets of Baal to a duel of the altars. God gave Elijah the victory by sending fire from heaven to consume His altar and by sending the rain to end the drought. When we have seen God's power, it helps us believe only in the one true God.

GET SET!

Lead Teacher's Notes:

- Even though the idea of worshiping Baal seems foreign to students, it is surprising to see how many idols are becoming part of our society even today. An idol is any created thing or person that is worshiped instead of worshiping God, the Creator.
- This lesson covers a lengthy chapter of Scripture which requires us to very briefly paraphrase and simplify some of the account of Elijah and the prophets of Baal.
- For Teacher's in-depth study, please refer to the Children's Ministry Resource Bible: page 97 (Mountains of the Bible); page 248 (Pagan Gods Chart); page 434 (The Life of Elijah); page

431 (Lesson: Elijah and the Contest with Baal); page 1288 (Luke 4:25); page 1550 (James 5:17-18).

Creative Ideas for the Bible Lesson:

1. Recreate the scene with action figures, army men, and a rock altar. (We love creative people, but please do not bring lighters/matches or use any flame in your classroom.) Dry ice can be used to create the effect of “fire” if desired.
2. Use sound effects cards (a card with a sound written on it that is related to the lesson) or props that make the actual noise such as: crackling of fire, cutting of wood, water being poured, etc. Hand out the cards or props to various students. At the correct time in the lesson, point to the student or students who have the appropriate sound card(s) or prop(s).

GO!

Pre-Service Review Game and Worship

Worship Leaders lead review game, followed by worship. Details in Resources Booklet.

Discover Time: One way!

Goal: To provide a challenge that has only **one way** or solution. This concept sounds simple, but in a world that criticizes absolutes, this phrase needs to be emphasized as we connect it to the truth that there is only one true God.

DT Activity: Sand Station or Awana Game Square/Game Square

Supplies:

- Four sets of Wordless Book colored plastic disposable plates with the Wordless Book key verses written on them (do not include the reference)
- Four sets of clear plastic plates with the Wordless Book references written on them (note: when the clear plate is placed on top of the verse plate, the reference should show up at the end of the verse)
- Four sets of clear plastic plates with the Wordless Book key words written on them
- Tracker Tickets

Note: If plates are not available, use paper with Wordless Book verses and key words written or printed on them.

Setup instructions: Hide the plates in the sand (do not make them difficult to find).



Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Divide the class into four teams.
2. Teams will line up around the edges of the sand area.
3. Teams will relay into the sand area to collect five different colored plates, five different key words, and five different references (students relaying can only pick up one plate at a time).
4. After the team has all five colors of the Wordless Book, five key words, and five different references, they should stack the correct reference and key word on top of each verse. Remind students there is only **one** correct solution.
5. The first team that accomplishes this task wins three Tracker Tickets each.

Discover Time Tip: Use a permanent marker to write on the plates. Most 2nd graders can read at a basic level. Shepherds and Teachers can assist as needed with reading verses. Students were taught the Wordless Book colors, key words, and key verses in previous grades.

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

Bible Lesson Outline

Lead Teachers ~ Connecting the DT to the Bible Lesson: In our Discover Time, you were challenged to do an activity, but the key to complete it successfully was to do it **one way**. You had to listen to instructions and do the task accurately. There was no second guessing. In our Bible lesson today, we continue to learn about a man named Elijah. He knew God was the **one** and only true God. He had no doubts, and he didn't question God; he 100% believed in the **one** and only true God. Let's open our Bibles and learn more about what he did.

Pray: *Challenge a student to stand up and pray to the one and only true God before you begin your lesson. Remind students that the God of Elijah is the same God we pray to. He can hear you when you pray. Also, explain that when we pray as a class, all our minds should be focused on the words the person is praying so we are all praying as one voice to God.*

Find It: *Ask one student in the class to recite the books of the Old Testament up to the book of 1 Kings. Have the other students check to see if they are correct by watching the Books of the Bible chart on the wall.*

Timeline: *Are your students understanding the big picture of the Old Testament? Keep using your timeline to link together the lessons of the OT.*

Introduction to the Bible Lesson:

Last week we learned about God's prophet Elijah and Israel's evil King Ahab and Queen Jezebel. Ahab, Jezebel, and the Israelites worshiped make-believe gods named Baal and Asherah instead of obeying God and worshiping Him alone. They truly believed there were many gods. Did you know that many people still believe this today?

The Israelites knew nothing was supposed to come between them and God. Maybe we don't worship statues, but do we let the things of this world come between us and God? What are some of those things? *Allow the students to give examples of things that come between us and God today. Be prepared to give examples: sports, YouTube channels, video games, friends, money, etc.*

Some of the people in Israel thought Baal was the god who controlled the weather. They depended on Baal to send rain. It dishonored God when the Israelites worshiped and depended on these make-believe gods. As a consequence, the one true God sent a drought (no rain) and the drought caused a famine (no food). During this drought, God provided for Elijah by giving him what he needed: food and water.

God used Elijah to announce the punishment to King Ahab. This made King Ahab and Queen Jezebel blame and want to kill Elijah, but God protected him. The drought lasted around three and a half years. Let's open our Bibles to see what happened next!

Scripture Outline: 1 Kings 18

God is ready to end the drought

Read 1 Kings 18:1 dramatically

Recap: After a long time, God was ready to end the long drought by sending rain, and He wanted Elijah to go see King Ahab.

Elijah goes to King Ahab

Paraphrase of 1 Kings 18:2-15:

Elijah went to see King Ahab. Along the way, he met Obadiah, who was in charge of King Ahab's palace. Obadiah loved God and actually hid other prophets, like Elijah, when Queen Jezebel wanted to kill them. Elijah told Obadiah to bring King Ahab to see him.

The challenge

Read 1 Kings 18:16-24 dramatically

Recap: Elijah bravely stood up for the one true God and challenged Baal and his prophets to a contest against God because he wanted the Israelites to know that the one true God has all the power. Who was going to win?

Think about your life. Are you so confident that our God is the one true God that you are willing to be as bold as Elijah? Do you have friends and family who don't believe in God? Do you stand up for God in front of them? Do you challenge them to find out what is true? How does it make you feel when your friends or family don't believe in God? How do you think Elijah felt?

Baal fails

Read 1 Kings 18:25-27 and 29 dramatically *(Due to content, we will skip 1 Kings 18:28)*

Recap: No matter what Baal's hundreds of prophets did, no fire came, because Baal didn't really exist. He was just a statue.

Gospel

Sadly, many people today choose not to believe in the one true God. God loves us very much (gold page). He loves us so much that He sent His one and only Son, Jesus, to take the punishment for our sin (dark/red pages). But, just like the Israelites had a choice to believe in God, so do we. John 14:6 says, "Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'" Jesus is the one way (clean page). Choosing to trust in Jesus is a decision that each of us needs to make for ourselves.

Back to our lesson...then it was God's turn!

The one true God wins!

Read 1 Kings 18:30-40 dramatically

Recap: God won the contest! Now King Ahab and the Israelites could see that Baal had **no** power, but the one true God has **all** the power! But wasn't it supposed to rain?

