

# DISCOVERY LAND

**Year 3 – Quarter 4**

**Preschool Curriculum**

**Adapted for use in Africa**



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## A Note About Curriculum Adaptations

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



# A Message from Kris Smoll

Dear Leaders,

Thank you for serving!

At times we may feel tempted to be content with the children we already have in our ministry and forget how important it is to reach more children with the Gospel. This quarter, think bigger! Think about the lost sheep in your community and how you can invite and welcome them into your ministry (Luke 15:3-7). Remember, this will be the first time some of these children will hear about Jesus. Care for them, love them, cheer for them, and pray that God reveals His truth to them. I pray that God will bring you new children who are seeking to know Him and grow in His Word!

This quarter, we will work as a team to coach our children to truly understand our all-powerful God and teach them how to be true disciples of Jesus Christ. We will be studying Naaman, King Hezekiah, Jonah, King Josiah, Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego, and Esther. These people sought truth, and they were prepared for the challenges of life.

I pray you will experience an incredible amount of joy each week as you study God's Word and then share it with your children. No matter your role or the age of the children you work with, you are important! Ephesians 2:10 says, "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." This verse reminds us that serving is so much more than giving a few hours of our time. It's about being used by God to fulfill His grand plan - that's Kingdom work! Thank you for being obedient to His call on your life.

Looking forward to watching God use you for Kingdom work!

Kris Smoll  
Executive Director of Discovery Land Global

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# Understanding the Curriculum

## Overview

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

The curriculum was developed to teach children:

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

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

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

## Leaders

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

### LEADER TIPS

All leaders remain with their class throughout the entire morning, engaging with children 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 children's attention and creates spiritual growth by following the curriculum, as well as providing leadership of the children and other volunteers throughout the morning.

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

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

## Preschool Program Overview

The program for preschool children is made up of six components:

1. Pre-Service Review Game
2. Large Group Opening Time
3. Bible Lesson
4. Discover Time
5. Know Right Review Activity
6. Think Right Review Activity

These pieces all tightly connect to produce an environment of Total Time Teaching where every minute matters and children 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 children as they arrive
-:15	Pre-Service Review Game
:00	Large Group Time
:15	Bible Lesson
:35	Discover Time
:50	Know Right Review Activity
:60	Think Right Review Activity
:65	Parents pick up children

## Pre-Service Review Game

### LEADER TIPS

Leaders who are not welcoming children as they enter should assist and encourage all children during the pre-game.

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

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

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

## Large Group Time

Large Group Time is designed to:

- Introduce the concept of tithing and provide children with the opportunity to give
- Introduce the lesson of the day through music and puppets
- Teach children the Top 12 Verses

### LEADER TIPS

During worship through music, encourage children 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.

## Bible Lesson

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

**Summary of these verses:** 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 children by name.
2. Read the Scripture from your Bible and 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 Bible Lesson Outline. 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.
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 children.
8. Teachers should always have their Bibles open during the entire lesson, so children know the account is coming from the Bible. Due to a limited amount of time and the value we place on teaching children that the narratives come directly from the Bible, please do not read the lesson from a Bible storybook.

## Discover Time

Discover Time (DT) activities are simple, non-competitive activities designed to engage and challenge children through hands-on learning. The Preschool DT reinforces the main point of the Bible lesson. Occasionally, the DT activity will be used to make a "memorable picture" of the Bible lesson for children 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!

## Know Right and Think Right Activities

Each lesson concludes with simple Know Right and Think Right activities. The Know Right activity reviews the content that was taught. The Think Right activity, which reviews the Scripture verse, is led by the DT Leader and/or Shepherd as children are dismissed, while the Lead Teacher hands out Tracker Jr. 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. The goal is to review and reinforce understanding.

## 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's Next?* booklets
- Old and New Testament books of the Bible posters
- Feel Right poster

## Tracker Jr.

Tracker Jr. is our colorful, kid-friendly take-home paper for families of preschool children. 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, children can return the coupon on the Tracker Jr. for a small prize.

# Preschool Syllabus

## Year 3 – Quarter 4

### Lesson 1

**2 Kings 5:1-15a**

**Know Right:**

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

**Think Right:**

Acts 16:31 (Top 12)

**Do Right:**

I will tell others about our great God.

**Feel Right:**

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

### Lesson 2

**2 Kings 20:1-7**

**Know Right:**

King Hezekiah confidently prays.

**Think Right:**

Acts 16:31 (Top 12)

**Do Right:**

I will pray about all things.

**Feel Right:**

I can feel loved knowing God hears my prayers.

### Lesson 3

**Jonah 1 - 3**

**Know Right:**

Jonah makes choices about obedience.

**Think Right:**

Acts 16:31 (Top 12)

**Do Right:**

I will obey God.

**Feel Right:**

I can feel peaceful when I obey God.

### Lesson 4

**2 Chronicles 34**

**Know Right:**

King Josiah finds God's Word.

**Think Right:**

Acts 16:31 (Top 12)

**Do Right:**

I will learn God's Word.

**Feel Right:**

I can feel happy when I learn God's Word.

### Lesson 5:

**2 Kings 25:1-21; Jeremiah 29:4-14 (Parallel Account in 2 Chronicles 36:15-21)**

**Know Right:**

Nebuchadnezzar conquers Judah.

**Think Right:**

Proverbs 3:5-6 (Top 12)

**Do Right:**

I will trust God's plan for my life.

**Feel Right:**

I can feel peaceful when I trust God's plan for my life.

### Lesson 6

**Daniel 1:1-20**

**Know Right:**

Daniel refuses the king's food.

**Think Right:**

Proverbs 3:5-6 (Top 12)

**Do Right:**

I will live my life God's way.

**Feel Right:**

I can feel peaceful when I live my life God's way.

### Lesson 7

**Daniel 2**

**Know Right:**

Daniel asks God for wisdom to interpret Nebuchadnezzar's dream.

**Think Right:**

Proverbs 3:5-6 (Top 12)

**Do Right:**

I will ask God for wisdom.

**Feel Right:**

I can feel excited when I have and share God's wisdom.

## **Lesson 8**

### **Daniel 3**

**Know Right:** Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego are thrown into the fiery furnace.  
**Think Right:** Proverbs 3:5-6 (Top 12)  
**Do Right:** I will trust in God's power.  
**Feel Right:** I can feel peaceful when I trust in God's power.

## **Lesson 9**

### **Daniel 6**

**Know Right:** Daniel is thrown into the lions' den.  
**Think Right:** Proverbs 3:5-6 (Top 12)  
**Do Right:** I will trust God.  
**Feel Right:** I can feel loved when I trust God.

## **Lesson 10**

### **Esther 1-10**

**Know Right:** Esther courageously risks her life by doing what is right.  
**Think Right:** Proverbs 3:5-6 (Top 12)  
**Do Right:** I will do what is right.  
**Feel Right:** I can feel safe knowing God helps me when I do what is right.

## **Lesson 11**

### **Review Day**

**Know Right:** True wisdom comes from God's Word.  
**Think Right:** Acts 16:31 and Proverbs 3:5-6 (Top 12)  
**Do Right:** I will remember God's Word.  
**Feel Right:** I can feel wise when I remember God's Word.

## **Topical Lesson**

### **Getting to know the book of Psalms**

**Know Right:** Psalms is a group of songs written to God.  
**Think Right:** "Psalm 19:14  
**Do Right:** I will worship God.  
**Feel Right:** I can feel good about worshiping God any time.

## **Topical Lesson**

### **Tragedy**

**Know Right:** God is our help in times of trouble.  
**Think Right:** Joshua 1:9 (Top 12)  
**Do Right:** I will go to God in times of trouble.  
**Feel Right:** I can feel comforted when I go to God

## **Topical Lesson**

### **The Church**

**Know Right:** The church is made up of people who follow Jesus and glorify God together.  
**Think Right:** 1 Corinthians 12:27  
**Do Right:** I will glorify God as a part of His church.  
**Feel Right:** I can feel joyful when I glorify God in the church.

# Quarter Overview

## Year 3 – Quarter 4

Once again, we change course from our New Testament study of Jesus' life, death, resurrection, and the history of the early church and return to our journey through the powerful lessons of the Old Testament. Our study takes us back to the time of the divided kingdom of Judah and Israel, and into Judah's captivity in Babylon. We will encounter some of the most well-known Bible personalities and through their challenges, faithfulness, and even disobedience, we will learn why we should build our lives on God's Word.

Our first lesson takes us outside of Israel to the pagan land of Aram. There a young Israelite girl, taken captive by Aram's army, worked for the family of a man named Naaman. Naaman was the commander of Aram's army, and he was afflicted with leprosy. This young girl demonstrated her faith, despite her circumstances, as she boldly told how God's prophet in Israel, Elisha, could heal Naaman. From her, we learn how to boldly tell others about our great God.

Since their inception as a nation, the people of Israel had rebelled against God. When they demanded a king, God warned them of the consequences, but granted their request. One consequence of Israel's rebellion was the division of the kingdom into Judah and Israel. After this division, all of Israel's kings, and many of Judah's kings, did evil in the eyes of the Lord and led their people astray. However, there were some kings of Judah who had faith in God and did what was right in His eyes. One of these kings was Hezekiah. Hezekiah prayed and cried after being told by God's prophet that he would die. God answered Hezekiah's prayer with a 'yes' and allowed him fifteen more years of life. From Hezekiah, we are encouraged to pray about all things.

Because of their rebellion and their worship of make-believe gods, God allowed the Israelites to be vulnerable to their enemies. One of those enemies was Assyria. Because of Assyria's evil acts, God planned to destroy them. Because of God's grace and mercy, He sent His prophet Jonah to warn the Assyrians. When the resentful Jonah disobeyed, God taught Jonah a lesson through His power over the sea and its creatures. Jonah finally obeyed, the Assyrians repented, and they were spared from destruction. From Jonah's disobedience and the resulting consequences, we can be convicted to always obey God.

Israel's unfaithful kings and disobedient people neglected God's temple, His worship, and His Word. The northern kingdom of Israel had already been exiled to Assyria, and Judah's punishment was not far behind. Although Josiah became the king of Judah at only eight years of age, he did what was right in God's eyes. Every good thing he did led to another. When Josiah ordered the repair of the temple, the Book of the Law was found. When Josiah heard the truth of God's Word in that book, he believed and followed it. He read it to his people and led them back to obedience. Because Josiah yielded to the truth, God spared Judah from its punishment until after Josiah's death. May we, as God's people, follow in Josiah's footsteps by learning God's Word.

After King Josiah's death, Judah and its kings returned to their evil ways, and the time for Judah's promised punishment arrived. God allowed King Nebuchadnezzar's army to conquer Judah, destroy Jerusalem, and take many of Judah's citizens to Babylon as captives. This was a devastating time for God's chosen people, but it was all part of His plan. God encouraged the Israelites to settle down in Babylon and make it their new home. His promise was to prosper them, not to harm them. In seventy years, they would return to their home in the Promised Land. From this episode in Judah's history, we can understand that we can trust God's plan for our lives.

During Judah's captivity in Babylon, there lived a young man named Daniel and his three friends. They were born to royal and noble families in Judah, but now they were no more than King Nebuchadnezzar's servants. When told to eat the king's food - food that would defile them - they sought permission to eat only vegetables and water so they could continue to live God's way. God blessed the young men with good

health, knowledge, and understanding. God even gave Daniel the ability to understand visions and dreams. After three years of service, rather than finding them weakened as some had feared, King Nebuchadnezzar found them to be ten times wiser and more knowledgeable than their peers from Babylon. The lives of Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego should encourage us to always live our lives God's way.

When King Nebuchadnezzar had a disturbing dream, he summoned his "wise men" and challenged them to tell him what he had dreamed and what it meant. He promised gifts, rewards, and great honors to anyone who could do so. When told that no one could do what he asked, Nebuchadnezzar ordered the execution of all the wise men in Babylon. Upon hearing this, Daniel and his three friends sought God's wisdom, so Daniel could tell and interpret the dream, and the wise men would not be killed. When God granted their request, Daniel told and interpreted the dream, and humbly gave all the credit to God. King Nebuchadnezzar recognized Daniel's God and declared Him the God of gods, the Lord of kings, and the revealer of mysteries. Daniel and his friends received all the promises made by the king. The account of Daniel and King Nebuchadnezzar's dream teaches us how important it is to ask God for wisdom.

Although King Nebuchadnezzar recognized Daniel's God as the one who revealed his dream, he did not abandon the worship of lifeless, man-made gods. In fact, he erected an image of gold that was ninety feet high and nine feet wide and commanded everyone in his kingdom to worship it. When Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refused to obey this order, King Nebuchadnezzar threatened to throw them into the blazing furnace. Armed with trust in God's power to deliver them, the three faithful men defied him still and were thrown into the flames. King Nebuchadnezzar watched as Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego, and a fourth unidentified man miraculously walked around in the fire unharmed. The king ordered the three friends to come out of the fire, gave praise to their God, and rewarded them with a promotion. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego are true examples of how to be courageous and trust in God's power.

As God had foretold through King Nebuchadnezzar's dream, Babylon was conquered by the next world power. The new king, Darius, admired Daniel and intended to promote him to oversee his kingdom. Babylon's other officials manipulated King Darius into making a new law that forbade prayer to anyone other than the king. Those who disobeyed this decree would be thrown into the lions' den. When Daniel continued to faithfully pray to the only true God, King Darius had no choice but to throw his trusted advisor into the lions' den. God sent His angel to protect Daniel, and the lions were treated to a meal of Babylon's other officials instead. In spite of the threat of death, Daniel demonstrated how we should all trust God.

After King Darius' death, he was succeeded by his second-born son, known as King Xerxes I. The book of Esther begins with the deposition of Queen Vashti for refusing to obey a vulgar request of King Xerxes and her unlikely replacement by a beautiful Jewish girl named Esther, who had been raised by her cousin Mordecai. King Xerxes, at the urging of his vengeful confidant Haman and unaware of his new wife's Jewish heritage, signed into law an order to execute all of the Jewish people. Esther knew that God could use her to help save her people, but she would have to risk her life to plead before the king uninvited. Esther and the other Jewish people fasted for three days, after which she courageously entered the king's presence, revealed her heritage, and exposed Haman's evil plot to annihilate the Jewish people. The furious king called off the senseless genocide and instead had Haman executed. Inspired by the account of Esther and supported by our all-powerful God, we too can be used by Him if we do what is right.

Finally, we will take a day to reflect and remember everything that God has taught us this quarter. We invite you to join us next quarter when we return to the book of Genesis and study God's creation of our world and the unfolding of His plan to save us from our sin. God bless you for humbly serving Him.

# Lesson 1

## 2 Kings 5:1-15a

<b>Know Right:</b>	Naaman is healed of leprosy after a young girl shares her faith.
<b>Think Right:</b>	"Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved - you and your household." Acts 16:31 (Top 12)
<b>Do Right:</b>	I will tell others about our great God.
<b>Feel Right:</b>	I can feel excited when I tell others about our great God.

### GET READY!

**This week we get to learn about how God used a young girl to bring healing to an army commander. She was bold in her faith and graciously told Naaman that God could heal him. As we prepare to lead our children, let's pray that they will grow to become bold witnesses of our great God no matter the cost.**

**Pray:** As we begin this quarter, pray that God will make Himself known to the children in your class. Ask God to give you the ability to lead with love, biblical accuracy, and excellence as a form of worship to the one true God.

**Read:** 2 Kings 5:1-15a

#### **Know Right: Naaman is healed of leprosy after a young girl shares her faith**

Our first lesson takes us outside of Israel to the pagan land of Aram. There a young Israelite girl, taken captive by Aram's army, worked for the family of a man named Naaman. Naaman was the commander of Aram's army, and he was afflicted with leprosy. This young girl demonstrated her faith, despite her circumstances, as she boldly told how God's prophet in Israel, Elisha, could heal Naaman. From her, we learn how to boldly tell others about our great God.