The power of God

Read 1 Kings 18:41-46 dramatically

Recap: Elijah humbly waited and prayed while his servant kept watch. In His perfect timing, God sent the rain by the power of His Word just as He had said He would. Through God, Elijah was successful in his contest with Baal's prophets, and God gave him the power to outrun King Ahab and his chariot! Just like Elijah, when we believe in the one true God and stand up for Him, God will make us successful, too!

Older students: *This is an example of a Biblical worldview of success. You may want to share some brief testimonies of missionaries who stood up for their faith and were murdered (see www.kidsofcourage.com or www.persecution.com for stories). How can we consider this successful? Remind them that those missionaries are now in heaven and the reward they will receive is incredible!*

Conclusion

Even though King Ahab could have killed him, Elijah believed in the one true God and stood firm for Him.

God used Elijah to help the Israelites believe. Any time there is a contest between God and something else, we know God will always win. Next week we will find out what happened to Elijah after the contest was over!

Do Right and Feel Right

We are all in a contest. The world (Satan) wants us to believe there are many ways to get to heaven. But, just like our DT activity, there is only **one** true way. God wants us to know and stand up for the truth: there is only **one** way to get to heaven, and that is to trust Jesus to forgive us for sinning and make Him the leader of our lives. If there were any other way for us to go to heaven, God would not have sent His one and only Son, Jesus, to die in our place. When we believe in the one true God and His Son, Jesus, we can feel victorious knowing we believe and have a relationship with the one true God.

We can also know that, unlike Elijah who stood alone, we have each other. When we believe in Jesus as our Savior, God becomes our Heavenly Father. We join other people who believe in Jesus and become part of the family of God.

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

1. Why did God punish Israel with a drought and famine for three and a half years? (Israel was worshipping make-believe gods instead of the one true God)
2. What did God want Elijah to tell King Ahab? (God was going to send the rain)
3. Who did King Ahab, Queen Jezebel, and the Israelites believe controlled the weather? (Baal)
4. How did Elijah show that God had all the power? (He had a contest between Baal and God to see who would send down fire to burn the sacrifice)
5. Who won the contest? (God)
6. What did God send after the contest was over and the people believed? (Rain)
7. Who can you tell this week that there is only one true God?

Lesson 10

1 Kings 19:1-18

Know Right:	Elijah flees out of fear.
Think Right:	“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.” Joshua 1:9 (Top 12)
Do Right:	I will know that God is always with me.
Feel Right:	I can feel brave because I know God is with me.

GET READY!

We all can find ourselves feeling fearful or alone. This week, we see Elijah experiencing fear and loneliness. He brings those feelings to God, just like we can, and we see God’s unconditional love and constant presence on display. God’s Word promises that God is always with us. When we know and trust this promise, we can experience God’s perfect peace. Discover more about our omnipresent God as you study the Scripture and the lesson for this week.

Pray: Ask God that students will recall this specific lesson and call on the one, true, powerful God in times of fear.

Read: 1 Kings 19:1-18

Know Right: Elijah flees out of fear

When King Ahab told his wicked queen, Jezebel, about Elijah’s victory from God, she vowed to kill the faithful prophet. In spite of his prior courage in the face of danger, Elijah became afraid and ran for his life. As God’s discouraged servant retreated into the desert, his Heavenly Father took care of him and, in gentleness, told him that there was still work for him to do in the world. Elijah witnessed God’s mercy and discovered that God is always with us.

GET SET!

Lead Teacher’s Notes:

- Please refer to the Children’s Ministry Resource Bible: page 73 (Exodus 3:1); page 96 (Exodus 19:3); page 459-460 (2 Kings 10:1-36).
- This lesson covers one chapter of Scripture and allows us to dramatically read the entire passage.

Creative Ideas for the Bible Lesson:

1. Turn your classroom into a map. Point to the different locations that Elijah went to and have applicable props by those locations. (Ideas include: a crown painted black to represent the evil Queen Jezebel, bread and water, storm clouds, a group of people, etc.)
2. Print pictures or put them on a PowerPoint presentation. Download free pictures at freebibleimages.org or <https://www.unfoldingword.org/sweet-publishing/>

3. Assign parts to be read: a narrator, Elijah, an angel, Queen Jezebel, the Lord. Set chairs in front of the room to sit on and add props for each person. To keep the lesson running smoothly, select parents, leaders, or confident readers early in the week, so they can practice their verses.

GO!

Pre-Service Review Game and Worship

Worship Leaders lead review game, followed by worship. Details in Resources Booklet.

Discover Time: Fear not!

Goal: To help students who are Christians remember they have nothing to **fear** because God is always with them.

DT Activity: Box Station

Supplies:

- Two sets of 24 boxes with the following words from Joshua 1:9: ...the, Lord, your, God, will be, with, you..., Joshua 1:9 - each team will need three sets of words for a total of 24 boxes; print in color or print each set on different colored paper (see appendix)
- Tracker Tickets

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Divide the class into two teams.
2. Challenge students to stack the phrase, "...the Lord your God will be with you...Joshua 1:9" in order, up to the ceiling. The phrase should repeat as students stack the boxes to the ceiling
3. When the boxes fall, expect to hear screaming and running as students avoid being hit.
4. Leaders should try to protect students and send them to the side when the boxes are ready to fall.
5. The team that stacks the boxes to the ceiling wins three Tracker Tickets each.
6. Repeat if time permits.

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

Bible Lesson Outline

Lead Teachers ~ Connecting the DT to the Lesson: In Discover Time, we talked about **fearful** things. How many of you have ever experienced **fear** in your life? *Allow students to respond.* Do you know that if you are a Christian, even if one of these scary things happens to you, God is by your side? What verse teaches you this? (Joshua 1:9) Hold on! First, what does it mean to be a Christian? *Talk through the Wordless Book.* As a Christian, there is no need to **fear**; God is near! In today's lesson, we will learn about a guy who was **fearful**. Let's open our Bibles to see what he does.

Pray: *Challenge a student to pray to the one and only true God before you begin your lesson. Remind students that God can hear you when you pray. Also stop and explain that when we pray as a class all our minds should be focused on the words that the person is praying, so we are all praying as one voice to God. Challenge your class to focus and pray like prayer warriors.*

Find It: *Ask one student in the class to recite the books of the OT up to 1 Kings. Have the other students check to see if they are correct by reading the Books of the Bible chart on the wall. We strongly encourage all students to bring and use their own Bible. Students will be tested on their ability to use their Bible at the end of the winter quarter.*

Timeline: During the lesson, highlight other people in the Bible that God protected from scary situations.

Introduction to the Bible Lesson:

Over the last two lessons, we learned how God used His prophet Elijah in Israel. God commanded the Israelites to believe only in Him. Instead, they believed in gods made by men, and they rejected the one true God who made everything. Through Elijah's contest with the prophets of Baal, God proved His power. He sent down fire to consume the altar and then sent the rain that Israel had needed for three and a half years. When they saw His power, the hearts of the Israelites turned back to the one true God. But what about King Ahab and Queen Jezebel? Did they now believe in God, too? Let's open our Bibles and see.

Scripture Outline: 1 Kings 19:1-18

Queen Jezebel is furious

Read 1 Kings 19:1-2 dramatically

Recap: The evil Queen Jezebel was furious that Elijah had killed all the prophets of Baal, and she said she would now kill Elijah!