### GET SET!

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

- Boldly telling others about Jesus takes courage! Each time you share the Gospel with the children in your class, you are modeling for them how to share the Gospel with their friends.
- To link this quarter's lessons together, collect props from each lesson and then use the props to review previous lessons during review time or as you introduce your lesson.
- There are many myths and misunderstandings about leprosy. In fact, the word "leprosy" in the Old Testament was used for various diseases affecting the skin. In Naaman's case, we know that there was no cure at that time, he was in serious need of healing, and it had affected his flesh.
- Please never use a story book when teaching Bible lessons. If you need assistance in preparing your lesson, please contact your children's ministry leader.

## Creative Ideas for the Bible Lesson:

1. Select children to be part of this lesson (see below). You, or another leader who is prepared, should move children into position and have them freeze in that position until they need to move again. For “sets”, use a chair covered in cloth for the king’s throne, and blue roll paper, a sheet, colored ribbons, ropes or yarn for the Jordan River. *This idea is written into the lesson.*

### Actors:

- Naaman (costume: helmet, shield, sword, red washable marker or sticker dots on his arms)
  - Servant girl (costume: scarf, rough clothes, basket, broom)
  - Israel’s king (costume: crown, robe)
  - Elisha (costume: rough clothes)
2. Use a flannelgraph. (If you don’t have a flannelgraph you can make one out of construction/ manilla paper).
  3. Make a timeline using story pictures. Line up the pictures and cover each picture with paper. Reveal the pictures as you teach. Download free pictures at: [freebibleimages.org](http://freebibleimages.org) or <https://www.unfoldingword.org/sweet-publishing/>

**GO!**

## Pre-Service Review Game

Worship Leaders will lead children in a review game. Game details are in the Resources Booklet.

## Large Group Opening Time

**Offering:** We are going to worship God right now by giving our money. When we give our money to God, the church will use it to tell others about Jesus. *Or insert a specific way your church will use the offering.*

### Think Right verse: Acts: 16:31

**Note for Worship Leaders:** Practice the hand motions before you arrive. Your eye contact with the children and confidence in the motions are very important.

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

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

*Repeat several times while saying it in a loud voice, quiet voice, and while jumping up and down.*

**Transition:** Jesus loves us so much that He came to this earth to die for our sin. Let’s sing about Jesus’ love for us.

**Song 1:** “Jesus Loves Me”

## Puppet Skit: Tracker tells others about Jesus

**Prop: Soccer Ball**

**T:** \_\_\_\_\_, I gots a problem an' I thought maybe you could help me.

**WL:** I'd love to help you, Tracker. What's the problem?

**T:** I got this neighbor, an' he's the meanest guy ever! We were playin' soccer in our yard an' our ball went into his yard, an' he yelled at me an' my friends.

**WL:** That's too bad! I guess you and your friends will need to be more careful, huh?

**T:** Yeah, that's what my mom said too...but...

**WL:** But what, Tracker? Is there something more?

**T:** Well, yeah, sorta. He yelled at us, but he looked kinda sad. I've been thinkin' about him lots. I even prayed for him. I think maybe God wants me to tell him about Jesus.

**WL:** That's a great idea, Tracker!

**T:** *(looks at WL like he/she is crazy)* Great! GREAT? What's so great about it? Didn'tcha hear me? He's mean! He yelled at me! What am I supposed to do? Just walk up to his door and knock?

**WL:** Well, yeah! That's exactly what you're supposed to do! You can be brave and tell others about Jesus!

**T:** Whatcha' talkin' about, \_\_\_\_\_?

**WL:** God wants us to be brave and not afraid to tell others about Him! That means even though you are little, you can go out there and tell people – even people who seem mean – about Jesus. Your neighbor needs Jesus. He needs to know God loves him very much and that he needs to be saved from his sin.

**T:** I guess. But what if he gets even meaner?

**WL:** Then you go home and pray for him. But I don't think he will. If God helped you to see how sad he is, God is preparing him to hear about Jesus.

**T:** Well, ok. I guess I'll try, even though I'm scared-ed!

**WL:** It's ok to be "scared-ed," just don't let that stop you from doing what God wants you to do, ok?

**T:** Ok. I guess I'll go talk to him now. But I'm gonna ask my mom to go with me. And I'm gonna pray first. I wanna make sure God gets him ready so he doesn't kick me out!

**WL:** Oh, Tracker! You go pray! Then you and your mom go and tell your neighbor how much God loves him and how to be saved from his sin! Then let us know what happens, ok?

**T:** You got it! Thanks, \_\_\_\_\_. See ya later.

**WL:** Ok. We'll see you later. Bye!

**T:** Bye!

**WL:** *(to children)* Sometimes it's hard to tell people about Jesus. But God wants us to tell others no matter if we are big or small.

**Transition:** God can help us tell others about Him because He is big and strong!

**Song 2:** "My God is so Big"

**Pray**

## Bible Lesson Introduction

**Pray:** *When you pray in class, you are modeling to your children how to pray. Have children bow their heads and close their eyes when they pray so they can learn to focus and respect the one true God. Start your prayers with, “Dear Heavenly Father,” and end with, “In Jesus’ name, Amen.”*

**Find It:** *Open your Bible to 2 Kings, chapter 5, and show it to your class. Ask children if 2 Kings is in the OT or the NT. (OT) We are going to be learning from the OT this quarter, instead of the NT, which we studied the last two quarters. Then point to your Books of the Bible chart and have children repeat after you as you say the books of the OT up to 2 Kings. This will teach children how to pronounce the books of the Bible.*

*Optional: To make this time active, have children squat down when you say a book of the Bible and pop up when they repeat the book. All wiggles should be out when you reach 2 Kings! Have children sit quietly as you introduce the lesson with suspense.*

**Timeline:** *On your timeline, point to when the lesson takes place (the prophet Elisha).*

### Introduction to the Quarter and the Bible Lesson:

Today’s lesson takes place in the Old Testament during the time of Elisha. He was one of God’s prophets. *Point to Elisha on the Bible timeline.* Can you say “prophet”? *Have children repeat after you.* A prophet is someone who gets a special message from God and then shares that message with other people. At first, Elisha was a helper to the prophet Elijah. Do you like to be helpers? We learned about Elijah several months ago. Do you remember learning about him? Elijah was taken up to heaven in a chariot of fire with horses that went up in a whirlwind.

After Elijah was taken up to heaven, Elisha took his place. Let’s all say Eli-jah and Eli-sha. *Have fun and repeat their names a few times.*

People went to Elisha for help. Today we are going to learn about one young girl who had heard all about Elisha, and she believed that Elisha’s God was all-powerful. Let’s see what happened.

## Scripture Outline: 2 Kings 5:1-15a

### Introducing Naaman

#### **Read 2 Kings 5:1**

*Pose Naaman with his hands on his hips; he should have red spots on his arms (use a washable red marker or red stickers).*

**Recap:** Naaman was a very important soldier. He was the commander of the army, but he had leprosy. Leprosy gave Naaman big problems with his skin. There was no cure for leprosy; Naaman needed help! Who do you think could help Naaman? (God!)

### The young girl

#### **Paraphrase of 2 Kings 5:2:**

*Pose the servant girl kneeling with her head bowed.*

This young girl was from Israel. God knew all about this little girl, and He loved her very much. Do you know that God knows all about you and loves you very much, too? One day an army came from another country. They destroyed her home and took her away from her family! She became a servant to Naaman’s wife. What type of things might this young girl do for Naaman’s wife? (Possibly clean the house, wash clothes, collect water, care for small children, and more) *Give the little girl a small broom.* When she was taken away, she lost almost everything. She wasn’t with her mom and dad or her

brothers and sisters, or in her own bedroom anymore. But she was able to keep one thing; she still had our great and powerful God with her. She trusted God. Listen to what she said to Naaman's wife:

### **Read 2 Kings 5:3**

**Recap:** Why would she, of all people, want to help Naaman? He had taken her away from her family in Israel. Because she loved God, she wanted to help Naaman. *The servant girl can return to the audience.*

### **Naaman talks to the king of Aram**

#### ***Paraphrase of 2 Kings 5:4-5:***

Naaman went to the king of Aram and told him what the little girl said. The king told Naaman to go and talk to the prophet Elisha. He also wrote a special letter and sent money. What do you think the letter said?

### **Read 2 Kings 5:6**

#### **The king reads the letter**

*Pose the king of Israel on the throne on the opposite side of the room. Pose him with his arms crossed. Move Naaman in front of the king.*

#### ***Paraphrase of 2 Kings 5:7:***

The king of Israel read the letter and became afraid. How could he, a king, cure someone from leprosy? *Pose the king with hands on face – look scared.*

### **Elisha is not afraid**

#### ***Paraphrase of 2 Kings 5:8:***

The king of Israel might have been scared of Naaman and the king of Aram, but God's prophet, Elisha, was not. He was courageous because he knew God could do anything! Elisha told the king of Israel to have Naaman come to his house.

### **Elisha's house**

#### ***Paraphrase of 2 Kings 5:9-10a:***

So, Naaman went to see Elisha. When he got to Elisha's house, Elisha didn't even come to the door. *Pose Naaman in front of Elisha, but turn Elisha so his back faces Naaman to show that he didn't talk to him directly.* He just sent one of his servants to tell Naaman what to do.

### **Read 2 Kings 5:10b**

**Recap:** That sounds easy. All Naaman had to do was to wash himself seven times in the Jordan River, and he would be healed! Do you think Naaman was excited to be healed? Let's keep reading.

### **Naaman becomes angry**

#### ***Read 2 Kings 5:11-12***

*Pose Naaman in an "angry" pose – have him make an angry face.*

**Recap:** Naaman was very angry. Would Naaman be too proud to do what Elisha said? Would he think he was too good to obey the directions that Elisha would give? I hope not! Let's find out!

### **Naaman dunks seven times and is healed**

#### ***Read 2 Kings 5:13***

**Recap:** Naaman's servants told him to obey Elisha's directions. Do you think he listened?

### **Read 2 Kings 5:14 dramatically**

*Pose Naaman in the river and wash red markings off him (or remove stickers).*

**Recap:** Naaman couldn't believe it! There was no cure for leprosy, but now his skin was clean! He was healed! Let's keep reading and find out what Naaman did next.

### **Naaman believes in the one true God**

#### **Read 2 Kings 5:15a stopping at “Israel.”**

*Have Elisha and Naaman sit together as you conclude.*

Recap: Naaman had heard about our God that the Israelite people worshiped, but now Naaman knew that God was the one and only powerful God.

## **Conclusion**

Just think – a young servant girl, who had no reason to care about her proud master, did care! She cared so much that she told him about her great God. Will you tell people that they need to be forgiven of their sin? *Hold up the dark page of the Wordless Book.* Will you tell them about Jesus? *Hold up the red page of the Wordless Book.* Will you tell them He died for them, so they could live forever with Him in heaven? *Hold up the gold page of the Wordless Book.*

Then there's Elisha. Elisha knew God could cure anything! He knew Naaman had a bigger problem than his leprosy – he had a problem with sin. Elisha knew Naaman was really proud of himself. Elisha knew that Naaman needed to get rid of this sin of pride before he could get rid of his leprosy. So, Elisha had Naaman wash in the Jordan River. Elisha trusted that God would cure Naaman if only Naaman would be humble and do what he was told.

And then we have Naaman – proud Naaman. He almost didn't get cured because he was too proud to do what he was told! But in the end, he did what he was told. Not only that, but Naaman found out that our God is the one true God!

## **Do Right and Feel Right**

Did you know, even though you are very young, that you can tell people about our great God, just like the little girl? If you have asked Jesus to save you from your sin, I'm sure you are excited and want to tell others. You can tell your grandmas and grandpas, your neighbors, your cousins, and friends. Let's pray and ask God to help us tell others about our great God this week.

## **Review Questions: What did we discover today?**

1. Was Naaman a commander in the army or a doctor? (He was a commander in the army)
2. Did Naaman have something wrong with his skin, called leprosy, or did he have a broken arm? (He had leprosy)
3. Was the young Israelite girl a servant? (Yes)
4. Who did the young girl say could heal Naaman's leprosy? (The prophet of God)
5. What did the prophet Elisha tell Naaman to do to be healed? (Wash seven times in the Jordan River)
6. Did Naaman obey what Elisha told him to do? (Yes) What happened? (He was completely healed from his leprosy, and he believed in our great God)
7. Can you tell others about your great God?

## Discover Time

**Transition to Discover Time:** Do you think you can tell others about our great God like the young girl in our Bible lesson? Let's practice. As we walk to our Discover Time, let's shout to everyone we see: "God is great!"

**Do Right:** I will tell others about our great God.

**Goal:** To provide a way for children to tell others about our great God.

**Location:** Outdoor sidewalk (or use black roll paper if doing inside)

**Supplies:**

- Chalk or chalk dust

**Setup instructions:** In advance, use chalk to outline the words "Our God is great!" in giant bubble letters on the sidewalk or a roped-off area of the parking lot - think BIG! Make sure the letters are well-formed and legible.

**Instructions for the DT Leader:**

1. Before you go outside, discuss with children how we know our God is great. (He made mountains, He made us, He loves us, He sent His Son, Jesus, He made the sun, moon, and stars, etc.).
2. Inform children that when they go outside, they are going to make a big sign on the sidewalk/parking lot to tell everyone that our God is great. Tell them hopefully even the people on airplanes can read it! Ask children if they are ready to take on this big project. Encourage children to work together to accomplish this huge task.
3. Take children outside to work on the giant sign. Children can color in the words and add pictures around the big letters if desired. If using chalk dust, the children can color words around the big letters.

**Optional idea:** At the end of Discover Time, take a class picture with children sitting around the artwork. Use the picture to create a postcard, and mail it to children, so they can show their friends and then invite them to come to church next week.

## Classroom Review Time

**Lead Teachers ~ Connecting the DT to the Lesson:** You did an excellent job working on our huge chalk project. What did it say? (Our God is great!) How do you know our God is great? *Refer to the type of pictures children drew around the words.* When you leave today, are you going to show your family your artwork? Do you think you can tell your friends in your neighborhood how great our God is? This week let's be just like the young girl from our Bible lesson.

**Reviewing the Know Right:**

**Supplies:**

- Poster board with an outline of a person (you can also use whiteboard, chalkboard, or construction/manilla paper)
- 20 removable sticker dots or cut-out colorful paper lightly stuck with tape or glue (in advance, gently add the stickers to the body of the man on the poster board; you will need to be able to remove them during the activity)

**Instructions:**

1. Ask the following review questions.

2. For each correct answer, remove a dot.
3. Repeat until all dots have been removed.
4. Replace dots and repeat the activity so children are confident in the answers.

**Review questions:**

- Did Naaman have a broken arm? (No)
- Did Naaman have leprosy? (Yes)
- Was the young Israelite girl a servant? (Yes)
- Did the young Israelite girl believe in our great God? (Yes)
- Who did the servant girl tell about God's power to heal? (Naaman's wife)
- How many times did Elisha tell Naaman to dunk in the Jordan River? (7 times)
- Can you count to seven?
- At first was Naaman happy about doing this? (No)
- Did Naaman obey what Elisha told him to do? (Yes)
- What happened after Naaman obeyed and dunked in the water? (He was completely healed of his leprosy, and he believed in our great God)
- Can you be like the young girl in our Bible lesson and tell others about our great God? (Yes)

**Think Right Activity while waiting for parents:**

**Supplies:**

- Activity sheet with Acts 16:31 framed with squares and rectangles along with the hand motions for the verse (see Resources Booklet)
- Crayons
- Fun praise music

**Instructions:**

1. Say: Do you think the young girl in our Bible lesson believed in God? (Yes!) This reminds me of a verse from our Bible.
2. Have children listen to fun praise music as they color in the squares and rectangles to form a frame around the words for Acts 16:31. Leaders should guide children to color each shape a different color.
3. Every few minutes, the teacher should stop the music to prompt children to stand up and say Acts 16:31.
4. Encourage children to take the verse home and display it where they can review it every night.