Let's remember, Elijah had seen God's miracles at the brook with the ravens, in Sidon with the widow and her son, and in Israel with the fire and the rain. Do you think he would be afraid of the queen or trust God to take care of him? *Take a class vote on what Elijah would do.* Would you be afraid of Queen Jezebel? Let's keep reading!

Elijah is afraid!

Read 1 Kings 19:3-5a dramatically

Recap: Elijah was afraid! He ran away into the desert so that Queen Jezebel wouldn't kill him. Hold on...really? Was Jezebel that wicked and mean? I guess she was because Elijah was super fearful.

Elijah was also so extremely tired as he ran in the desert that he sat down under a broom bush and prayed. He was so tired he asked God to let him die, and then he went to sleep. Just think, while Elijah ran away to escape death, he asked God to take his life! That doesn't make much sense, does it? It was wrong for Elijah to think like this. Are you ever afraid of what somebody may do to you because you follow Jesus? Do you get tired and confused? *Allow students to discuss times they have been afraid. This would also be a great time to insert a brief personal story about how someone has mistreated you because you follow Jesus.* What do you think God did? Let's find out.

God is with Elijah

Read 1 Kings 19:5b-9a dramatically

Recap: Even though Elijah was scared and tried to save himself, God stayed with him, providing for all his needs. What verse reminds us that God is with us? (Joshua 1:9) God gave Elijah the strength to travel forty days and nights until he reached Mt. Horeb. This is the same place where Moses saw the burning bush and received the Ten Commandments!

Elijah feels sorry for himself

Read 1 Kings 19:9b-10 dramatically

Recap: God already knew why Elijah had run away, but He gave Elijah a chance to explain it. Elijah felt sorry for himself because he thought he was all alone trying to do God's work, and Queen Jezebel wanted to kill him. He should have felt successful because of all God had done through him, but he felt like a failure instead. Do you ever feel like you're all alone trying to follow Jesus? Do you ever feel like a failure as a Christian? Maybe you feel that way at school, on your sports team, in your neighborhood, or maybe even at home. When you feel sorry for yourself, remember that you need to go to God and tell

Him exactly how you feel. God loves you very much, and He already knows everything, but we need to talk to Him and tell Him all about our sadness. Ask Him to send you a friend who also follows Him. But even if you feel all alone, remember that He is always with you.

God whispers

Read 1 Kings 19:11-13 dramatically

Recap: God sent the wind, an earthquake, and a fire to remind Elijah that everything is under His control. He didn't get mad at Elijah. Instead, He lovingly and gently whispered to him. Once again, He wanted Elijah to explain why he had run away. What would Elijah say this time?

Elijah complains

Read 1 Kings 19:14 dramatically

Recap: Elijah complained again. He still didn't see and understand how well God was taking care of everything. How do you think God responded?

God is in control

Read 1 Kings 19:15-18 dramatically

Recap: God let Elijah know that He was still in control, He had a plan, and He wanted Elijah to get back to work. Elijah thought that he was the only one still following God, but God knew there were 7,000 Israelites that still followed Him and not Baal! Now Elijah knew this, too!

Conclusion

Even though Elijah had seen God work in miraculous ways, during a fearful situation he still became tired, discouraged, confused, and scared. God knew exactly how Elijah felt, and He loved and took care of Elijah the whole time. God had a plan for Elijah and all of His people in Israel. God was in control of everything!

Do Right and Feel Right

Sometimes in life we have fearful situations, just like we talked about in our Discover Time. During these times we can get tired, discouraged, confused, and scared. God's Word tells us we will have trouble in this world,

but we need to know He is with us. It also tells us when we are weak, He is strong. That means we can feel victorious with Jesus when we know He is always with us. This week, if you experience a bad or fearful situation, you need to stop, think about Joshua 1:9, pray, and know God is with you.

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

1. Name some of the miracles Elijah saw from God. (God made the rain stop for three and a half years, He gave Elijah water from the brook and food from the ravens, He gave Elijah food and water from the widow, He brought the widow's dead son back to life, He sent fire to consume the drenched altar and sacrifice, He sent the rain, He gave Elijah the power to run ahead of the chariot, and He gave Elijah bread and water from the angel in the desert twice)
2. Why was Elijah afraid? (Queen Jezebel said she was going to kill him)
3. What did Elijah do after Queen Jezebel said she would kill him? (He ran for his life into the desert and asked God to take his life)
4. What happened when Elijah fell asleep under the broom tree in the desert? (The angel of God woke him and fed him)
5. Where did Elijah go after he woke up? (To the mountain of God, Mt. Horeb)
6. What three things did God show Elijah at the mountain? (Powerful wind, an earthquake, and fire)
7. How did God talk to Elijah when he was afraid, tired, and discouraged? (In a gentle whisper)
8. What does God want you to do when you're afraid? (Talk to Him and tell Him how you feel, think about Joshua 1:9, and don't be afraid because you know He is with you)

Lesson 11

1 Kings 19:19-21; 2 Kings 2:1-18

Know Right:	Elijah and Elisha see God's power.
Think Right:	"Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain." 1 Corinthians 15:58 (Top 12)
Do Right:	I will look for God's power and tell others about it.
Feel Right:	I can feel amazed when I see God's power.

GET READY!

This week, as we study Elijah and Elisha, we get to teach our students about God's power. Where have you seen God's power in your own life? Take some time to reflect and worship God for the ways you see His power. Pray that your students will grow into disciples of Christ who stand in awe of our powerful God.

Pray: Pray that your students will be quick to grasp how big and powerful God is both now and as they grow up. May they recognize His power and tell others of His greatness and love, while being transformed into a disciple of Jesus Christ.

Read: 1 Kings 19:19-21 and 2 Kings 2:1-18

Know Right: Elijah and Elisha see God's power

Elijah's next assignment was to find and anoint Elisha to be his successor. Elijah obeyed God's command, and Elisha left his home and family to be Elijah's apprentice and attendant. Through the ensuing years, Elijah continued to do God's work and experience the power of his God. He trained Elisha to take over to become the next faithful prophet in Israel. When Elijah's time came to depart this world, God sent for him with a chariot and horses of fire and took Elijah to heaven in a whirlwind. Elijah's ministry challenges us to look for God's power and tell others about it.

GET SET!

Lead Teacher's Notes:

- 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 before you begin to study the lesson. Assistance may be required for younger grades.
- Please refer to the Children's Ministry Resource Bible: page 434 (The Life of Elijah); page 455 (Elisha's Ministry).
- Throughout this lesson, point out how the power of God is demonstrated.

Creative Ideas for the Bible Lesson:

1. Use action figures to show Elijah and Elisha moving through the dried-up section of the Jordan River (use two zipper bags filled with blue-colored water to make a “river” - pull them apart to create the “dry land”).
2. Create a “whirlwind” out of wire to “pick up” a magnetized Elijah at the appropriate time in the lesson.
3. Point out on a map where Elijah and Elisha went on their journey. Remind students that these locations are still on the map today.
4. Have two guests come in and be the voice of Elijah and Elisha as you read. Rather than following along in their Bibles, allow students to just listen to the dialog so they can best understand what is happening. Give each one a name badge so students can follow who is talking.

GO!

Pre-Service Review Game and Worship

Worship Leaders lead review game, followed by worship. Details in Resources Booklet.

Discover Time: Powerful!

Goal: To teach students to recognize **God’s power**.