## Lesson 2

### 2 Kings 20:1-7

<b>Know Right:</b>	King Hezekiah confidently prays.
<b>Think Right:</b>	“Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved - you and your household.” Acts 16:31 (Top 12)
<b>Do Right:</b>	I will pray about all things.
<b>Feel Right:</b>	I can feel loved knowing God hears my prayers.

## GET READY!

**When faced with awful news, King Hezekiah brought his concerns to God in prayer. When we study this lesson, we see how faithful our God is in hearing and responding to our cries for help. As we prepare, let's pray that God will increase our desire to pray and seek Him in all things.**

**Pray:** Before preparing to serve, come before God and pray that He will do something amazing this week in your class. Pray that His Word will be taught accurately. Praise Him that you can freely share the Good News with your children.

**Read:** 2 Kings 20:1-7

### **Know Right: King Hezekiah confidently prays**

Since their inception as a nation, the people of Israel had rebelled against God. When they demanded a king, God warned them of the consequences, but granted their request. One consequence of Israel's rebellion was the division of the kingdom into Judah and Israel. After this division, all of Israel's kings, and many of Judah's kings, did evil in the eyes of the Lord and led their people astray. However, there were some kings of Judah who had faith in God and did what was right in His eyes. One of these kings was Hezekiah. Hezekiah prayed and cried after being told by God's prophet that he would die. God answered Hezekiah's prayer with a 'yes' and allowed him fifteen more years of life. From Hezekiah, we are encouraged to pray about all things.

## GET SET!

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

- Please refer to the Children's Ministry Resource Bible: page 1498 (Talking with God).
- One common question older children ask is, "How do you know God is real?" If God weren't real, we wouldn't need or desire to pray. Because God is real, we can confidently come before Him with praises and prayer requests. God's answers to our prayers help us prove that He is real. How has God answered your prayers? As a preschool teacher, you can lay a solid foundation by sharing how you know God is real and talking about how God answers prayers.
- When you teach preschool children, have clear expectations for their behavior. Set boundaries on where they should sit and how. A good expectation for this age is to have them sit up and raise their hands when they have something to say. Refer to the Five Steps for Learning chart.
- Your lesson is a tool, not a storybook. Be very familiar with the lesson so you can maintain eye contact with children. Speak slowly, and don't rush your lesson.
- Always bring props to keep your children engaged.

## Creative Ideas for the Bible Lesson:

1. Have two actors act out this lesson: King Hezekiah and the prophet Isaiah. You could use your DT Leader and your Shepherd, but the actors need to prepare in advance, be able to truly act, be willing to memorize a few lines, and bring this lesson to life! *(Alternate idea: Use two action figures.)* Have King Hezekiah show children a huge “boil” on his body (drawn on with marker). Be prepared to apply a “poultice of figs” on his boil; jam wrapped in white cloth would work great. You will also need three signs: Yes, No, and Wait. *This idea is written into the lesson.*
2. Using a bench or a table and some blankets and pillows, create a bed in the middle of your room. As children enter, they should question why there is a bed in the room. Place props around the bed to help children visualize the lesson, such as a tissue box to wipe away tears, bandage for the boil, crown, etc. Ask children to guess what happened; then teach the Bible Lesson.



GO!

## Pre-Service Review Game

Worship Leaders will lead children in a review game. Game details are in the Resources Booklet.

## Large Group Opening Time

**Offering:** We are going to worship God right now by giving our money. When we give our money to God, the church will use it to tell others about Jesus. *Or insert a specific way your church will use the offering.*

### Think Right verse: Acts: 16:31

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

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

*Repeat several times.*

**Transition:** This reminds me of how much Jesus loves me. This makes me want to praise Him!

**Song 1:** “Praise the Lord”

### Puppet Skit: Tracker learns to pray

*Tracker should come up, but look distracted, not really paying attention because he is worried.*

**WL:** Hey, Tracker! How did it go with your neighbor?

**T:** *(sounds distracted)* Neighbor? What neighbor? Oh yeah...umm...it went good...

WL: Did you get to tell him that Jesus loves him and died for his sin?

T: Um, yeah, it went really good, and I'm glad I told him...

WL: Tracker, have you heard a single thing I've said?

T: Yeah, \_\_\_\_\_, I heard ya. I just gots this big, humongous, super huge, problem, an' I've done everything I can think of, but I still don't know what to do! I can't sleep at night cuz' I'm worried. I don't know what to do!

WL: (*thinking*) Hmm...so if you haven't gotten an answer from God yet, He must be telling you to wait.

T: An answer from God?

WL: Well, yes. I mean – you *did* pray to God first about your huge problem, right?

T: Well, ummm...

WL: Tracker! You haven't prayed about your problem?

T: Well, I would of, I mean, I'm sure I woulda thought about that sometime...

WL: Prayer is the *first* thing we should do when we have a problem!

T: Hmmm...I guess I shoulda' thought of that, huh, \_\_\_\_\_?

WL: Yes! God knows everything! He wants you to ask for His help. But you have to be ready.

T: Ready? Ready for what, \_\_\_\_\_?

WL: For God's answer! Sometimes God's answer is *yes*! Sometimes God's answer is *no*! And sometimes God's answer is *wait*. But whatever His answer is, you can trust that it is exactly the right answer because God is never, ever wrong. His answer might not be the answer you want, but it is always the very best for you.

T: So, you think I should talk to God about my big, humongous, super huge problem?

WL: Yes, I do.

T: Ok. I think I better go right now an' talk to Him.

WL: Good idea. And Tracker?

T: Yeah, \_\_\_\_\_?

WL: The next time you have a big, humongous, super huge problem, or even a little, itty bitty problem, what are you going to do first?

T: I'm gonna pray an' then trust God's answer!

WL: Awesome, Tracker! We'll see you later, ok?

T: You got it! Bye, guys!

WL: (*to children*) Whenever you have a problem, you can talk to God about it – that's called prayer. Do you remember the three ways God answers prayer? (Yes, no, or wait)

**Transition:** Isn't it great knowing that our God is awesome? He hears us when we pray, and He answers our prayers. Our God is bigger than big!

**Song 2:** "Bigger than Big"

**Pray**

## Bible Lesson Introduction

**Pray:** *Have a child open your class in prayer. Coach them, if needed, through a simple prayer. Remind the class that when we pray we are talking to God, and He hears us.*

**Find It:** *Explain to children that 2 Kings is in the OT. Then have children repeat after you each book of the OT up to 2 Kings. Point to the words on the Books of the Bible poster. Then open your Bible and show children exactly where in the Bible our Bible Lesson comes from.*

**Timeline:** *Point to King Hezekiah on the timeline.*

### Introduction to the Bible Lesson:

Last week, we learned about a man named Naaman who had a terrible disease. Can you remember what the disease was called? (Leprosy) What happened to Naaman's leprosy? (God healed it, when Naaman obeyed and washed seven times in the Jordan River) Did Naaman believe in the one true God before he was healed? (No) Did Naaman believe in the one true God after he was healed? (Yes)

Today, we're going to learn about another man who got sick. He was so sick he was about to die. Let's find out what happened!

## Scripture Outline: 2 Kings 20:1-7

### Who is Hezekiah?

We are going to meet someone else from 2 Kings today. His name was Hezekiah. *Have children repeat his name a couple times.* Hezekiah was a good king. *King Hezekiah comes out and stands in front of the class.* He believed in the one true God, and he did a lot to stop the people from worshiping false (fake, not real) gods that people in other countries worshiped. King Hezekiah was a man who trusted God to answer prayer. One time, his country, called Judah, was surrounded by bad guys who were very strong. King Hezekiah prayed because he knew God was strong and powerful. He trusted God to help them – and God did! King Hezekiah didn't always obey God though. Sometimes he made bad choices. What is that called? (Sin) What is sin? (Anything we think, say, or do that is against God) What do we learn from the Bible about sin? *Have children recite Romans 3:23, "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."*

### Hezekiah becomes ill, and Isaiah tells him he is about to die

#### **Read 2 Kings 20:1a**

**Recap:** King Hezekiah was very, very sick! *Hezekiah lays down and moans like he is sick.* He was so sick that he was actually dying. There was a prophet of God in Judah whose name was Isaiah. *Isaiah enters and looks up like he's listening to God.* Do you remember what a prophet is? A prophet is someone who gets a special message from God and then shares that message with other people. God told Isaiah something important about King Hezekiah. Isaiah went to King Hezekiah to tell him what God said. *Isaiah walks up to King Hezekiah.*

#### **Read 2 Kings 20:1b**

**Recap:** Oh, no! The prophet Isaiah told King Hezekiah that he would not get better, and he would die! I wonder what King Hezekiah did then. What do you think you would do?

### Hezekiah courageously prays

#### **Read 2 Kings 20:2-3**

*King Hezekiah turns away and prays.*

**Recap:** When King Hezekiah found out he was going to die, he decided to talk to God about it! What is it called when we talk to God? (Prayer) When did King Hezekiah pray? (Right away) Did Hezekiah do the right thing by talking to God in prayer about his problem? (Yes) Why do you think it is important to talk to God about our problems? (God knows everything and is all-powerful) When we pray, God always hears us! When King Hezekiah prayed, God heard him. Let's think about the different ways God could answer King Hezekiah's prayer.

God always answers our prayer requests in one of three ways. The first way God might answer is 'yes'. *Hold up the "yes" sign.* God might say 'yes' to our prayers and give us what we ask for. In King Hezekiah's case, God could heal him of his sickness.

The second way God might answer is 'no'. *Hold up the "no" sign.* When God answers 'no', we can trust that it's for the best, even if we don't understand. If God said 'no' to King Hezekiah, he would die.

The third way God might answer is 'wait'. *Hold up the "wait" sign.* Sometimes God will have us wait before giving us what we ask for. God might have us wait so we can learn to be patient or because it is best for us. King Hezekiah might need to wait and keep praying.

No matter how God answers our prayers, we should pray all the time. Let's find out how God answered King Hezekiah's prayer: yes, no, or wait.

### **God answers Hezekiah's prayer**

#### ***Paraphrase of 2 Kings 20:4-5a:***

Before Isaiah left, the word of the Lord came to him, and he went back to King Hezekiah. *Isaiah walks away from Hezekiah and stops in front of children and looks up like he's listening to God. Then he walks back to King Hezekiah.*

#### **Read 2 Kings 20:5b dramatically**

**Recap:** Did you hear that? God heard King Hezekiah's prayer and saw his tears! God was going to heal King Hezekiah!

#### ***Paraphrase of 2 Kings 20:6-7:***

Remember how God healed Naaman in last week's lesson? He had to dunk himself in the Jordan River seven times. God was going to heal Hezekiah in a unique way, too. God had King Hezekiah take a paste made of figs and put them on the sore that was making him sick. The sore was called a boil. *Isaiah takes the paste (jam), wraps it in cloth and puts it on King Hezekiah.*

King Hezekiah did just what God said. What do you think happened? *Hezekiah jumps up!* God completely healed King Hezekiah! *Have the actors leave the room.*

Remember the three ways God answers prayer requests? Sometimes God's answer is 'yes'. *Hold up the "yes" sign.* Sometimes God's answer is 'no'. *Hold up the "no" sign.* And sometimes God's answer is 'wait'. *Hold up the "wait" sign.* How did God answer King Hezekiah's prayer? (Yes!) *Hold up the "yes" sign.*

### **Gospel**

God always hears us when we pray. Did you know that? And there is one prayer that God always says 'yes' to. God always says 'yes' when you pray and ask Jesus to forgive your sin and be the leader of your life. This reminds me of our Bible verse, Acts 16:31. Let's say it together. He never says 'no' or 'wait' to that prayer! *Hold up the Wordless Book.* Have you prayed and asked Jesus to save you from your sin? *Use this opportunity to take aside children who haven't trusted in Jesus to review the Wordless Book with them.*

## Conclusion

King Hezekiah is a good example of what happens when we courageously pray to God. He was confident that he could pray, that God would hear, and that God would answer his prayer. God wanted King Hezekiah to trust in Him alone.

## Do Right and Feel Right

What about you? Do you take everything to God in prayer? It could be something good that you need to praise God for. Or it could be something hard like King Hezekiah's illness. God wants you to talk to Him about everything - good or bad, big or small. If you have trusted in Jesus as your Savior, you can feel loved knowing that God hears your prayers!

## Review Questions: What did we discover today?

1. Was Hezekiah a king or a teacher? (He was a king)
2. Was King Hezekiah a little sick, or was he very sick? (He was so sick he was about to die)
3. What did King Hezekiah do when he found out he was going to die because of his sickness? (He cried and prayed to God)
4. Can you pray and talk to God? (Yes)
5. What are the three ways God answers prayer? (Yes, no, or wait)
6. Did King Hezekiah obey God's instructions and put a paste of figs on his boil? (Yes)
7. Was King Hezekiah healed? (Yes)
8. What is the first thing we should do when we have a problem? (Pray)

## Discover Time

**Transition to Discover Time:** Let's line up and walk like a king to our Discover Time. Let's repeat, "God answers prayers: yes, no, wait." *Clap as you say, "yes, no, wait."*

**Do Right:** I will pray about all things.

**Goal:** To challenge children to think about specific situations or people they can pray for.

**Location:** Outdoor or indoor space (or both)

**Supplies:**

- Hezekiah's four treasure chests – you can use any available box or container (see below for items to put inside each treasure chest)
- Treasure map

**Setup instructions:** In advance, hide all four treasure chests and then create a map leading to each treasure chest. If you have multiple classes, each class could do the treasure chests in a different order or you could have multiple sets of each treasure chest.

**Instructions for the DT Leader:**

Explain to children that we are going on a treasure hunt today. We are going to look for important treasures from King Hezekiah to remind us how to pray.

**Treasure Chest 1:** Fruit, or plastic models or pictures of fruit

Say: We can pray that God will provide food, and we can thank God when we receive food. When can you thank God for food? (Breakfast, lunch, dinner, and even snack time)

*If you have brought real fruit, stop and thank God for your snack, then allow children to try the fruit.*

**Treasure Chest 2:** Little people (*optional: smiley face stickers*)

Say: We can pray for our friends. How can we pray for our friends? *Allow children to answer.*

*Stop and have several children pray for their friend, then pass out stickers (if using).*

**Treasure Chest 3:** Band-Aids, Elastoplast or bandages

Say: We can pray for people who are sick. Do you know anyone who is sick? *Allow children to answer.*

*Stop and pray for several people who are sick.*

**Treasure Chest 4:** World globe or map (*optional: use mini flags or missionary prayer cards/magnets*)

Say: We can pray for people and missionaries around the world. How can we pray for them?

*Stop and pray for several missionaries around the world.*

**Optional idea:** Give each child a brown paper bag. In the treasure chests, put enough small items so children can actually take and collect one prayer reminder from each station.

## Classroom Review Time

**Lead Teachers ~ Connecting the DT to the Lesson:** Let's remember what we found in King Hezekiah's treasure chests. *Have children share.* King Hezekiah had many treasures, but prayer was one of his biggest treasures. Talking to God is very important and a huge honor. When we pray for missionaries or thank God for food and our families, God actually hears us. Isn't God great?

### Reviewing the Know Right:

#### Supplies:

- Large plastic jewels, or paper with glitters or colored paper cut into jewel shapes
- Glue or tape
- Paper crown (one per class)

#### Instructions:

1. Ask children the review questions from above.
2. When a child answers correctly, they can add a jewel to King Hezekiah's crown.
3. After class, hang the crown from your bulletin board to remember that King Hezekiah prayed.
4. Optional: Ask bonus question for additional jewels:
  - Can you find King Hezekiah on our timeline?
  - Wordless Book questions

### Think Right Activity while waiting for parents:

#### Supplies:

- Crown (from the Know Right activity)
- Worship music

#### Instructions:

1. Have children sit in a circle and pass the crown as the music plays.
2. Occasionally stop the music. The person holding the crown can stand up and lead the class in reciting the verse.
3. Repeat as time permits.

# Lesson 3

## Jonah 1 - 3

<b>Know Right:</b>	Jonah makes choices about obedience.
<b>Think Right:</b>	"Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved - you and your household." Acts 16:31 (Top 12)
<b>Do Right:</b>	I will obey God.
<b>Feel Right:</b>	I can feel peaceful when I obey God.

### GET READY!

**Do you see parallels between Jonah and the attitude in our world (and ourselves)? It may be uncomfortable, even counter-cultural, to submit to God's authority, but God's Word is clear. For those of us who follow Christ and are being made more like Him every day, God is our Lord and ultimate authority. Obedience to Him is one important way we show our love and honor for Him, and it will lead to God's best in our lives. As we prepare, let's consider ways we can obey God today.**

**Pray:** Ask God to reveal His truth to the children in your classroom. Pray that they will understand the value of obedience and desire to live a life that is honoring to God no matter the cost. Also pray specifically for the children who have never made a decision to become a Christian. Pray that this week will be the day that they become one.

**Read:** Jonah 1 - 3

#### **Know Right: Jonah makes choices about obedience**

Because of their rebellion and their worship of make-believe gods, God allowed the Israelites to be vulnerable to their enemies. One of those enemies was Assyria. Because of Assyria's evil acts, God planned to destroy them. Because of God's grace and mercy, He sent His prophet Jonah to warn the Assyrians. When the resentful Jonah disobeyed, God taught Jonah a lesson through His power over the sea and its creatures. Jonah finally obeyed, the Assyrians repented, and they were spared from destruction. From Jonah's disobedience and the resulting consequences, we can be convicted to always obey God.

### GET SET!

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

- Please refer to the Children's Ministry Resource Bible: page 533 (The Prophetic Books), page 1062 (Introduction to the Minor Prophets – Jonah), page 1071 (Lesson: Jonah Runs from God), page 1604 (Teaching Doctrines to Children).
- If you have behavior issues in your class, notify your children's ministry leader so issues can be addressed before children are distracted from hearing the Gospel and learning from the Bible.
- When children choose to sin, it is our responsibility to respond and lovingly coach them towards the right decision. If we don't, we are endorsing sinful behavior.

## Creative Ideas for the Bible Lesson:

1. All leaders need to know their part in this lesson to make it work. Supplies: one or two large blue sheets (depends on the number of children), large box (like a refrigerator box) painted to look like a fish – one end open for the mouth, large box or brown sheet to be the boat, a sign that says “Nineveh” with an arrow pointing one way, and a sign that says “Tarshish” with an arrow pointing the other way. The signs should be hung. The leaders and children will all be a part of this lesson: one child is Jonah, three children are sailors, and the rest of the children are the “water” (they will be holding the large sheets). The leaders will move Jonah and the sailors during the storm. *This idea is written into the lesson.*
2. Make a fish out of a plastic bottle and use action figures or clothespin/clothes peg people/ stick puppets to teach the lesson, or draw a big fish on construction/ manilla paper or the chalkboard and use cut-out paper figures of people.
3. Make a tent into a large fish and teach your lesson from inside. The door will be the mouth of the fish. You will need to add two eyes above the door using large white circles with smaller black circles, then add a fin on each side of the door and a tail at the back. Search “Jonah and the whale tent” on the internet for lots of great ideas!



GO!

## Pre-Service Review Game

Worship Leaders will lead children in a review game. Game details are in the Resources Booklet.

## Large Group Opening Time

**Offering:** We are going to worship God right now by giving our money. When we give our money to God, the church will use it to tell others about Jesus. *Or insert a specific way your church will use the offering.*

### Think Right verse: Acts: 16:31

From our Bible verse, we have learned that we can be saved from our sin. What is a sin? Sin is anything we think (*point to head/temple*), say (*point to mouth*), or do (*pound fist down into palm*) that is against God. In the Bible, God tells us many things that we should do so we can please and honor Him. When we don't do this, we sin. God loves us so much that He sent His Son, Jesus, to save us from the punishment of our sin.

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

*Repeat several times.*

**Transition:** Our God is big, and He is also the King of everything! He is the King of you and me and every animal in the jungle.

**Song 1:** “King of the Jungle”

### Puppet Skit: Tracker disobeys

*Tracker doesn't come up right away. When he does, he has flour\* all over his face and a paper bag on his head. \*Use baby powder to represent the flour. It will be much easier to remove! Simply brush out the baby powder after the skit is done.*

WL: Where do you think Tracker is? Should I look? *(look down in the puppet stage)* Tracker! What are you doing down there?

T: *(from below)* Nothin'. I just don't want anybody seein' me like this.

WL: Like what? Oh, come on, Tracker. Come out here!

T: *(reluctant)* Oh, ok. *(comes up with the bag on his head; still reluctant)* Hi ya, \_\_\_\_\_.

WL: Well hi, Tracker. Why do you have a bag on your head?

T: Cuz, otherwise I'd look really silly!

WL: And having a bag on your head *doesn't* look silly?

T: Well, I guess I didn't think about that.

WL: Why don't you take it off so we can talk?

T: Oh, all right. *(goes down and noisily takes the bag off and then comes back up)*

WL: *(looks at Tracker)* Oh, my! What happened to you?

T: See, I *do* look silly!

WL: Well, maybe just a little...

T: Argh! *(goes back down)*

WL: Come back, Tracker! We won't laugh! Please?

T: Ok. I guess. *(comes back up)*

WL: So, what happened?

T: Well, my mom was makin' cookies for my baseball team. She knew it was time for me to go to practice. So, she stopped what she was doin' and came upstairs to tell me that before I left, I had to clean my room. But it's a big ol' mess! Clothes and toys everywhere! I woulda been late for practice.

WL: So, what does that have to do with all that flour on your face?

T: Well, I had ta run outa there fast before she spotted me. I ran through the kitchen so fast I ran right into the bowl of flour! I gotted to practice on time, but now I feel horrible about it! And *(scrunches up his face)* I think I gots to sneeze. *(big sneeze that knocks him down)*

WL: Bless you, Tracker! Are you ok?

T: *(comes back up sniffing a little)* I think so...

WL: So, why do you feel horrible, besides having the sneezes!

T: Well, I didn't do what my mom wanted, and it just made trouble for me! Now my mom will be mad, I gots flour all over me, my room *still* has ta be cleaned, and I gots the...ah...ah...ah CHOO! *(knocks him down again)*

WL: Bless you again! Tracker, today we are talking about a guy who had a problem kind of like yours, except the job he didn't want to do was from God! Can you stay and listen?

T: Well, I'd like to, but I guess I really should go back home and clean my room, like I was

supposed to. Besides...ah...ah...ah CHOO! *(knocks him down again – then comes back up sniffing)* Besides,  
I better get this flour offa me!

WL: Bless you! Good idea, Tracker! See you later! *(to children)* Obeying God is *always* the right thing to do. We are going to meet someone today who found that out the hard way! But first – a song!

**Transition:** What book tells us to obey God?

**Song 2:** “B-I-B-L-E Bible”

**Pray**

## Bible Lesson Introduction

**Pray:** *Have a child open your class in prayer. Coach the child how to stand confidently and pray boldly when leading the class in prayer.*

**Find It:** *Open your Bible to Jonah, chapter 1. Ask if Jonah is in the Old Testament or the New Testament.*

**Timeline:** *Have children point to Jonah and the great fish on the timeline.*

### Introduction to the Bible Lesson:

So far this quarter, we’ve learned about how God healed Naaman’s leprosy and how God answered Hezekiah’s prayer. Today, we’re going to learn about how God worked through a man named Jonah. Jonah was one of God’s prophets in Israel during the time of the kings. Do you remember what a prophet is? (A prophet is someone who gets a special message from God and then shares that message with other people) Jonah was a prophet, but Jonah was not like any of the prophets we’ve learned about. Something really amazing happened to him, and we’re about to find out what! We meet Jonah in the Old Testament in the book of Jonah.

## Scripture Outline: Jonah 1 - 3

### God commands Jonah to go to Nineveh

#### **Paraphrase of Jonah 1:1-2:**

The people in Nineveh were really, really bad; they sinned all the time! The Israelite people didn’t like the people from Nineveh. But the Bible also tells us that even though the people from Nineveh sinned, God still loved them. Do you know God loves you, too? God loves everyone. *Have children recite John 3:16.* Because God loved the people of Nineveh, He told Jonah to go to Nineveh and warn the people *(stand by the Nineveh sign with Jonah)*. In forty days, something really bad was going to happen because the people from Nineveh were so mean and sinful. So, what did Jonah do? Let’s find out.

### Jonah disobeys God and runs away

#### **Read Jonah 1:3 dramatically**

**Recap:** Jonah didn’t want to go to Nineveh and warn the people. Jonah wanted God to destroy Nineveh because the people were so mean! Jonah decided to do things his own way, instead of God’s way. Jonah decided to go to a city called Tarshish, which was far, far away from Nineveh. *Put Jonah in the “boat” with the sailors and have the “boat” go into the middle of the “water.”* Jonah sinned when he disobeyed God by running away. Jonah couldn’t run away from God because God sees everything we

do. What do you think happened when Jonah tried to run away from God? Let's see.

### **God sends a storm**

#### ***Paraphrase of Jonah 1:4-5b:***

*Have Jonah lay down in the boat. All of a sudden, a huge wind blew. Have "water" children make the sound of the wind with their mouths and shake the sheet/water. The wind got stronger and stronger. Have "water" children make the waves harder and harder as you talk. Boat leaders – slightly shake children in the boat. Because Jonah disobeyed God, God sent a terrible storm! The sailors on the ship were afraid, and they called out to their make-believe gods that couldn't help them. Jonah's disobedience brought this dangerous storm. While the sailors were crying out to their make-believe gods and throwing the ship's cargo off the boat into the water, what was Jonah doing?*

### **Jonah is sleeping**

#### ***Read Jonah 1:5c-6***

*The "water" children should still be making waves and the boat should be shaking.*

**Recap:** Jonah had gone into the lower part of the boat where he fell fast asleep. The captain couldn't believe that Jonah was sleeping! The captain didn't know Jonah's God was the one true God, but he ordered Jonah to pray so maybe they wouldn't all die.

### **The sailors find out it's all Jonah's fault**

#### ***Paraphrase of Jonah 1:7:***

Then the sailors tried to figure out whose fault it was that there was a terrible storm. They knew God was not happy. They figured out it was Jonah.

#### ***Read Jonah 1:8-9***

**Recap:** They also learned that Jonah's God, the one true God, had made the sea and the land. How did this make the sailors feel?

### **Jonah has to go**

#### ***Paraphrase of Jonah 1:10-11:***

The sailors knew they were in terrible danger, and they were terrified. They couldn't believe Jonah had tried to run away from the one true God! They asked Jonah what they should do.

#### ***Read Jonah 1:12-13***

**Recap:** They didn't want to throw Jonah into the sea because he would die! But the sea got even rougher! *The "water" children should continue making big waves and the boat should be shaking.* They finally realized they had to throw Jonah off the boat into the water, so the sea would calm down.

#### ***Paraphrase of Jonah 1:14:***

So, the sailors said a prayer and...

### **The storm stops**

#### ***Read Jonah 1:15 dramatically***

*Have Jonah get in the water by the "big fish."*

**Recap:** Wow! After Jonah was thrown off the boat into the water, God stopped the storm! *The "water" children should stop the waves and sit down. The boat should be still, and all children and leaders should move away from the fish and sit down.*

#### ***Paraphrase of Jonah 1:16:***

The sailors now believed in God! God made something good out of something bad. But what happened to Jonah?

### **The great fish swallows Jonah**

#### **Read Jonah 1:17 dramatically**

*Jonah goes into the mouth of the fish.*

**Recap:** What swallowed Jonah? (A great fish) How many days and nights did Jonah spend in the belly of the fish? (Three) What do you think it was like in the belly of a big fish? Dark? Stinky? Uncomfortable? I bet it was awful! What do you think Jonah did while he was inside the great fish?

### **Jonah prays**

#### ***Paraphrase of Jonah 2:1-9:***

While Jonah was in the great fish, he prayed to God. Jonah told God that he knew God would save him. Even though Jonah had been very disobedient, he still trusted God. Jonah told God he would obey God. Then what happened?

### **God commands the fish to vomit Jonah onto dry land**

#### **Read Jonah 2:10**

*Jonah comes out of the fish and sits with the children for the rest of the lesson – the acting part is done.*

**Recap:** Isn't our God awesome? He gave Jonah a second chance, even though he really didn't deserve it. Let's keep reading to find out what happens next.

### **God repeats His command to Jonah**

#### **Read Jonah 3:1-3a**

**Recap:** Did Jonah obey God this time and go to the city of Nineveh? (Yes)

### **The Ninevites believe and repent**

#### ***Paraphrase of Jonah 3:3b-9:***

Jonah told the Ninevite people that God would destroy them in forty days. What do you think the Ninevite people did? They believed in God, and they repented of all their evil sins. What does repent mean? It means the Ninevites stopped sinning and started doing things God's way. They hoped God would forgive them and not destroy them.

What do you do when you disobey God? When we sin, we should admit that we did something wrong. Then we should pray and tell God what we did wrong. Then we need to repent, which means next time we will do things God's way instead of our way. Do you think God gave the Ninevites another chance?

### **God does not destroy the Ninevites**

#### **Read Jonah 3:10**

**Recap:** Did God destroy the Ninevites? (No) Why not? (Because they believed God, and they repented of their evil ways)

## **Conclusion**

How important is it to obey God? (It is very important!) Look at what happened when Jonah disobeyed God. Many people almost died, and Jonah had to spend three days and nights in the belly of a fish. But the sailors chose to obey God, and they were saved from the storm. The evil Ninevite people also chose to obey God, and they were saved from being destroyed.

## Do Right and Feel Right

God wants you to be saved, too - saved from your sin (*dark page of the Wordless Book*). We can't be saved by obeying though. We need a Savior. That's why God sent His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross (*red page*) and that's why God raised Him from the dead. When you obey God and trust in Jesus alone to forgive your sin, God saves you (*white page*). Let's review the Wordless Book and then you can decide if you want to ask Jesus to forgive your sin and become the leader of your life. *Share the Gospel through the Wordless Book, and then give an invitation for salvation.*

## Review Questions: What did we discover today?

1. Did God tell Jonah to go to the evil city of Nineveh? (Yes)
2. What was Jonah supposed to do in Nineveh? (Tell them about God)
3. Did Jonah obey or disobey God when he got on a boat to Tarshish? (He disobeyed)
4. What happened when Jonah was sleeping in the bottom of the boat? (God sent a terrible storm)
5. What did the sailors do to Jonah? (They threw Jonah off the boat into the water)
6. What swallowed Jonah after he was thrown into the water? (A great fish)
7. What happened to the storm after the sailors threw Jonah into the water? (God stopped the storm, and the sea became calm)
8. When the sea became calm, did the sailors believe in God? (Yes, they believed in God and worshiped Him)
9. What did Jonah do when he was inside the fish? (He prayed to God)
10. When you pray, does God hear you? (Yes)
11. What happened when Jonah obeyed God and told the Ninevite people that God was going to destroy them? (They repented and believed in God)
12. How can you obey God this week?