DT Activity: Sand Station

Supplies:

- Yardstick
- Tracker Tickets

Setup instructions: Make sure the sand is damp. You may even want to have water available in case it’s needed.

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Divide students into four teams.
2. Say: In the Bible, we learn that our all-**powerful** God made the mountains and the depth of the oceans. He is the Creator, He is in control, and He is **powerful**, even today! Today, you will race as teams to see who can build the tallest mountain, while digging into the deepest sea. As you work, your goal is to think about the **power** of God and the strength of God.
3. Create energy by reminding the teams to work quickly, focused, and as a team.
4. When time is up, measure the sandcastles and give the winning team three Tracker Tickets each.
5. Before heading back to class, say to the students: Just to put God into perspective, the highest mountain on earth is 29,029 feet (8,840 meters) above sea level - Mount Everest. The deepest part of the sea is 36,200 feet deep. He is the all-**powerful** Creator!

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

Bible Lesson Outline

Lead Teachers ~ Connecting the DT to the Lesson: Today in Discover Time, we talked about the **power of God**. If someone asked you how **powerful God** is, what would you say? Why? *Allow students to give examples.* Today in our lesson we are going to see **God’s** incredible **power** appear in the life of Elijah and Elisha.

Pray: Challenge a student to pray to the one and only true, powerful God before you begin your lesson. Challenge them to be bold like King David, King Solomon, and Elijah. Remind students that God can hear you when you pray.

Find It: Ask one student in the class to recite the books of the OT up to the book of 2 Kings. Have the other students check to see if they are correct by reading the Books of the Bible chart on the wall. Are your students becoming familiar with their Bible? Can they confidently flip to 2 Kings in the OT?

Timeline: Are your students understanding how the OT is one big picture of God's great power? Or are they only seeing unconnected snap shots of each lesson?

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

Introduction to the Bible Lesson:

Over the past few weeks, we've learned about the amazing work God did in Israel through His prophet Elijah. God wanted the Israelites to know He is the one true God. Elijah had some pretty scary things happen to him. Do you remember when Queen Jezebel said she was going to kill Elijah? What did Elijah do? He became afraid and discouraged, and he ran away. He even prayed for God to take his life! God's answer to that prayer was 'no'. God still had some work for Elijah to do, and He wanted Elijah to continue to see God's great power and tell others about Him. One of God's jobs for Elijah was to go to a farmer named Elisha and train him to be the prophet who would take Elijah's place. Would Elijah continue to be afraid and discouraged, or would he trust God's power? Let's open our Bibles to see what we can discover today!

Scripture Outline: 1 Kings 19:19-21; 2 Kings 2:1-18

Elisha is anointed

Paraphrase of 1 Kings 19:19-21:

God told Elijah to go anoint Elisha as the prophet who would take his place. Elijah obeyed God and went to find Elisha. Elisha left his home and family, so he could go with Elijah to do what God wanted them to do. Elijah trained Elisha to be a prophet, and Elisha was Elijah's helper. *Teacher's note: Scholars estimate that Elijah trained Elisha for 10 to 30 years.* When Elisha was ready to take over as prophet, it was time for Elijah to go to heaven. Let's read about what happened.

Elisha follows Elijah

Read 2 Kings 2:1-6 dramatically

Recap: Elijah and Elisha went from Gilgal to three different places in Israel - Bethel, Jericho, and the Jordan River. Each time Elijah prepared to go to a different place, he told Elisha to stay put. Was this a test to see how devoted Elisha was? If it was a test, then Elisha passed with an A+! Elisha wouldn't stay behind. Instead, he continued to walk on with Elijah, knowing God was going to take him away. Elisha met a group of prophets at each place. These prophets reminded Elisha that God was going to take his master, but Elisha didn't want to talk about it. Let's read what happened next!

The crossing of the Jordan

Read 2 Kings 2:7-8 dramatically

Recap: Wow! Do you remember who else was able to cross the Jordan on dry ground? (Joshua and the Israelites crossed the Jordan on dry ground as they went into the Promised Land) Now God dried the ground for Elijah and Elisha, as the other prophets watched. Do you think the prophets were amazed by

this miracle? Did they get to see Elijah using God's power? (Yes) I wonder what happened after Elijah and Elisha crossed the Jordan River? Let's keep reading.

Elisha wants twice the power

Read 2 Kings 2:9-10 dramatically

Recap: Elijah asked Elisha what he could do for Elisha before God took him away.

Older students: Inheritance law gave a double portion of a father's possessions to the first-born son. Elisha's request shows us that he loved Elijah so much that he considered himself to be Elijah's first-born son.

Elisha knew he would have a big job taking Elijah's place as prophet. Who had given Elijah the power to do God's work? (God) Now Elisha wanted twice the power God had given to Elijah, so he could tell more people about God. But who could give Elisha the power - Elijah or God? (God) How was Elisha supposed to know if he received twice Elijah's power or not? (If Elisha saw Elijah taken by God, then he had received the power) What do you think happened?

Elijah goes to heaven

Read 2 Kings 2:11-12 dramatically

Recap: When we read this, what did you hear about God's awesome power? What came between Elisha and Elijah? (A chariot and horses of fire) How did Elijah go up to heaven? (In a whirlwind) Did Elijah die before he went to heaven? (No) Did Elisha get to see Elijah being taken up to heaven? (Yes) Did Elisha get a double portion of Elijah's spirit or power? How do you know? (Yes, Elisha saw Elijah being taken to heaven in the whirlwind) Why do you think Elisha tore apart his clothes? (The Israelites tore their clothes when they were sad about something) Maybe Elisha was sad that Elijah was gone. What would Elisha do now?

Elisha parts the Jordan

Read 2 Kings 2:13-14 dramatically

Recap: Where was the Lord, the God of Elijah? He was with Elisha! God parted the Jordan River for Elisha just like He had parted it for Elijah! And who was watching as this happened? (Fifty of the prophets)

Prophets look for Elijah

Read 2 Kings 2:15-18 dramatically

Recap: Did the prophets see that Elisha had Elijah's power? (Yes) Why did the prophets want to look for Elijah? (They didn't know where God had taken him) Did they find him? (No)

Conclusion

Our powerful God did incredible work through Elijah while he was on this earth. And even though Elijah had become afraid and discouraged, he saw God's power and then told others. Elijah and Elisha lived their lives to honor God. I think there is a Top 12 verse that connects with this lesson. Can you guess which one?

(1 Corinthians 15:58) *Have students recite the verse.*

Do Right and Feel Right

God's Word tells us that our life on this earth is very short - only like a breath. (Psalm 144:4) As a Christian, we should look for God's power every single day and be bold enough to tell others about it. *Refer to the DT and talk about how we can see God's power even today.* Who should you tell about

God's great power? Let's bow our heads and think about a time we have seen God's power. *Teacher should close in prayer.*

Some of you may be asking, what really is a Christian? God tells us very clearly that we need to trust Jesus to rescue us from our sin and receive power from Him. Have you done that? *Opportunity to share the Gospel.*

When you trust in Jesus, God and His amazing power will be with you both now and for eternity.