## Discover Time

**Transition to Discover Time:** As we walk to Discover Time, let's pretend we are rowing a boat.

**Do Right:** I will obey God.

**Goal:** To help children remember the main points of our lesson and to obey their leader.

**Location:** Outdoor Space

**Supplies:**

- Two cones or cardboard/ cartons with the following signs:
  - "Nineveh" with an arrow pointing to the left (see Resources Booklet)
  - "Tarshish" with an arrow pointing to the right (see Resources Booklet)
- Tickets to Tarshish (one per child) (see Resources Booklet) (alternate ideas: use generic tickets on a roll OR use squares of cardstock or construction paper that are either blank or write "ticket" on them)
- Water gun, sprinkler, or spray bottle with water
- Children's play tunnel with eyes attached to one end to look like a fish. You can also make a tunnel using chairs and a sheet. Attach eyes and a fish tail to either end to look like a fish.
- Inflatable boats/rafts or a boat made out of a large box

**Setup instructions:** Create an obstacle course beginning with the "Tarshish" sign and the boat, followed by the fish tunnel, and then finally to the "Nineveh" sign. The Teacher and Shepherd can assist

by handing out tickets and/or squirting water.

### Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Say: Let's pretend we are Jonah! Listen carefully and obey what I say. Do you remember what Jonah did when God told him to go to Nineveh? He went the opposite way! Was this obeying or disobeying?
2. Lead your class to the "Tarshish" sign. Read the sign to the children. Shake your head and say, "Jonah shouldn't have gone this way. He wasn't obeying God."
3. Say: Jonah got a ticket to take a boat ride to Tarshish!
4. Hand out tickets to children.
5. Say: We're going to pretend we are on a boat with Jonah.
6. Have them get in the boat and collect tickets as they enter.
7. Have children gently sway back and forth as if they are sailing.
8. Say: What happened while they were on their way to Tarshish? (God sent a storm!)
9. Have children rock back and forth. Squirt water into the air so it falls on children. Don't squirt directly at children.
10. Say: The storm got worse and worse! The sailors finally threw Jonah into the sea.
11. Have all children do a somersault or jump out of the boat and walk to the fish tunnel.
12. Say: What happened when Jonah was thrown into the sea? (He got swallowed by a big fish!)
13. Have all children go through the "fish" tunnel.
14. Then lead your class to the "Nineveh" sign and have them sit down.
15. Say: What happened then? Jonah finally obeyed God and went to Nineveh to warn them that God was going to destroy Nineveh in forty days.
16. Have children count to forty with the leaders.
17. Say: Finally, Jonah obeyed. Jonah could have saved himself a lot of trouble if he would have just obeyed God right away. When should we obey God? (Right away)
18. Repeat if time permits.
19. As children go back to class, have the leader shout, "When should we obey?", and have children yell back, "Right away!" Repeat many times.

## Classroom Review Time

**Lead Teachers ~ Connecting the DT to the Lesson:** In Ephesians 6:1, God tells us to obey our parents. When should we obey? *Have children yell, "Right away!"* Does this mean, if your mom asks you to clean your room, you should do it after you watch TV? (No, we should obey right away) If your dad asks you to pick up your toys, when should you do it? (We should obey right away) If your grandma asks you to brush your teeth, when should you do it? (We should obey right away)

### Reviewing the Know Right:

#### Supplies:

- Small cups (one per child)
- Fish crackers or any readily available fish snacks/ cookies (*check for allergies*) You can also use cut-out pictures of fish.
- Hand sanitizer or access to water, soap, and hand towels

#### Instructions:

1. Have children sanitize or wash their hands.
2. Pass out cups.
3. Ask the Lesson Review Questions and have all children answer them together.
4. If the class answers correctly, give them each a fish cracker to put in their cups.
5. At the end, allow children to eat their crackers.

## **Think Right Activity while waiting for parents:**

### **Supplies:**

- Props: a fish, a crown, a duster or small broom
- Fun praise music

### **Instructions:**

1. Have children and leaders form a circle and recite Acts 16:31.
2. Say: We're going to pass around three objects to remind us of our past three lessons: a fish to remember today's lesson, a crown to remind us of King Hezekiah from last week, and a small broom to remind us of the young girl who told Naaman about the one true God. When the music begins, pass the items. When the music stops, those who are holding an item can say the verse together.
3. Repeat as time permits.

# Lesson 4

## 2 Chronicles 34

<b>Know Right:</b>	King Josiah finds God's Word.
<b>Think Right:</b>	"Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved - you and your household." Acts 16:31 (Top 12)
<b>Do Right:</b>	I will learn God's Word.
<b>Feel Right:</b>	I can feel happy when I learn God's Word.

## GET READY!

Can you imagine what it would be like to forget or lose the Bible, or to have it taken away from you? That would be tragic! But that's exactly what happened to the Israelite people. They neglected God's Word, and it was lost for generations. This week, as we learn about when King Josiah found God's Word, let's thank God for giving us His Word.

**Pray:** Pray that God will give you a clear and accurate understanding of Scripture as you prepare to teach or assist with the lesson. Ask God for the ability to show love to the children in your class.

**Read:** 2 Chronicles 34

### Know Right: King Josiah finds God's Word

Israel's unfaithful kings and disobedient people neglected God's temple, His worship, and His Word. The northern kingdom of Israel had already been exiled to Assyria, and Judah's punishment was not far behind. Although Josiah became the king of Judah at only eight years of age, he did what was right in God's eyes. Every good thing he did led to another. When Josiah ordered the repair of the temple, the Book of the Law was found. When Josiah heard the truth of God's Word in that book, he believed and followed it. He read it to his people and led them back to obedience. Because Josiah yielded to the truth, God spared Judah from its punishment until after Josiah's death. May we, as God's people, follow in Josiah's footsteps by learning God's Word.

## GET SET!

### Lead Teacher's Notes:

- This lesson involves much paraphrasing. Please be very familiar with your lesson so you can keep children engaged and focused. This is an exciting lesson; your tone of voice and actions should express the heart of King Josiah.
- Please refer to the Children's Ministry Resource Bible: page 547 (Lesson: Josiah, A Leader Who Took a Stand for God), pages 1124-1125 (History of Israel: The Kingdom).
- As children grow older, they often ask, "How do you know the Bible is true?" There are many ways to know that the Bible is true: fulfilled prophecies in the Bible, the number of manuscripts that can be cross referenced, and excavation sites and artifacts that provide evidence that many of the events, people, and places mentioned in the Bible really existed - such as the city

of Jericho. This means, if you jumped on an airplane and headed to Israel, you would find evidence that God's Word is true. For preschoolers, when you open your Bible and say, "God's Word is truth", you are laying the foundation for this discussion by reminding them that God's Word is true.

### Creative Ideas for the Bible Lesson:

1. "Treasure Hunt" style. Supplies: large "treasure chest," something to cover up the treasure chest, and the following clues inside the treasure chest: crown, "idol" (gold cow or other animal), hammer, Bible, and torn purple cloth. If you have multiple services, brainstorm with fellow Preschool Teachers to combine your preparation and props for this lesson. *This idea is written into the lesson.*
2. Create a large diorama of the temple or use a picture of the temple and teach your lesson with action figures or stick puppets.

## GO!

### Pre-Service Review Game

Worship Leaders will lead children in a review game. Game details are in the Resources Booklet.

### Large Group Opening Time

**Offering:** We are going to worship God right now by giving our money. When we give our money to God, the church will use it to tell others about Jesus. *Or insert a specific way your church will use the offering.*

### Think Right verse: Acts 16:31

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

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

**Transition:** Where do we find Acts 16:31? (In the Bible) *Hold up a Bible.* Is the Bible truth? (Yes!) Let's sing about the Bible.

### Song 1: "B-I-B-L-E Bible"

#### Puppet Skit: Tracker and the buried treasure

*Tracker comes up with a pirate hat and eye patch on. He has a map in his hand. He tries to talk in a deep "pirate" voice at the beginning of the skit.*

**Props:** Bible in a treasure chest

**WL:** *(takes map from Tracker's hand)* Well, well, well, what do we have here?

**T:** I'm a pirate, and I'm searchin' for buried treasure!

**WL:** Well, you certainly *look* like a pirate! Now, what did you say you are in search of?

**T:** Buried treasure!

WL: I see. And just where *is* this buried treasure?

T: That's why I gots a map, \_\_\_\_\_! I'm gonna be the richest pirate in the whole world!

WL: Could I take a look at that map, Tracker?

T: Sure!

WL: I don't understand this map. Where exactly do you start looking for the treasure? (*shows him the map*)

T: (*no longer uses the deep "pirate" voice*) Well, um, I'm not sure...

WL: Where did you get this treasure map?

T: In a box of Cap'n Crunch cereal.

WL: I thought it was something like that. And how do you know what you'd even find if you *did* find the treasure?

T: I just know there'd be silver an' gold an' diamonds an' rubies...

WL: But how do you *know*?

T: Oh, ok. I guess I *don't* know!

WL: I know where there's a treasure, and it's right here!

T: No way! You mean there's treasure right here? Who would think to look right here?

WL: Well, actually, lots of people. And you know what, Tracker?

T: What?

WL: Everyone who truly looks for this treasure, finds it. And it is worth more than gold, silver, diamonds, or rubies!

T: Where is it? Tell me!

WL: (*picks up the Bible out of a treasure box*) It's right here. What's written in here is God's Word – His wisdom. Listen to this: (*read Proverbs 2:3b-5*) "...if you cry out for understanding, and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God." Proverbs 2:3b-5

T: Maybe I should start lookin' for treasure in my Bible!

WL: Great idea, Tracker!

T: I'm gonna go find my Bible. See ya' later! (*goes down*)

WL: Bye, Tracker! (*to children*) You know, sometimes we're like Tracker - looking for treasure everywhere except where the greatest treasure is - in the Bible, which is God's Holy Word!

**Transition:** Let's stop and praise God for giving us the Bible.

**Song 2:** "Praise the Lord"

**Pray**

## Bible Lesson Introduction

**Pray:** Allow a child to pray and to thank God for giving us the Bible. Remind them to begin their prayer by addressing God with something like, "Dear Heavenly Father" and end the prayer with "In Jesus' name, Amen." Teach children that when we all say, "Amen" it means we are agreeing with what has been said.

**Find It:** We are going to be looking into another book in the Old Testament of the Bible called 2 Chronicles. Can you say, “2 Chronicles?” *Have children repeat after you.* In this book, we are going to discover a king who was only eight years old. Let’s count to eight.

**Timeline:** Let’s look at the timeline and find a picture of a king who might have been only eight years old. *Have children search to find King Josiah on the timeline.*

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

From the Bible, we learn about good kings who loved and obeyed God. We also learn about bad kings who chose not to obey God. How would a good king learn to obey God? He would read his Bible, obey what the Bible has to say, and pray to God. Do you think every king would read God’s Word every day of his life, like God had commanded? We’re about to find out.

Remember how Tracker talked about looking for treasure? I think we should have a “Treasure Hunt”, too! So, we will need a... *(take the cover off the trunk)* “treasure chest!” Inside this treasure chest are clues to help us with our lesson today. Let’s see what they are right now! *Take each clue out of the chest one at a time.* Hmm, a crown, a cow, a hammer, a Bible, and torn cloth? Let’s see, what could we be talking about today? I got it! Our lesson is about a princess who has a cow and needs to build a barn for it; her purple dress got torn when she tripped! I’m not really sure what the Bible has to do with it, but I’m sure I’ll think of something!

**Other leaders in the room should yell, “No! Look it up in the Bible!”**

No? Ok then... Oh, I know! Our lesson is about this cow, Elsie, who wants to be queen of all the cows and wear a crown and robe! Presidents and kings and queens put their hands on a Bible and promise to be good leaders. There! Now I even got the Bible in! That sounds right!

**Leaders should yell, “No! Look it up in the Bible!”**

Huh? Look it up in the Bible? No, the Bible is one of our clues - remember? I think I might be on the right track with this Elsie the cow thing...

**Leaders should yell, “No! Look it up in the Bible!”**

You think so? The Bible? Ok, I guess I’ll try it! Let’s see. Let’s check out 2 Chronicles 34. *Look it up in the Bible.*

## **Scripture Outline: 2 Chronicles 34**

### **Josiah becomes the king of Judah at age eight**

#### **Read 2 Chronicles 34:1**

**Recap:** Wow! An eight-year-old boy named Josiah became the king of Judah! Eight years old! Wow! That’s pretty young to be the king of a country, isn’t it? Hey! Hold on a minute! King! Kings wear **crowns**. A crown was our first clue. Hmm, maybe the leaders were right to have me look it up in the Bible, huh?

### **Josiah does right**

#### ***Paraphrase of 2 Chronicles 34:2-3a:***

*Show the Bible.* My Bible tells me that King Josiah was only eight years old, but he knew that doing things God’s way was right. That means that even though you are a child, you can do things God’s way, too! It also says that he began to seek God. King Josiah heard about God, but he wanted to learn more. How can we seek and learn more about God? (By reading God’s Word, the Bible) Let’s find out what else King Josiah did.

### **Josiah destroys the altars and idols of the make-believe gods**

#### **Paraphrase of 2 Chronicles 34:3b-7:**

*Look in the Bible, but paraphrase.* It says when Josiah was about twenty years old, he decided to get rid of all the idols in his country. The people of Judah and Israel had been worshiping make-believe gods for a very long time, and the kings before Josiah didn't stop them! They made idols (statues) of these pretend gods – statues of animals that they would worship. Hold on! That sounds like another one of our clues! *Hold up the gold cow.* It sure is! Our second clue was actually an **idol**! King Josiah knew those idols were wrong! He knew if people trusted in those pretend gods, they wouldn't trust in the one true God, so he had them all destroyed. He wanted the people to worship the only true God – our God! He knew God was the only one who could be trusted. I wonder what else King Josiah did? Let's find out.

### **Josiah repairs God's temple**

#### **Paraphrase of 2 Chronicles 34:8-13:**

A king who came before Josiah, King Solomon, had the temple of God built. It was awesome and beautiful! But after King Solomon died, the other kings didn't take care of the temple. By the time Josiah became king, the temple was a mess! King Josiah wanted to honor the Lord God, so he decided to have God's temple fixed. Wait a minute! You use a **hammer** to fix buildings! That's one of our clues, right? People gave money to fix the temple of the Lord, so they used the money to buy wood and supplies and to pay the workers who were fixing the temple.

### **The Book of the Law is found**

#### **Paraphrase of 2 Chronicles 34:14-17:**

While they were working on the temple, one of the priests found the Book of the Law. The Book of the Law is part of our Bible today. The Bible was written over many years by different people who wrote down what God told them to write. The **Bible**? That's one of our clues! That's why it's a clue - this was a very important find! The Book of the Law was left sitting in the messy temple. The Bible isn't supposed to just sit there! We are supposed to read it! How will we know what God has to say to us if we don't read His Word? The kings before Josiah didn't read God's Word. They didn't obey or trust in God alone. Remember, God said each king should write a copy of God's Word for himself and read it every day of his life (*Deuteronomy 17:18-20*). If the king did this, he could learn to obey God and be a good king. But the kings and the people forgot all about God's Word. That is very sad!

### **King Josiah finds out what the Book of the Law says**

#### **Paraphrase of 2 Chronicles 34:18-28:**

The Book of the Law was read to King Josiah. When he heard the Word of the Lord, he tore his robe. Did you hear that? King Josiah **tore his robe**! That's our last clue! Why do you think he tore his robe? Back then, when people knew they had sinned and they wanted to show God they were sorry, they would tear their clothes. King Josiah was showing God how sorry he was that the people in the kingdom had been sinning for many years. He was upset because he realized his people hadn't been doing what God said! They had been worshiping other make-believe gods and living in ways that weren't pleasing to God.

### **King Josiah reads God's Word to the people**

#### **Paraphrase of 2 Chronicles 34:29-32:**

After King Josiah read the words of the Lord to the people, he had all the people promise to live according to God's Word. They all did! Listen to how it ends:

### **Read 2 Chronicles 34:33**

**Recap:** King Josiah had all of the people serve the one true God. And as long as King Josiah lived, the people followed the Lord.