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

1. Who was Elijah? (God's prophet)
2. What was one of the last jobs God wanted Elijah to do? (Train Elisha to be the next prophet)
3. What happened when Elijah told Elisha not to go with him? (Elisha continued to walk with Elijah)
4. What did Elisha ask Elijah for? Why? (A double portion of Elijah's spirit; so Elisha could have the power to be God's prophet)
5. How was Elijah taken up to heaven? (A chariot and horses of fire came, and Elijah was taken up to heaven in a whirlwind while he was still alive)
6. What did God give Elisha when Elijah was taken to heaven? (A double portion of Elijah's spirit or power)
7. Give a few examples of how you know God is powerful.

Lesson 12

Review Day (Scavenger Hunt/Football Review Game)

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

GET READY!

Let's be excited about what God has done in your life and in the lives of your students this quarter! Whenever we grow in our understanding of God through His Word, it's a reason to celebrate! As you prepare for this review lesson, in faith thank God for the many ways - both seen and unseen - that He has been at work.

Pray: Praise God for giving us His Word. Ask that our students will love God and live out what was taught this past quarter.

Read: Review the past quarter.

Know Right: True wisdom comes from God's Word

As we come to the close of our Old Testament study and move on to the New Testament in the next quarter, we take a day to recall all God has taught us and make sure His truth is firmly planted in our hearts. We praise the one true God for all He has done and ask Him to help us remember His Word.

GET SET!

Lead Teacher's Note:

- When the students in your class first arrive and are checking in, mark their hands with two different colors to divide them into two teams of equal ability. This will save you time when you arrive in the classroom for the Football Review Game.

GO!

Pre-Service Review Game and Worship

Worship Leaders lead review game, followed by worship. Details in Resources Booklet.

Discover Time: Can you find me?

Goal: To **review** previous lessons using objects that were found in each Bible lesson.

Discover Time activity: Awana Game Square or indoor large open space

Supplies

- Boxes, baskets, or buckets (2 containers per team), labeled “Objects” and “People”
- Sheets of paper (16 sheets of paper per team)
- Tracker Tickets or scoresheet for points
- Starting line (or Awana team lines – Red, Blue, Green, and Yellow)
- Whistle

Set-up instructions: In advance, the DT Leader should write all the objects and people (see below) onto sheets of paper (one object/person per sheet of paper), creating a set of 16 sheets of paper (8 objects and 8 people) per team. Place the “object” papers in the containers labeled “Objects,” and place the “people” papers in the containers labeled “People.” Place the containers at least 10 feet away from the starting line/team line (or near the center of the Awana Game Square).

Note: to help younger students, DT Leader may draw pictures of the objects on the sheets of paper, in addition to writing the title of the objects.

Objects

Spear.....	King Saul
Bow and arrow.....	David and Jonathan
Crutches.....	Mephibosheth
Treasure chest.....	King Solomon
Half empty bottle of oil and a jar with flour.....	Widow and her son
Wet wood.....	Elijah
Queen’s crown.....	Queen Jezebel
Cloak with divided water.....	Elijah and Elisha

People

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Divide students into teams (6-8 students per team) and pair students with a partner on their team. (If using the Awana Game Square, assign a color to each team: Red, Blue, Green, or Yellow).
2. Instruct teams to line up on the starting line (or on the Awana team lines). When you blow the whistle, teams will participate in a relay race to match all the objects and people in the two containers. The winning team will receive 3 Tracker Tickets each (or points).
3. When you blow the whistle, the first pair of students from each team will run to their team’s containers and work together to match one object and one person. Leaders will not help the students but will let the students know if their match is correct. Once the pair has successfully matched an object and person, they will run back to the starting line (or the team’s Awana team line) and high five the next pair, who will run to the containers to make another match.
 - a. Note: Leaders may assist younger students as needed, or younger students may be paired with older students.
4. Continue the relay race until the first team successfully matches all the objects and people in their containers.
5. Repeat as time allows.

Football Review Game!

Supplies and set-up:

- Lesson Review and On Track Map questions (see appendix; turn these questions into multiple choice, fill in the blank, or true/false based on your students' abilities)
- Football field (long green field/rug with yard markings)
- Team chairs placed in a straight line along both sides of the football field
- Scoreboard (whiteboard or poster board)
- Small football that will be a marker for the game
- Optional: popcorn, sports drinks, or hot dogs for halftime snack



Leaders:

- Wear football jerseys or referee shirts and play fun football music in the background. Have fun getting into the theme!
- Two instructional videos are available in the members' area of the Discovery Land Global website. One is titled "Football Review Game" and it's a demo of the game being played with actual kids. The other is titled "Football Review with Leaders" and it is a walk through with explanation. Please talk with your Director or ministry leader to access these videos.
- Talk with your ministry leader in advance if there is anything you don't understand.
- Before class, the Lead Teacher should assign positions based on skills. For example: **Lead Teacher** asks questions, **DT Leader** moves the ball on the field, motivates both teams, and helps students rotate, **Shepherd** keeps track of the score, is the referee as needed, and could help new or shy students.

Instructions:

1. Have students sit in their team chairs when they enter the class.
2. Team names will be the color used to mark their hands when they arrived, such as Red vs Blue.
3. Start the ball at the 50-yard line, and make sure each team knows which end zone is theirs.
4. The leader asking the questions should stand or sit at the end of the field in the end zone.
5. The two chairs closest to the leader asking the questions are the "question seats." When asked the question, the "question seat" students should jump up if they know the answer. The student that jumps up first gets to answer the question.
6. Inform students that each question answered correctly by the "question seat" student will equal 20 yards down the field for their team. If the question is not answered correctly, it will go to the opposite team. This answer is worth half the yardage (10 yards). If neither student in the question chairs knows the answer, the question is given to the first student who pops up off their chair and 5 yards will be awarded to that student's team.
7. If the question is answered correctly, the DT Leader will move the ball toward that team's end zone.
8. When that "play" is finished, the DT Leader should yell, "Go!" and the students should rotate chairs. How to rotate: The students in the question chairs will race to the last chair on their side of the field. All other students scoot one chair over towards the "question chair." This should take around three seconds. First team rotated earns 1 point for the team (not yardage, just points on the board). This keeps students engaged, makes the game fun, and ensures that all students are involved.
9. Repeat questions until a touchdown is scored.
10. When a touchdown is scored, give the team 7 points.
11. Repeat starting at #3 above.

Tips for the person asking questions:

1. During the first ten minutes, ask quick On Track Map questions to get the teams warmed up and moving.
2. Move to Bible Lesson Review questions. *In advance, highlight your favorite questions since you will not get to all the questions.*
3. During the last two to five minutes of class, return to fast On Track Map questions to bring excitement and suspense to the game.
4. Call short timeouts to explain questions that the students get wrong.
5. Try to put a first-time visitor and newer student across from each other. Ask them easy true/false questions or questions such as, "In class, we study a historically accurate book called the _____."
6. During halftime, when your students are enjoying a snack, review the Wordless Book.
7. At the end of the game, pull all the students together to do a team huddle, and yell, "Go Jesus!"

On Track Map

Topical Lesson: Fruit of the Spirit

Elementary

Know Right:	When I have the Holy Spirit, I have the power to become more like Jesus.
Think Right:	“But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.” 2 Peter 3:18a (Top 12)
Do Right:	I will allow the Holy Spirit to help me become more like Jesus.
Feel Right:	I can feel joyful when I become more like Jesus.

GET READY!

After we accept Jesus’ free gift of salvation, we are instantly given another gift—the Holy Spirit. God knew we would need a Helper while here on earth to remain faithful and to honor Him. We can be thankful for this gift that was given to us to help us to become more like Jesus.

Pray: Pray that your students will accept Jesus as their Savior and allow the Holy Spirit to guide them in their life decisions.

Read: Acts 2:38 and Galatians 5:16-23

Know Right: When I have the Holy Spirit, I have the power to become more like Jesus

GET SET!

Creative Ideas for the Bible Lesson:

1. Allow students to shout out words that are associated with the Wordless Book pages and then expound on them to explain the Wordless Book. *This idea is written into the lesson.*
2. Show pictures of a dead/barren apple tree and full-grown “perfect” apple tree to explain the difference between a person without the Holy Spirit who doesn’t live out the fruit of the Spirit and a person with the Holy Spirit who does live out the fruit of the Spirit. *This idea is written into the lesson.*
3. Give each student a piece of paper and markers. Have them draw six squares on their paper (three on top and three on bottom). Throughout the lesson, instruct students to draw pictures or write words that go with the Wordless Book in the first four squares, a dead tree in the fifth square, and a perfect tree in the sixth square. On the back of the paper, after taking a few minutes to reflect, they can write out an action they want to take to live out a fruit of the Spirit in their lives.

GO!

Pre-Service Review Game and Worship

Worship Leaders lead review game, followed by worship. Details in Resources Booklet.

Discover Time: “Mission: Listen”

Goal: For students to learn that **listening** to their “Helper” gives them the power they need.

Overview: Students will complete a “Mission: Impossible” style activity by listening to hints from the “Helper.”

Location: Open Area

Supplies:

- Envelope labeled “Mission” with the following inside (one for each team):
 - The Mission (see appendix)
 - Situations/Solutions page (see appendix)
- Pencils (one for each team)
- “Answers” page (at least one copy at Mission Headquarters) (see appendix)
- “Hints” page (one copy for each helper) (see appendix)
- Balloons (one for each team; at “Mission Headquarters”)
- Timer
- Tracker Tickets

Setup instructions:

- Create two locations. 1) Team Central - the location where the “helper” will give hints and where students can brainstorm with their team. 2) Mission Headquarters - the location where teams will go to see if their answers are correct and where the team balloons will be located; should be a good distance away from Team Central (100 yards away if possible).
- Before class, choose a leader to be the “helper” and a leader to check the answers at Mission Headquarters. Depending on the size of your group, you may need more than one helper and/or more than one leader to check the answers.

DT Leader Instructions:

1. Divide students into teams of six students.
2. Gather the entire group into a circle at “Team Central” and explain that today each team has a mission to complete, and they only have ten minutes to complete it. Make sure groups work quietly together so the other teams don’t hear their solutions. The first team to accomplish the mission will each earn five Tracker Tickets. The remaining groups that can accomplish the mission before time runs out will each earn two Tracker Tickets.
3. Give each team an envelope and let them try to solve the mission. Start the timer for ten minutes as soon as they depart into teams.
4. Allow teams to read the “Mission”. The helper should wait a bit before giving the clues from the “Hints” page, so the students understand that without the helper, the mission is impossible. Then the helper should randomly read clues throughout the ten minutes. Read hints out of order so students have to listen carefully.
5. For younger students: Assign a Teacher or Shepherd to read all the situations and solutions. They can also guide them as they start assigning solutions to each situation.
6. For older students: Let them problem-solve how they will go about assigning solutions.

7. Once a team finishes and is confident in their decisions, the full team should race to Mission Headquarters to see if they have the correct answers. If they have the correct answer, they can pop their team balloon. If they don't have all of the answers correct, they will need to run back and listen for clues to be repeated. Note: for older students do not tell them what answer is wrong.
8. The task should be somewhat easy, as long as they listen to the helper.
9. At the end of DT, pass out five Tracker Tickets each to the first team to accomplish the mission, and two Tracker tickets each for the remaining groups that accomplish the mission before time runs out.

Optional Ideas: Have the leader at Mission Headquarters dress like a spy/detective (dark glasses, trench coat, briefcase, etc.). Keep the answers page in the briefcase and open it each time a team comes to have their answers checked. Play spy music.

Bible Lesson Introduction

Lead Teachers ~ Connecting the DT to the Lesson: Was that Discover Time activity easy or hard? Did it get easier when your helper started giving you hints? When the helper gave you hints, what did you have to do with them? Today, we are going to be learning about another Helper that helps us with our lives. In fact, He is the best Helper you could ever ask for. Let's dig in!

Pray: Ask a student to volunteer to pray for the lesson.

Find It: Open your Bibles to Galatians. That is in the New Testament. Does anyone know what kind of book Galatians is? (It's a letter) It was written to all the Christians in the city of Galatia. The person who wrote the letter was Paul.

Timeline: Paul became a Christ-follower after Jesus died, rose again, and went up to heaven. After he became a Christian, he started preaching and teaching people about God and Jesus. He wrote many letters to Christians all over the world. Some he even wrote while he was in prison for preaching.

Introduction:

In this letter, Paul had a very powerful lesson to teach the people in Galatia about a Helper and how this Helper could help them live their lives. In fact, this Helper would give them power like they had never had before! The best part is that this Helper can give us power, too. Let's find out how!

Scripture Outline: Acts 2:38 and Galatians 5:16-23

Our identity

Let's have a quick reminder about who we are as humans. I need your help for this part though. Raise your hand and shout out words that go with each page of the Wordless Book.

Hold up the gold page of the Wordless Book and allow for one-word answers.

That's great! God loves us, He created us, and He wants to be with us both now and into eternity. That is why He created heaven. It's a beautiful and perfect place for us to live with God. It's a place where sin cannot be because God lives there. Our God is perfect!

Hold up the dark page and allow for one-word answers.

Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden. This is a huge problem. Our imperfect, sinful selves separate us from God, and unless we do something about this problem, we cannot enter heaven. That is a huge punishment! Let's say our dark page verse together: "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Romans 3:23.

Hold up the red page and allow for one-word answers.

But God, being the loving God He is, made a plan to rescue us from our sin, so we could know Him and go to heaven one day. He sent His one and only Son to earth to live a perfect, sinless life and then die on the cross to take the punishment for our sin. What is His name? (Jesus) Hebrews 9:22b says, "...and without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness." When Jesus died, His blood/death took our punishment.

Hold up the clean page and allow for one-word answers.

If you ask Jesus to rescue you from your sin and be the leader of your life, your sin is wiped away, and God sees you as clean. You become a child of God and you are guaranteed a home in heaven!

When you ask Jesus to be the leader of your life and forgive your sin, something else happens, too. You don't just get to be in heaven after your body dies here on earth. I'm going to read Acts 2:38 so we can find out what I'm talking about.

God's gift to us

Read Acts 2:38

Recap: Wow! Once your sins are forgiven, you become a Christian. When this happens, you instantly get this incredible gift called the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit lives inside of you. As you continue to learn and study the Bible, you will learn something incredible. God the Father plus Jesus plus the Holy Spirit is ONE. Wow, that's an incredible thought! Today, we are focusing on the Holy Spirit who is God in us. The Bible calls the Holy Spirit our "Helper" because He helps us live like Jesus.