## Conclusion

Let's look at our clues again:

- The **crown** reminds us of a good king, King Josiah, who did right in the eyes of the Lord.
- The **cow** reminds us of an idol that the people worshiped, rather than our one true God. King Josiah had the make-believe idols destroyed.
- The **hammer** reminds us how King Josiah had the Lord's temple rebuilt, after he tore down all the idols.
- The **torn cloth** reminds us how King Josiah tore his robe when he found out that the people had not been obeying God's Word.
- The **Bible** reminds us of God's Word, which Josiah read to everyone. They hadn't heard it before because it was lost in the ruins of the temple. We are so blessed that we have the Bible to read from. Ask someone to read it to you every day because God's Word is important!

## Do Right and Feel Right

The Bible is the only book that is God's Word, so we can know that it contains only absolute (complete, perfect) truth. But there's something important to know if you want to understand God's Word. When we trust in Jesus, He helps us understand what it means. He helps us to do what it tells us to do.

*Opportunity to present the Gospel using the Wordless Book, and then offer an invitation for salvation.*

## Review Questions: What did we discover today?

1. Should a good king who loves God read and obey the Bible every day? (Yes)
2. Was Josiah a king or a farmer? (A king)
3. How old was Josiah when he became a king? (Eight)
4. Did King Josiah destroy the bad idols of the make-believe gods? (Yes)
5. Did King Josiah repair God's temple or did he tear it down? (He repaired it)
6. What was found in the temple – God's Word, the Book of the Law or coloring books? (God's Word, the Book of the Law)
7. After the Book of the Law was found, did King Josiah read God's Word to all the people? (Yes)
8. Did King Josiah have the people obey God's Word after they heard it? (Yes)

## Discover Time

**Transition to Discover Time:** *In advance, hide Bibles on the path to your Discover Time. Note: Do not lay them on the ground; carefully place them so they are clean and well taken care of.*

Let's go on a "Bible Hunt" and count the Bibles we find as we walk to our Discover Time.

**Do Right:** I will learn God's Word.

**Goal:** To help children value the truth that is found in the Bible.

**Location:** Art Station

**Supplies:**

- Treasure chest or box (place supplies inside)
- Bible
- Bookmarks with the Feel Right statement (multiple copies per child) (see Resources Booklet)
- Washable markers and/or colored pencils (or marker pens or crayons)
- Rubber stamps with washable ink pads and/or stickers if available
- Optional: Add a fun string or ribbon to the end of each bookmark to make it special.

**Instructions for the DT Leader:**

1. Be super excited to see the treasure chest. Have children gather around it to see a beautiful Bible and all the supplies. Your excitement is critical to making this DT great!
2. Encourage children to take supplies and design a special bookmark for each member of their family. Have children write their name on the bookmark (leaders may need to help with this). Keep telling children that these bookmarks are super special and only for Bibles.
3. Remind children of the importance of reading and studying the Word of God. Everyone should study the Bible: moms, dads, grandparents, sisters, brothers, etc.
4. When parents pick up their children, have children tell their parents the purpose of the bookmarks before they leave.

## Classroom Review Time

**Lead Teachers ~ Connecting the DT to the Lesson:** Where should these bookmarks go? (In the Bible) Why did we make bookmarks today? We made them so we can remind our family that it is very important to study the Bible. Do you think you will remember to tell each person in your family to read and obey their Bible, like King Josiah? Make sure you give out your bookmarks right away when you go home.

**Reviewing the Know Right:****Supplies:**

- Props from the lesson
- Small stickers (Bibles or stars)

**Instructions:**

1. Have children sit at tables with table leaders.
2. Hold up one prop at a time in front of the whole group. Have table leaders ask children questions that relate to the lesson and the prop for a few minutes and then move to the next prop.
3. As children answer the questions, table leaders can give them small Bible stickers or star stickers for their shirts or name tags.
4. Repeat the questions several times, so children clearly hear and understand the correct answers.

**Think Right Activity while waiting for parents:****Supplies:**

- Water balloons (under-fill so they are squishy, but not breakable), beanbags, or ball-pit balls in multiple colors (one for every two to three children)
- Bag with colored paper squares that match the balloons, beanbags, or balls
- Fun praise music

**Instructions:**

1. Have children sit in a circle. Pass out balloons, beanbags, or balls.
2. As you play the music, have children pass the items around the circle.
3. When the music stops, pick a color from the paper squares. Those with the matching colored balloon, beanbag, or ball should stand up and say Acts 16:31.
4. Repeat as time permits.

# Lesson 5

**2 Kings 25:1-21; Jeremiah 29:4-14**  
**(Parallel Account in 2 Chronicles 36:15-21)**

<b>Know Right:</b>	Nebuchadnezzar conquers Judah.
<b>Think Right:</b>	“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.” Proverbs 3:5-6 (Top 12)
<b>Do Right:</b>	I will trust God’s plan for my life.
<b>Feel Right:</b>	I can feel peaceful when I trust God’s plan for my life.

## GET READY!

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

**Pray:** Ask God to bring the Bible to life as you prepare to teach or assist this week. Pray that the children in your class will understand their need for a Savior.

**Read:** 2 Kings 25:1-21; Jeremiah 29:4-14 (Parallel Account in 2 Chronicles 36:15-21)

### **Know Right: Nebuchadnezzar conquers Judah**

After King Josiah’s death, Judah and its kings returned to their evil ways, and the time for Judah’s promised punishment arrived. God allowed King Nebuchadnezzar’s army to conquer Judah, destroy Jerusalem, and take many of Judah’s citizens to Babylon as captives. This was a devastating time for God’s chosen people, but it was all part of His plan. God encouraged the Israelites to settle down in Babylon and make it their new home. His promise was to prosper them, not to harm them. In seventy years, they would return to their home in the Promised Land. From this episode in Judah’s history, we can understand that we can trust God’s plan for our lives.

## GET SET!

### **Lead Teacher’s Notes:**

- To simplify this lesson, we will not address the events of the theft of the temple treasures and the exile of the people of Jerusalem recorded in 2 Kings 24.
- Please remember to use the Five Count to gain the children’s attention in class. This is the same method that is used in all grades in DL. When you use the same and consistent method to get children’s attention, you will be surprised how much faster they will respond. Five Count explanation: Start with 1 and work your way up to 5. On average, children should be quiet by 3.
- Preschoolers need to know that each week’s lesson comes from the Bible, so when the curriculum says “**Read**” this means you literally read the listed verses from your Bible and do a “**Recap**” of what the verses meant. The rest of the lesson is “**Paraphrased.**” Use sticky notes or bookmarks in your Bible so you can quickly find the verse(s) you need to read.

## Creative Ideas for the Lesson:

1. Use props as you teach the lesson: Bible, idol, sword, handcuffs or rope/yarn, letter, small dollhouse or a decorated cardboard box, plant, and doll. *This idea is written into the lesson.*
2. Create a LEGO® display of your lesson and move people around to illustrate the main events.
3. Use a glove or stick puppet to represent people as you tell the story of the lesson. The more details from the lesson you can include on your puppets, the better.
4. Make a timeline of the lesson using pictures (print them out or draw on the board ahead of time).
5. Use large roll paper and draw pictures or outlines of pictures (coloring book style) ahead of time. As you teach the lesson, add in color or facial expressions on the characters. If you are not an artist, tap into an artist, a parent, or a youth leader to assist.

GO!

## Pre-Service Review Game

Worship Leaders will lead children in a review game. Game details are in the Resources Booklet.

## Large Group Opening Time

**Offering:** We are going to worship God right now by giving our money. When we give our money to God, the church will use it to tell others about Jesus. *Or insert a specific way your church will use the offering.*

### Think Right verse: Proverbs 3:5-6

We have a new verse this week! You can find it right in the Bible. *Hold up the Bible.* This verse reminds us to trust in the Lord with all our heart. I'll say the verse and you can follow the hand motions that I do.

**"Trust** (2 fists in front of you) **in the Lord** (point up) **with all** (arms out) **your heart** (hands over heart) **and lean not** (shake finger) **on your own understanding** (point to head). **In all your ways** (hands back and forth in front of you) **acknowledge** (point to head) **Him** (point up), **and He** (finger stays pointing up) **will make your paths straight** (arms come straight down from elbows- "robot arms")."  
**Proverbs 3:5-6**

*Repeat several times.*

**Transition:** Let's sing the song "Trust in the Lord". This is a great song to help us remember our verse. You can sing it while you play outside or before you go to bed.

**Song 1:** "Trust in the Lord"

### Puppet Skit: Cousin Solomon

*Tracker comes up with an envelope in his mouth; a letter should be in the envelope.*

**WL:** Hi ya, Tracker. What do you have there?

**T:** HMMHGW...

**WL:** Why is this in your mouth, Tracker? Oh, here let me take that! What is it?

**T:** I'm so super duper excited, \_\_\_\_\_! It's a letter from my cousin Solomon!

**WL:** Your cousin Solomon, huh? I didn't even know you had a cousin Solomon!

**T:** Yep! I sure do. An' he's visiting our grandma and grandpa in Africa!

**WL:** That's a faraway place on the other side of the world. That is so awesome! What does he have to say?

**T:** I don't know! I waited and waited and waited to come here to open it. Open it, \_\_\_\_\_, open it! I've been waitin' and waitin' and waitin' for him to write me a letter!

**WL:** Ok, ok, Tracker! *(open letter, start reading it to yourself, and laugh at something in the letter)* That Solomon sure is funny!

**T:** Yeah? Well maybe the rest of us would like to hear it, too?

**WL:** Oh, I'm sorry! Should I read it out loud?

**T:** Yes! Please!

**WL:** Ok. *(reads letter)* Dear Cousin Tracker: Africa is really hot. It's a good thing camels can go for a long time without drinking water! Grandma and Grandpa are doing fine. They drive a motorcycle and speak in a different language to their friends. Grandma told me they saw a lion last week! Yikes, that freaks me out. I will see you soon. Love, your favorite cousin, Solomon

**T:** I sure miss my cousin Solomon!

**WL:** I bet you do. It'll be nice when he comes home, won't it?

**T:** It sure will!

**WL:** It's hard to be away from home, but Solomon knows God will take care of him wherever he is. And soon, that will be here at home! It kind of reminds me of our Bible Lesson this week, because it's about some people who were far from home, too!

**T:** Wow...that sounds pretty great. I can't wait to hear it! I'm gonna listen really good in class today to find out what happens.

**WL:** Okay, you better go find your classroom.

**T:** I sure will. See you guys later!

**WL:** Bye, Tracker!

**Transition:** God will always take care of us. That is one of the reasons why we should praise Him!

**Song 2:** "Praise the Lord"

**Pray**

## Bible Lesson Introduction

**Pray:** Allow a child to pray and to thank God for giving us the Bible. Remind them to begin their prayer by addressing God with something like, "Dear Heavenly Father" and end the prayer with "In Jesus' name, Amen." Teach children that when we all say, "Amen" it means we are agreeing with what has been said.

**Find It:** Ask the class if 2 Kings is in the New Testament or Old Testament. (OT) Tell children you will read all the books of the OT up to 2 Kings. When they hear the book of 2 Kings, have them start clapping their hands. Prepare them to clap by having them hold out their hands. This will help them stay focused and listen carefully to each book of the OT. Repeating the books of the Bible will help children learn the pronunciation of the book names.

**Timeline:** Point to King Josiah (from last week) on the timeline and then point to King Nebuchadnezzar, who comes after King Josiah on the timeline.

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

The Bible tells us that thousands of years ago, God created a mighty nation called Israel. God said the people of this mighty nation were His own special people. He loved them and had a wonderful plan for their lives.

Your parents probably have a plan for your day. Maybe it is to wake up, go to church, eat lunch, take a nap, and then play outside. God had a plan for the Israelites. It was bigger than a plan just for a day, it was a plan for their entire lives.

The people of Israel said they loved God. They promised to obey God. God took care of His people and showed His love to them in many, many ways. God provided good things for them: a place to live, food to eat, a family, and friends. He protected them from their enemies. God took care of them like a loving father.

*Set out a Bible.* He gave the Israelites His Word - the Bible - to show them what He was like and how to follow and trust in Him. That way, the people in other countries would come to know and trust in the only true God and the Savior (Jesus) that He would send. God had a great plan and promised to bless the Israelites, if they obeyed Him, and He promised that He would punish them if they disobeyed Him. This was all part of God's perfect plan.

But guess what happened. For nearly 1,000 years - that's a very long time - the Israelites disobeyed God. That's a long time to disobey God.

They lived their own way, and they worshiped the make-believe gods (idols) that other countries worshiped. A few leaders, like King Josiah (last week's lesson), led God's people to live God's way again, but it didn't last. Soon the Israelites were disobeying God, worshiping idols, and not trusting God again. They didn't want to obey God's plan. After King Josiah died, they forgot that God cared for His people and had a good plan for them. They decided to do things their own way instead of God's way. God did what He promised - He punished the Israelites.

Do you ever get punished for doing wrong things?

### **Scripture Outline: 2 Kings 25:1-21; Jeremiah 29:4-14 (Parallel Account in 2 Chronicles 36:15-21)**

#### **God uses Babylon to punish the people in Judah**

##### **Paraphrase of 2 Kings 25:1-21:**

*Set out the idol.* After King Josiah grew older and died, the next king made a bad decision to not love God. *Thumbs down.* He wanted to do things his way and not listen to or obey God's Word. This was really bad! *Thumbs down.* Because of this bad decision, the Israelites started worshiping pretend gods again – that is a sin that ended up having a huge punishment for the Israelites.

During this same time, there was another king named King Nebuchadnezzar. Wow...that's a long name! Let's try to say it all together. King Nebuchadnezzar was the king of Babylon. Babylon was a very powerful country that didn't love God either. They decided to go to war with (fight against) the Israelites. Because the Israelites wouldn't trust in the one true God, God allowed King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon to take over the Israelites.

*Set out the sword.* Babylon's army won against the Israelite army. Then really bad things began to happen. They burned the temple where the Israelites worshiped God. They took all the special things out of the temple and destroyed the king's palace.

### **Read 2 Kings 25:10**

**Recap:** The wall was very important – it protected the people in the city. This was very sad. Many Israelites died during the attack. After King Nebuchadnezzar destroyed Jerusalem, he took many of the people who were left back with him to Babylon to be his slaves. *Set out the handcuffs.* A slave is someone who has to work all the time without getting paid, and they cannot leave to live or work somewhere else.

Why did God allow all of this to happen? It was a part of God's plan to punish His people, so they would turn back to Him. God told them there would be a punishment; there is always a punishment for sin. (*Romans 3:23 - dark page of the Wordless Book*) God takes sin very seriously. He had given the Israelites time to turn away from their sin before He punished them, but they wouldn't obey. So now they were taken from their homes, their land, and all they knew. God's people were very sad to have to leave their beautiful city and their homes. They were also sad they had disobeyed God. *Make sad faces.* But God takes care of us even when we disobey Him!

Have you ever disobeyed your parents? Do they still love you? God loves us even more than our parents! God still loved the Israelites and wanted them to turn back to Him.

### **God tells the Israelites to settle down in Babylon**

#### ***Paraphrase of Jeremiah 29:4:***

*Set out the letter.* God wanted them to know they would be in Babylon for a long time. He had one of His prophets named Jeremiah write a letter to the people who had been taken to Babylon.

*Set out the dollhouse, plant, and doll.*

**Read Jeremiah 29:5-6** *Due to content we will skip verses 7-9.*

### **Read Jeremiah 29:10**

**Recap and Paraphrase of Jeremiah 29:12-14:** God promised the Israelites He would take them back to their home in Judah in seventy years. Have you ever been put in "time out"? Well, that's pretty much what God was doing to His people. In the letter, God let them know that their "time out" for disobeying was going to last a long time. Listen to what else God told them through Jeremiah.