What does it mean to live like Jesus? If Jesus walked into our room, what do you think He would say, do, think? This is how we should live. To find out more about Jesus, what Book should we read? (The Bible) Choosing to act like Jesus isn't always easy. In fact, the Bible says it's like a fight.

The battle is going on

Read Galatians 5:16-17

Recap: The Holy Spirit is God, so the Holy Spirit doesn't like sin and sin doesn't like the Holy Spirit. They are in a battle with each other. Have you ever had a time when you were thinking about doing something you knew you shouldn't do, because it's a sin, but you had a really hard time saying "no," or you gave in and did it anyway? That is what the Bible is talking about. As humans, we *want* to sin. We will always struggle with this, as long as we are on earth. That's sad. But, when we get to heaven, we won't have to worry about this because heaven is perfect, which means no more sin!

Always remember, when you are a Christian, you have the Holy Spirit, *your Helper*. We have God's power right inside our very souls, always! He never leaves, and He is always telling us what to do.

Remember your helper in the Discover Time activity today? There was no way you were going to be able to figure out the correct answers unless you listened to your helper. Well, we should listen to the Holy Spirit. When we do that, we have the power we need to make the correct decisions in our lives. Let's keep reading.

No longer under the law

Read Galatians 5:18

Older students: What do you think this means to not be "under the law?" *Allow for some quick discussion and explain or correct if needed.*

Recap: Let me explain this a little. The Jews that lived when Paul was living had been taught that obeying God's law, or the rules in the Bible, was very important. They thought obeying the rules helped make them holy, or more like God. They took obeying the rules too far. In fact, they made up rules just to seem more holy. This was sinful. So, Paul was trying to explain that after Jesus died on the cross, it was more important for people to obey the Holy Spirit inside them instead of focusing on the rules.

Let's see what happens when we *do* listen to the Holy Spirit and obey.

Skip Galatians 5:19-21

Why fruit?

Read Galatians 5:22-23

Recap: These sound just like Jesus. Would you want to spend time with a friend who is patient, loving, good, faithful, and gentle? I sure would! I want to be that person, too!

Before we talk about that a little more, I want to explain why Jesus calls them the fruit of the Spirit. They aren't actually fruit. Take a look at these pictures.

Show the picture of the full-grown, "perfect" tree. This apple tree is like Jesus. It is full-grown, healthy, and makes delicious apples. In fact, this tree is perfect. If you were an apple tree, wouldn't you want to be this tree?

Show the picture of the dead/barren tree. Now take a look at this tree. We know that before we become Christians, we do not have the Holy Spirit. We have non-forgiven sin, and we are like this apple tree. What does an apple tree need to grow? Sunlight, good soil, and lots of water. When a tree doesn't get those things, it will not grow, and it definitely won't make apples.

Show the picture of the full-grown, "perfect" tree again. After we become Christians, we start to become like this tree because we have the Holy Spirit to help us. Just like a tree needs things to grow into a healthy tree, we need things to help us grow to be more like Jesus. We need the Holy Spirit and other things, like reading the Bible, talking to God in prayer, obeying God, and spending time with other Christians. If we have those things, we will start to produce "fruit" like patience, kindness, gentleness, peace, and the rest of the fruit of the Spirit that Paul talked about. The Holy Spirit will give us the power to choose to live out the fruit of the Spirit. The more we become like Jesus, the more we will live out the fruit of the Spirit.

Conclusion

If you have been listening to all this and haven't asked Jesus to forgive your sin and become the leader of your life, you may be thinking, "Wow, I really want to have the Holy Spirit helping me!" If that's you, you don't have to wait. You can make that decision today. I am going to pray, and you can pray along with me. I want you all to bow your heads and close your eyes. Let's pray.

"Dear God, I know I am a sinner, and I need You to forgive my sin. I believe that your Son, Jesus, died on the cross and can rescue me from my sin. Please forgive all of my sin now and give me the Holy Spirit to help me to be more like You every day of my life. In Jesus' name, Amen"

If you just prayed that prayer for the first time, I am so excited for you! You can either raise your hand and a leader will talk to you more about what comes next, or you can find a leader after class and let us know that you just made this life-changing decision.

Do Right and Feel Right

Let's review the fruit of the Spirit. *Read Galatians 5:22-23a.* Now I want us to practice living out the fruit of the Spirit. I have some situations that you might run into in your life. I want us to read them and then decide as a group what fruit of the Spirit you would like to show at this time. Here we go!

1. You have a big project at school that will take a long time to do. It seems like a project that is too hard and too much for you to accomplish. What should you choose? (*Acceptable answers: faithfulness, patience, self-control*)

2. There is a new kid in your class at school or church. They seem really shy and a little sad to be there. What should you choose? (*Acceptable answers: love, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness*)
3. Your teacher is having your class check their own answers for a quiz you took. You are only one point away from getting an "A". You have the opportunity to change an answer when the teacher isn't looking. What should you choose? (*Acceptable answers: self-control, peace*)
4. One of your friends, who has been your friend for many years, just made a new friend. In fact, they are starting to spend more time with their new friend than they do with you. What should you choose? (*Acceptable answers: kindness, patience, self-control, peace, goodness, faithfulness*)
5. You are playing a board game with your friends at a sleepover. You were winning but someone cheated so you lost. What should you choose? (*Acceptable answers: patience, self-control, peace, kindness*)

Does it seem like it would be easy to choose to show the fruit of the Spirit in any of these situations? Some might seem easy, but some might be a lot tougher. We need to remember that we have the Holy Spirit helping us. Remember our Discover Time? You needed to listen to the helper. The same is true with the Holy Spirit; you need to listen to Him and then make the right choice. When you do that, you can feel joyful knowing that it pleases God.

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

1. Who wrote the book of Galatians? (Paul)
2. What gift do we get to help us when we become a Christian? (The Holy Spirit)
3. Why did Paul tell the Christians that they were no longer "under the law?" (Because it is more important to live like Jesus than to follow all the rules to try to be holy)
4. When does the Holy Spirit come to live inside of us? (After we choose to trust Jesus as our Savior)
5. When you have the Holy Spirit, what are you supposed to show in your life? (The fruit of the Spirit)
6. Is it always easy to choose to live out the fruit of the Spirit? (No)
7. If you are a Christian, name one fruit of the Spirit that you think the Holy Spirit is telling you to choose to live out better.

Previous Quarter Overview

Year 2 – Quarter 4

During the past year, we have learned and grown from our study of God's Word. In the Old Testament, we got to know Joseph and his family, we wandered through the desert with Moses and the Israelites, and we journeyed to the Promised Land with Joshua and the Israelites. In the New Testament, we walked with Jesus through Matthew's account of His birth, life, death, and resurrection. Finally, we learned how to stand firm from the first Christians in the early church, as we spent time in the book of Acts. Now it's time to head back to the Old Testament and discover what is in the books of Judges and Samuel.

We begin our study with the judges of Israel. In the midst of Israel's great disobedience, we find Gideon humbly threshing wheat. God chose Gideon to destroy a pagan idol and lead the Israelites as God delivered them from the evil Midianites. Although Gideon saw himself as a small, weak man, God gave him signs that helped him obey with confidence. Through Gideon's requests and God's faithful encouragement, we learn God is with us all the time.

Samson, like Gideon, was a man called by God to be a judge to lead Israel. One of God's gifts to Samson was legendary physical strength. Instead of using this gift of strength to obey God, Samson compromised God's purposes and pursued his own desires. This disobedience, and Samson's subsequent failure to repent, resulted in tragic consequences and ultimately Samson's death. The account of Samson's life helps us understand that we need to repent when we disobey God.

We move on to a widowed Moabite girl named Ruth. In the face of difficult circumstances, Ruth demonstrated God's command to love others. Ruth selflessly put the needs of her mother-in-law, Naomi, above her own safety and security. Through her obedience, God blessed Ruth with a loving husband, a baby boy, and, most importantly, a place in the genealogy of Jesus. Ruth's example reminds us to love others.

We find another example to follow in the life of Hannah, who knew the importance of prayer. Although Hannah had lived in bitter sadness because she was unable to have a child, instead of turning away from God during this difficult time, she poured out her heart to Him in prayer and asked for a son. God answered her prayer with a son, whom she committed to God for a lifetime of service. Hannah showed us that we need to pray, even when it's hard.

Hannah stayed true to her vow and gave Samuel to God as His servant for life. As Samuel ministered under Eli, the priest at the tabernacle in Shiloh, God called Samuel and taught him through His Word. Samuel grew up listening to God. Through the life of Samuel, we are reminded to listen to God.

God used Samuel as a faithful leader in the land of Israel, but the Israelites were stubborn and hard-hearted. They wanted a human king who would lead them in battle so they could be like the nations around them. God's desire was for the Israelites to depend on Him and His power, so He clearly warned them of the consequences of having a human king. In spite of the miraculous protection Israel had received from God, they chose to reject Him, and they demanded a human king. God granted their demand. Unlike Israel, we need to choose God's way.

When Israel demanded a king, God knew the truth of their hearts. They wanted to look like and be like the nations around them; nations who depended on men and man-made gods instead of depending on the one true God. God chose Saul, a man who had the appearance of a king, to grant their hearts' desire. He graciously equipped Saul with the power of the Holy Spirit. Instead of humbly walking in faith

with God, Saul allowed his pride to grow, and he fell into great disobedience. He became more concerned about how he looked to people instead of how he looked to God. Although Saul was what Israel had asked for, God showed great mercy and rejected him as king. From Saul's tragic reign as king, we are reminded to not be prideful, but humble.

Although it would be a long time before Saul was removed from the throne of Israel, it was time for God to show Samuel the next king. He sent Samuel to Bethlehem to anoint one of Jesse's sons. This time, God rejected all seven of Jesse's oldest sons, each of whom had the appearance of a potential king. Instead, God informed Samuel that the next king would be chosen not according to his outward appearance, but for what God saw in him. Jesse's youngest son, David, would be the next king, because God saw that David loved and obeyed Him from his heart. David's obedience should inspire us to live a life of internal reflection and focus on the inside, not the outside.

It didn't take long for David's heart to be revealed to King Saul and the soldiers of Israel. On a day when King Saul and his troops were positioned to battle their Philistine enemies, David providentially visited his three oldest brothers at the army encampment. While there, David witnessed the mighty Philistine warrior, Goliath, taunting the Israelite army. Walking in faith, David volunteered to combat the daunting enemy with his sling, five stones, and most importantly, with the strength He received from God. David conquered the enemy, delivered Israel from the Philistines, and gave all the credit to the Lord. Just as David was given the strength to defeat the enemy, when we are in life's battles, God will give us the strength to live for Him.

As we come to the end of another quarter, we should pause and consider all we've learned. These lessons from the Old Testament have taught us deep truths about who God is and how we can respond in love and obedience. When we remember God's Word, we grow in our relationship with Him.

End-of-Class Review Games

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

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

Sink or Swim

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

Waterfall

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

The Big Race

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

Dice Roll

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

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

Tic-Tac-Toe

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

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

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

Trash Can Basketball

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

Spin and Win

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



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

All In

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

Score Big

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

Cup Stacking (supplies: two sets of cups)

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

Push-Ups

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

Cup of Goodness (Limited prep needed in advance)

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

Four Corners

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

The Hot Seat

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

Just Give Points

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

Beach Ball

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

Around the World

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

Swatter

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

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

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

Elementary Printable Resources

Year 3 - Quarter 1 (Africa Version)



Lesson 1 Art
Top 12 poster



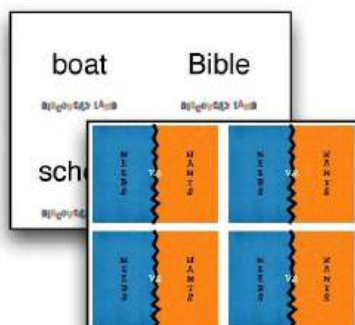
Lesson 2 Play-Doh
Challenge Cards



Lesson 5 LEGO
Admit, Confess, Repent sign



Lesson 6 Box
Ask for Wisdom box signs



Lesson 8 Chalk Wall
Needs vs Wants cards



Lesson 10 Box
Joshua 1:9 box signs



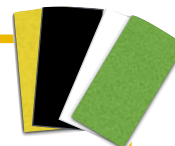
Y3 Q1 Elementary
Timeline Arrows



Get on Track Lesson:
Fruit of the Spirit
Mission Impossible resource

The Wordless Book -

Presenting the Gospel to Children



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

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

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

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

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

Using the Wordless Book:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Additional Tips:

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

Coaching Kids For Salvation

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

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

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

Allowing the child to personalize the need for a Savior:
Ask: Have you sinned? How have you sinned?
Show child **Romans 3:23** in your Bible.
If the child denies sin in their life, they are not ready to go further in this discussion. If the child can tell you about sin and personalize that they have sinned, you can continue with the conversation.

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

Ask: What did Jesus do for your sin?
Show child **Hebrews 9:28b** 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 16:31**, it says that if we believe in the Lord, Jesus Christ (point to the red page) you can be saved (dark page) from your sin (clean page).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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


DISCOVERY LAND

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

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



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



I BELIEVE!

Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved - you have just found out! Acts 16:31

Name: _____ Date: _____

Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved - you have just found out! Acts 16:31

BELIEVES!

Name: _____ Grade: _____ Date: _____

Teacher: Please turn in this portion to your director or staff person.

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

Acknowledgements and Permissions

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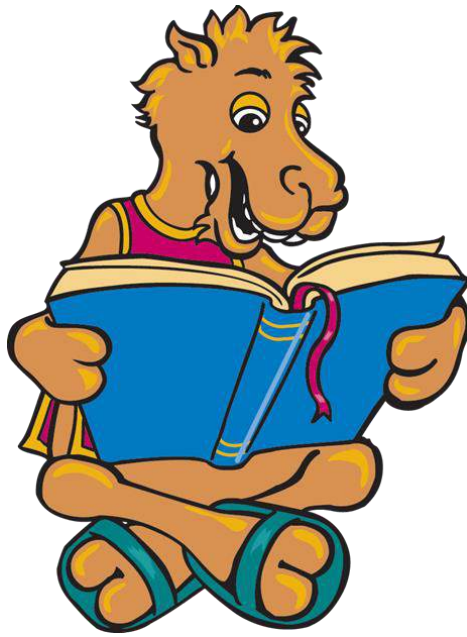
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