### **Read Jeremiah 29:11**

## **Conclusion**

God loves us so much, and He has a perfect and wonderful plan made for each one of you. To know His plan, you need to listen to Him and do what He says, because God knows what's best for us.

## **Do Right and Feel Right**

Let's think about ourselves now. You and I have all disobeyed God, just like the Israelites did. He has also warned us that there is punishment when we disobey Him. Disobeying God is called sin. The punishment for our sin is to be apart from God our Father forever (*gold and dark pages of the Wordless Book*). The Good News is that He loves you so much, He sent His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross (*red page of Wordless Book*) to take the punishment for your sin. *Give an invitation as you share the Wordless Book.*

God has a good plan for you. You can learn about His plan in the Bible. First, His plan is for you to trust Jesus as your Savior. Then His plan is for you to worship Him, to love Him, to love and serve other people, to obey His Word, to have joy, and more!

Next week, we are going to learn about a few of the people who were taken as slaves during this time. But God didn't forget about them! He kept working in their lives.

## Review Questions: What did we discover today?

1. Did the Israelites obey God? (No)
2. Did God punish the Israelites so they would learn to do what is right? (Yes)
3. Was Babylon's king named King Nebuchadnezzar or King John? (King Nebuchadnezzar)
4. What did King Nebuchadnezzar's army do to the city of Jerusalem? (Broke down the walls around the city and stole all the special things from the temple)
5. Then where did the Israelites go? (They left their homes and went to a city called Babylon)
6. What promise did God make to the Jewish slaves in Babylon? (They would go home to Jerusalem in seventy years)
7. Was all of this part of God's plan? (Yes)
8. What verse tells us to trust in God? (Proverbs 3:5-6)

## Discover Time

### Transition to Discover Time:

As we walk to our Discover Time, let's say our verse, Proverbs 3:5-6.

**Do Right:** I will trust God's plan for my life.

**Goal:** To introduce the concept that obedience leads to enjoying God's plan. Disobedience leads to consequences.

### Location: Outdoor Space

#### Supplies:

- Starting line and finish line with cones, about thirty feet apart, long enough for all children to stand on (the distance should be a challenge for children to make it across)
- Popsicles or another small snack (stored in a cooler) for all children
- Large signs with "Stop" and "Go" taped back to back on a yardstick (see Resources Booklet)
- Large blanket
- Optional: beach umbrella

**Setup instructions:** Behind the finish line, have a designated resting area with a cooler of popsicles (or small snack), a large blanket, and possibly a beach umbrella.

#### Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Have children line up on the starting line.
2. Say: I have a super **plan** for all of you! Do you want to hear what it is? I want you all to enjoy an incredible snack. *Point to the fun snack station.* But first you need to get there following my **plan**. *Hold up signs.* If you see the "Stop" sign, you must stop. If I hold up the "Go" sign, you should go. If you move while I hold up the "Stop" sign, you will be sent back to the starting line, where you are standing right now. Will you obey my **plan** (the traffic signs)? Let's review again. If I hold up the "Go" sign, you should go! If I hold up the "Stop" sign, you should stop. If you obey and make it over to the finish line, then you can rest on the soft blanket and have a cold popsicle (or small snack) while you wait for everyone to finish. Doesn't that sound like a great **plan**?

3. Say: Remember, the challenging part is that you must obey the signs. When the sign changes to stop, you must stop. The punishment for not obeying is to go back to the starting line. When you cross over the finish line on the other side, you can have a special treat.
4. Emphasize the word **plan**, just like God had a plan for the Israelites.
5. Assign Shepherds to watch for children who move when the sign switches. Make sure you catch children who move since there is always a punishment for disobedience.
6. Make sure you are quick to switch signs. This should be similar to the game "Red Light/Green Light."
7. This game should be fast-paced (signs should be flipping often) and challenging, but fun and achievable!
8. Children should not make it across the line the first time the sign flips to "go". Remember, your DT needs to last fifteen minutes.
9. Continue to play until all children cross the line.
10. After everyone finishes their snack, repeat as time permits.

## Classroom Review Time

**Lead Teachers ~ Connecting the DT to the Lesson:** The **plan** was pretty easy in our Discover Time. We just needed to **obey** the signs to get to our special snack. This reminds me of our Israelite friends. They just needed to **obey** God, but they refused to do it. They did things their own way and forgot about God's plan for them. That's sad! We learn from the Bible so we can know God's wonderful plan for us and do things His way.

### Reviewing the Know Right:

#### Supplies:

- Stacking cups

#### Instructions:

1. Have children sit in a circle or in small groups.
2. As you ask the yes and no review questions listed below, give children cups to stack if they get the answer correct.
3. Their goal is to create a large pyramid with the cups.
4. Repeat the questions several times so the children clearly hear and understand the correct answers.

#### Review questions:

- The Israelites obeyed God all the time. (No)
- The king of Babylon was King Narwhal. (No)
- The king in our Bible lesson was named King Nebuchadnezzar. (Yes)
- King Nebuchadnezzar's army broke down the walls around the city and stole all the special things from the temple. (Yes)
- The Israelites left their homes and went to a city called Babylon. (Yes)
- The Israelites were happy to move. (No)
- God stopped loving the Israelites because they were sinners. (No)
- God loved the Israelites. (Yes)
- All of this was part of God's plan. (Yes)
- Proverbs 3:5-6 tells us to trust in God. (Yes)

### Think Right Activity while waiting for parents:

#### Supplies:

- Painter's tape (create a large bubble letter "T" on the floor)
- Dominoes, square pieces of paper, or blocks

**Instructions:**

1. Say: Our Bible verse talks about trusting God. We also learned today that we should trust in God's plan and obey Him. Sometimes obeying is easy, and sometimes it is difficult. When we are having a difficult time obeying our parents, we can remember our verse, Proverbs 3:5-6. God is with us all the time, and He will make us strong so we can stand up and say "no" to sin. Let's all recite Proverbs 3:5-6.
2. Tell children that "T" is the first letter in the word "trust".
3. Have children use dominoes, square pieces of paper, or blocks to fill in the letter "T" as a class. Remember, the blocks are to be used as a teaching tool, not toys.
4. Occasionally have children freeze and say Proverbs 3:5-6.

# Lesson 6

## Daniel 1:1-20

<b>Know Right:</b>	Daniel refuses the king's food.
<b>Think Right:</b>	"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight." Proverbs 3:5-6 (Top 12)
<b>Do Right:</b>	I will live my life God's way.
<b>Feel Right:</b>	I can feel peaceful when I live my life God's way.

## GET READY!

**Each person can choose to be self-focused or God-focused. When we trust in Christ, our old self is crucified, so we can focus on living a God-honoring life. This can bring great joy but comes at a cost. This week we will begin to study the life of Daniel, a young man who chose to live faithfully for God, even when the cost was high.**

**Pray:** If you knew that Daniel, as a child, was sitting in your class, how would you pray for him? Would you ask God for protection, courage, spiritual maturity, the ability to stand firm? Please know that you DO have children just like "Daniel" in your class. Pray for the children in your class by name, knowing that they will walk through difficult trials throughout their lives.

**Read:** Daniel 1:1-20

### **Know Right: Daniel refuses the king's food**

During Judah's captivity in Babylon, there lived a young man named Daniel and his three friends. They were born to royal and noble families in Judah, but now they were no more than King Nebuchadnezzar's servants. When told to eat the king's food - food that would defile them - they sought permission to eat only vegetables and water so they could continue to live God's way. God blessed the young men with good health, knowledge, and understanding. God even gave Daniel the ability to understand visions and dreams. After three years of service, rather than finding them weakened as some had feared, King Nebuchadnezzar found them to be ten times wiser and more knowledgeable than their peers from Babylon. The lives of Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego should encourage us to always live our lives God's way.

## GET SET!

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

- Be careful not to equate obedience of eating the right food to salvation.
- What should you do when you feel you lost the attention of a few children in your class? Try one of the following: use their name in the lesson (for example "Johnny, how would you feel if \_\_\_\_"), have children point to an object that connects to the lesson, have them make a facial expression that matches the person in the Bible lesson, tell them to listen for a key word you are going to use, change the tone of your voice to re-capture them back into the lesson, or have them close their eyes to imagine experiencing something.

## Creative Ideas for the Bible Lesson:

1. Use pictures and/or props to teach the lesson: pictures (or balloon people) of four young men and the king, plate with rich foods (use plastic food), and plate with vegetables (use plastic food), and a sign that says, "God's Way".
2. Use Bible action figures to teach the lesson.
3. Hang four costumes representing the four young men on a clothesline. As you talk about the friends, stand behind the costumes, as if you are stepping into the character, personalize them with props, and explain how they may have felt. Help children to view them as people who really lived, not just characters from a story.



# GO!

## Pre-Service Review Game

Worship Leaders will lead children in a review game. Game details are in the Resources Booklet.

## Large Group Opening Time

**Offering:** We are going to worship God right now by giving our money. When we give our money to God, the church will use it to tell others about Jesus. *Or insert a specific way your church will use the offering.*

### Think Right verse: Proverbs 3:5-6

*Open your Bible and read the verse with great expression. Ask children to guess where this verse is found in the Bible - the Old Testament or the New Testament. This is a newer verse, so repeat the verse several times with hand motions with children.*

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

**Transition:** I love learning verses from our Bible. Let's sing the song "B-I-B-L-E Bible".

### Song 1: "B-I-B-L-E Bible"

#### Puppet Skit: Oh, happy day!

*Tracker comes up super excited, waving an electronic device in his hand.*

**T:** Gooooood morning, everyone!

**WL:** Well hello, Tracker! You seem pretty happy today! What's goin' on?

**T:** I'm just soooooooooo happy!

**WL:** I can see that!

**T:** I'm so excited, \_\_\_\_\_! Wanna know why?

**WL:** Sure, we'd love to! Right, kids?

T: Ok. This is soooo cool! My cousin – not Solomon, he’s still in Africa – but my *other* cousin, Vinny, came over yesterday and stayed overnight.

WL: Ok, I guess that’s pretty cool...

T: I didn’t gets to the cool part yet, \_\_\_\_\_!

WL: Ok, ok, Tracker! Sorry. Go on...

T: Anyway, Vinny went home this morning, but he forgotted this! (*show the electronic device*)

WL: Hmmm...ok.

T: It is so cool! It’s got like a gazillion games on it an’ I can’t wait to start playin’ ‘em. Maybe I’ll go right now, so I can get started! See ya! (*starts to go down*)

WL: Hold on a minute, Tracker!

T: Huh? Whatcha need, \_\_\_\_\_? I really gots to get started; there’s a game on there that has over fifty different levels!

WL: Don’t you think you should call Vinny, and tell him he left it at your house?

T: Ummmm....NO WAY! Vinny has no idea he left it at my house, an’ he probably won’t even miss it! He’s got *lots* of stuff like this. An’ I don’t got anything like this! Which isn’t really fair, is it?

WL: I’ve got a question for you, Tracker.

T: (*sulky*) What?

WL: Do you think keeping something that isn’t yours is doing things God’s way?

T: I don’t know... I kinda think God would understand...

WL: Tracker!

T: Oh, ok. I know, I know... I gotta call Vinny an’ tell him he forgotted this at my house, but maybe I don’t have to do it right away. Maybe I can wait a day or two...

WL: Remember, Tracker – God’s way, right?

T: Ok, ok! I know you’re right, but sometimes it’s hard to do things God’s way.

WL: I know it is, but it’s *always* right!

T: Ok, I think I’ll go have my mom help me call Vinny right now. I’ll see you guys later. Bye!

WL: Bye, Tracker! (*to children*) It is tempting sometimes to do things our own way instead of God’s way, but His way is always the best!

**Transition:** Yes, God’s way is the best way. Our God is so big and awesome! Let’s stand up and sing “My God is so Big.”

**Song 2:** “My God is so Big”

**Pray**

## Bible Lesson Introduction

**Pray:** Before you begin your class, ask a child to open in prayer. Coach the child in a simple prayer such as, “Dear Heavenly Father, help us to learn from the Bible today. We love You. In Jesus’ name, Amen.” Encourage the other children to bow their heads, close their eyes, and fold their hands during the prayer out of respect for God.

**Find It:** Today, we are going to open our Bible to the Old Testament. We are going to look for the book of Daniel. I will say all the books of the OT, and when you hear me say Daniel, I want you to jump up and clap! Point to each word on your Books of the Bible poster as you say the books of the OT.

**Timeline:** *Point to the OT part of the timeline.*

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

Do you remember learning about King Josiah? He became king when he was eight years old. He was a king who loved God and obeyed Him. But there were other kings who didn't obey God.

Even though God sent warnings to the kings and the people, reminding them to worship Him alone, they disobeyed God and chose their own way instead of God's way. Eventually, the people were punished for the evil things they had done. God allowed a king from another kingdom, King Nebuchadnezzar, to destroy everything in Jerusalem. King Nebuchadnezzar's army captured many of the people living in Israel, taking them as captives and servants.

This was all part of God's plan. Today we get to see how God used four young Israelite men to point others to God. Daniel was one of the people taken as a servant. Let's learn about him and his three friends!

## **Scripture Outline: Daniel 1:1-20**

### **King Nebuchadnezzar takes captives from Jerusalem to Babylon**

#### **Paraphrase of Daniel 1:1-4:**

King Nebuchadnezzar brought men from Israel to Babylon. The king only wanted the best men to serve in his palace. The men he picked were very smart.

### **King Nebuchadnezzar assigns the king's food to the four young men**

#### **Paraphrase of Daniel 1:5-7:**

Some of the Israelites that King Nebuchadnezzar took from Jerusalem were four young men named Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. The king wanted these men to eat the delicious, special food from his table. He also wanted them to get trained for three years, so they could serve the king. Pretty nice, huh? But actually, it really wasn't so nice, because these young men were Israelites, and they followed the one true God. God wanted the Israelites to be different from the people around them. One way they were supposed to be different was the kind of food they ate. God did not want them to eat the kind of food that the king wanted them to eat.

### **Daniel stands firm**

#### **Paraphrase of Daniel 1:8:**

Daniel knew that eating the royal food would be wrong. Daniel chose God's way. He asked the official, who was the man in charge, for permission not to eat or drink the king's food and wine. Isn't it awesome that Daniel and his friends wanted to live God's way? All the Israelites that were captured and brought to Babylon had a choice: there were things they could do God's way, or they could just follow what everyone else was doing.

Let's see what happened when Daniel asked permission to not eat the king's food.

### **God is taking good care of Daniel**

#### **Read Daniel 1:9**

**Recap:** Does it sound like God was taking good care of Daniel? (Yes) God was with Daniel, and He worked everything out for good. When you choose to live your life God's way, you can remember that He will always be with you! He will be there working everything out for your good, even in hard times. But I wonder what the official said? Let's see.

### **The official is afraid of King Nebuchadnezzar**

#### **Read Daniel 1:10a** *Due to content we are skipping verse 10b.*

**Recap:** The official was afraid that if Daniel didn't eat the king's food, Daniel would look worse than the other young men, and King Nebuchadnezzar would become very angry. But because Daniel did things God's way, God gave Daniel wisdom. Let's see how Daniel used God's wisdom.

### **Daniel asks for a test**

#### ***Paraphrase of Daniel 1:11:***

Daniel asked the official for something. This is what he asked for:

### **Read Daniel 1:12-13**

**Recap:** Daniel asked the official to test him and his friends. Here is the deal that Daniel made with the official. The official would allow them to eat nothing but vegetables and water for ten days, and then he could see how they looked. That was pretty smart, wasn't it? Do you think the official agreed to the test? Let's see.

### **The official agrees to test Daniel and his friends**

#### **Read Daniel 1:14**

**Recap:** The official agreed to the test! What do you think happened? *Have children count slowly up to ten.*

### **They pass the test!**

#### **Read Daniel 1:15-16**

**Recap:** Wow, ten days later, Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego passed the test! They looked healthier and better fed than the young men who were eating the king's food! Daniel and his friends were allowed to keep eating vegetables and drinking water from then on! *Have children clap.*

How did Daniel and his friends do things? *Have children yell, "God's way!"* How should we do things? God's way! Do you know that God blesses us when we live His way? Let's see how He blessed Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.

### **God blesses Daniel and his friends**

#### **Read Daniel 1:17**

**Recap:** Wow! God really blessed them! He gave them everything they needed to do a good job serving King Nebuchadnezzar. Daniel and his friends did things God's way and trusted Him. We can do that, too! Let's see what happened when Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego had to go see King Nebuchadnezzar again!

### **Daniel and his friends are ten times better**

#### ***Paraphrase of Daniel 1:18-20:***

After the three years of training, and doing things God's way, God gave Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego wisdom and understanding about everything the king asked! In fact, King Nebuchadnezzar thought they were ten times wiser and smarter than his other wise men!

## **Conclusion**

Life in Babylon couldn't have been easy for Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. But they stood firm and lived God's way, even though they were told to do something else. God blessed them for doing things His way, and He gave them everything they needed to be good servants for King Nebuchadnezzar. But their story doesn't end here. Come back next week to find out what's next in their adventure in Babylon!

## **Do Right and Feel Right**

Now let's think of things we can do to live God's way! First, we need to trust God and His plan to save us from our sin! *Go through the Wordless Book.* Trusting Jesus to save you is God's way for you to become part of God's forever family. *Offer an invitation for salvation.*

If you have already asked Jesus to be your Savior, and He is the leader of your life, you need to make a decision every day to live God's way. This means if your friend wants you to do something bad, you say, "No!", and walk away. Or if you are watching a TV show that is not good, you turn it off. Or if you are tempted to steal a cookie when your mom is not looking, you stop and ask first, "Am I doing things God's way, or my way?" And then you choose God's way!

## Review Questions: What did we discover today?

1. Did Daniel love God? (Yes)
2. Did Daniel have three friends named Bill, Bob, and Buddy? (No)
3. Were their names Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego? (Yes)
4. Why didn't Daniel and his friends want to eat the king's food? (They only wanted to eat the food God said was ok to eat)
5. What type of food did Daniel ask to eat instead? (Vegetables and water)
6. Did Daniel ask the official to test them eating God's way for ten days or 100 days? (Ten days)
7. Did Daniel and his friends look healthier and better fed at the end of the ten days than the young men who ate the king's food? (Yes)
8. Did Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego live God's way or their way? (God's way)
9. How can you live God's way? (Obey your parents, share your toys, be kind to others, etc.)

## Discover Time

**Transition to Discover Time:** Let's pretend we are eating vegetables like Daniel and his friends as we walk to our Discover Time.

**Do Right:** I will live my life God's way.

**Goal:** To encourage children to practice making the right choice.

**Location:** Outdoor or indoor space (or both)

### Supplies:

- Individual classroom maps that say "**One Way**" (the maps should have all destinations numbered with the final destination in the classroom)
- Challenge cards (one card per station; each with directions for a class challenge: ten jumping jacks, toss a water balloon into a bucket, hop through an obstacle course [could use carpet squares or a rope to jump over], crawl through a tunnel of some form [you can make a tunnel using chairs and a sheet], run in place for thirty seconds, and say Proverbs 3:5-6 as a class.
  - Note: the number of stations will depend on: 1) your space, as you will need to allow walking time between stations, 2) how much time you want to spend at each station, and 3) how long the challenges will take. Feel free to make up different or additional challenges.) (see Resources Booklet for the six challenges listed above)
- Supplies for the challenges
- The final destination/treasure should be in the classroom. The treasure could be an arrangement of veggies and water (it should look fun!).

### Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Show your class their **One Way** map. Let children know their goal is to find the ultimate treasure (sound really excited). But to do this they must follow the map and complete the challenges at each destination before moving to the next location.
2. At each station, ask children if they want to obey or disobey the rules. If they disobey, they can just go to the next station, but they will not get the treasure at the end. Or should they follow the rules

and do things **God's Way**, like Daniel? If children are tempted to skip the challenge or even compromise on it, allow them to debate about it and then do what they want to do. Often ask children, "What would Daniel do?" (Choose **God's Way**!)

3. Continually challenge children to follow the map's **One Way** instructions until they find the ultimate treasure in their classroom (treasure of Daniel's veggies).

## Classroom Review Time

**Lead Teachers ~ Connecting the DT to the Lesson:** Was it easy or difficult to follow your map during Discover Time? Why or why not? Were you ever tempted to disobey the rules or maybe only complete part of it so you could just race to the next spot? This reminds me of how people often obey God's Word, the Bible. Some people think they only need to do things **God's Way** on Sundays. Or they should only do some of what the Bible says. This isn't true; we need to follow **God's Way** all the time.

### Reviewing the Know Right:

#### Supplies:

- Bucket
- Twenty small balls
- Stickers or other very small reward

#### Instructions:

1. As children are eating their veggies and water (from their DT), ask the review questions from the lesson. Make your questions simple by asking true/false or multiple-choice questions. Have children select from only two options.
2. Ask the questions several times so children can confidently answer the questions.
3. For every correct answer, add a ball to a bucket.
4. Tell children when we have twenty balls in the bucket, they will all get a special sticker/ reward. Ask children if they trust that you will do it.
5. After twenty balls have been earned, give each child a sticker/ reward. Review what the word "trust" means as you hand out the stickers/ rewards.

### Think Right Activity while waiting for parents:

#### Supplies:

- Parachute
- Soft pretend vegetables

#### Instructions:

1. Have children hold onto the edges of the parachute.
2. After you recite Proverbs 3:5-6 as a group, add a veggie to the parachute. Allow children to gently bounce the veggie up and down on the parachute.
3. Repeat the verse and then add more vegetables.
4. Repeat many times.
5. As children are picked up, encourage them to do the weekly family challenge in Tracker Jr.

# Lesson 7

## Daniel 2

<b>Know Right:</b>	Daniel asks God for wisdom to interpret Nebuchadnezzar's dream.
<b>Think Right:</b>	"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight." Proverbs 3:5-6 (Top 12)
<b>Do Right:</b>	I will ask God for wisdom.
<b>Feel Right:</b>	I can feel excited when I have and share God's wisdom.

## GET READY!

**As you prepare for this week and study Daniel 2, consider the difference between wisdom and intelligence. We can be intelligent, but still lack wisdom. We become wise by spending time with God and in His Word. Let's pray that we will help our children understand the importance of seeking God's wisdom.**

**Pray:** As you prepare to serve, pray that God will give you a clear understanding of Scripture and that the Holy Spirit will move in powerful ways in your classroom.

**Read:** Daniel 2

### **Know Right: Daniel asks God for wisdom to interpret Nebuchadnezzar's dream**

When King Nebuchadnezzar had a disturbing dream, he summoned his "wise men" and challenged them to tell him what he had dreamed and what it meant. He promised gifts, rewards, and great honors to anyone who could do so. When told that no one could do what he asked, Nebuchadnezzar ordered the execution of all the wise men in Babylon. Upon hearing this, Daniel and his three friends sought God's wisdom, so Daniel could tell and interpret the dream, and the wise men would not be killed. When God granted their request, Daniel told and interpreted the dream, and humbly gave all the credit to God. King Nebuchadnezzar recognized Daniel's God and declared Him the God of gods, the Lord of kings, and the revealer of mysteries. Daniel and his friends received all the promises made by the king. The account of Daniel and King Nebuchadnezzar's dream teaches us how important it is to ask God for wisdom.

## GET SET!

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

- Definition of wisdom: using what we know is right from God's Word to do what is right. With hand motions: using what we know is right (*point to head*) from God's Word (*make a Bible with your hands*) to do what is right (*pound fist down into palm*).
- To make a Bible lesson exciting for children, you should have the following four parts: introduction, progression of events, climax, and conclusion.
- While you teach, children should be sitting upright and eager to learn. If you have any behavior issues, please contact your children's ministry leader. Allowing children to misbehave is approving of sin.
- Remember to use the "Five Count" when gaining the attention of your children.

## Creative Ideas for the Bible Lesson:

1. Have a royal bed (you can use a bench or table with blankets and pillows) set up in your classroom as children enter. In the bed, place pillows under the covers so it looks like a king is actually sleeping. Have a crown sitting next to the bed, so children will know there is a king in the room. As children enter the classroom, remind them to be quiet as you teach them about the king who is sleeping. Have bonus costumes for Daniel and his three friends.
2. Place the bed against the wall under your whiteboard/ chalkboard. Draw a cloud (dream bubble) above the king's head and draw pictures of what he was dreaming about.

GO!

## Pre-Service Review Game

Worship Leaders will lead children in a review game. Game details are in the Resources Booklet.

## Large Group Opening Time

**Offering:** We are going to worship God right now by giving our money. When we give our money to God, the church will use it to tell others about Jesus. *Or insert a specific way your church will use the offering.*

### Think Right verse: Proverbs 3:5-6

Let's all stand up and say Proverbs 3:5-6 with confidence. *Encourage children to say the verse with strong voices.*

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

Let's say it again. This time, at the end, I want you to give your neighbor a big "high five"! If someone told you they should do things their way instead of God's way, what verse could you tell them? *Repeat the verse one more time, but this time have children look directly at you and confidently use the verse as a response to your question.*

**Transition:** Let's praise God that we can trust in Him and that He is with us all the time.

**Song 1:** "Praise the Lord"

### Puppet Skit: What is wisdom?

**WL:** Hi ya, Tracker!

**T:** Hey, \_\_\_\_\_. I learned a new word today!

**WL:** Oh, what word did you learn?

**T:** Wizzzzzdom.

**WL:** You mean wisdom?

**T:** No, wizzzzzzzzzzzzzzdom. Hey kids, everybody say, “wizzzzzzzzdom.”

**WL:** You’re silly, Tracker! Do you know what wizzzzzzzzzzzzdom means?

**T:** It means you are really super duper smart! (*point to your head*)

**WL:** Not just smart, it means you know what to do with the smart stuff in your head. This means if you know you should obey your parents, you would do it quickly without asking questions. Or if you know you should love your neighbors, you would do it right when they needed the help.

**T:** Ohhhhh...I wanna have wisdom. Where do ya buy it? I have two dollars saved from my lemonade stand I had last week. I wanna go buy some wizzzzdom at the store!

**WL:** You are so silly! You can’t buy wisdom. Before you go running to the store, Tracker, why don’t you listen to our Bible lesson. I think you’ll find out where you can get true wisdom.

**T:** Sounds great! I gotta go and get the best chair in my classroom, so I can listen an’ hear what my teacher is gonna say! Bye!

**Transition:** Where do you think we can find wisdom? (In the Bible!) The Bible also teaches us how much Jesus loves us!

**Song 2:** “Jesus Loves Me”

**Pray**

## Bible Lesson Introduction

**Pray:** *Begin your class by praying that God would give you wisdom as you teach. This allows children to see you depending on God’s wisdom as you teach His Word.*

**Find It:** Today, we are going to open the Bible to the Old Testament. We are going to look for the book of Daniel. I will say the books of the OT, and when you hear me say Daniel, I want you to quickly and quietly raise your hands, because we don’t want to wake the king! *Point to each word on your Books of the Bible poster as you quietly say the books of the OT.*

**Timeline:** *The purpose of the timeline is to challenge children to see the Bible as a big picture rather than individual lessons that do not connect. Point to the timeline so children can see we are in the OT.*

### Introduction to the Bible Lesson:

Last week, we learned about four men that went to Babylon. Can you say their names? (Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego) Even though Daniel and his friends had been taken away from their homes to live in Babylon, they did things God’s way. Instead of eating King Nebuchadnezzar’s food, they ate vegetables and water. God blessed them and gave them everything they needed to be good servants for King Nebuchadnezzar. Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were ten times wiser than the king’s other men! Why? Because they asked God for wisdom. Where do we get wisdom? (God!)

## Scripture Outline: Daniel 2

**King Nebuchadnezzar has a dream and wants to know what it means**

**Paraphrase of Daniel 2:1-13:**

Do you ever wake up and remember the dreams you had while you were asleep? *Share a funny dream you had.*

From the Bible, we are going to learn about a king who had a dream. One night, King Nebuchadnezzar had a dream. This dream bothered King Nebuchadnezzar so much that he wanted to know what it meant.

I wonder what kind of dream he had? Scary, happy, sad, or a mystery? He sent for men he thought were wise enough to explain his dream. He said he wanted them to tell him what his dream was and tell him what it meant.

Wait...how would anyone know what kind of dream he had? That's impossible! King Nebuchadnezzar knew that if anyone could know what he dreamed without being told, he could trust that person to be wise enough to explain the dream correctly.

Now here's the scary part. He told the men that if they couldn't tell him what his dream meant, they would get into big, big trouble! Yikes...that's horrible!

How do you think these men felt? They must have been terrified! *Make a terrified face.* The men told the king that no one could know and explain the dream. This made the king very mad, and he said that all the wise men would be killed if they couldn't tell him what his dream meant.

### **Daniel asks God for help**

#### ***Paraphrase of Daniel 2:14-18:***

When Daniel found out that King Nebuchadnezzar had ordered all the wise men to be killed, he went to the king and asked for more time to figure out what happened in the dream. Then Daniel went back to his friends, and they prayed. They asked God to help them and give them the wisdom to know about the dream. Do you think this was a wise plan? (Yes, we should always ask God for wisdom) Do you know what wisdom is? (Using what we know is right from God's Word to do what is right)

Where is the only place you can get true wisdom? (God) Can you think of a time when you weren't sure what to do? Maybe another kid was being mean to you, and you didn't know the best thing to do. You can ask God for help! And God has given you moms and dads to help you know what to do. You can ask them for help, too. *(If questions arise because some children do not live with both parents, help these children identify other adults in their lives that fulfill this role.)*

### **God gives Daniel wisdom during the night**

*Have children close their eyes as you read.*

#### **Read Daniel 2:19a**

**Recap:** Wow, while Daniel was sleeping, God made it very clear to him what the dream was and what it meant!

### **Daniel praises God**

#### ***Paraphrase of Daniel 2:19b-23:***

Isn't God amazing? Daniel praised God for giving him wisdom. Now Daniel could tell King Nebuchadnezzar about his dream and what it meant so that he and his friends wouldn't be killed.

### **Daniel tells and interprets the dream and gives all the credit to God**

#### ***Paraphrase of Daniel 2:24-25:***

Daniel went to the king. Let's read what happened.

### **Read Daniel 2:26-28**

**Recap:** Who did Daniel say was the only one who could tell the mystery of the dream? (God) When God gives you wisdom, like He gave to Daniel, do you pretend you are really smart, or do you give the credit to God? We should give God the credit because our wisdom comes from God. Daniel told King Nebuchadnezzar that God wanted the king to understand the dream.

### **The dream foretells what will happen in the future**

#### ***Paraphrase of Daniel 2:29-45:***

King Nebuchadnezzar's dream was about what would happen in the future in Babylon. What do you think King Nebuchadnezzar did after Daniel explained his dream? Let's see.

### **King Nebuchadnezzar praises God**

#### **Read Daniel 2:46-47**

**Recap:** What did King Nebuchadnezzar say about God? (He is the God of gods, the Lord of kings, and a revealer of mysteries) King Nebuchadnezzar realized that Daniel's wisdom came from God! Can you guess what King Nebuchadnezzar did next?

### **King Nebuchadnezzar rewards Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego**

#### **Read Daniel 2:48-49**

**Recap:** Isn't that amazing! Instead of killing Daniel and his three friends, King Nebuchadnezzar rewarded them! Daniel did the right thing when he asked God for wisdom!

## **Conclusion**

When Daniel and his friends were in trouble, did they ask God for wisdom? (Yes) God gave Daniel the wisdom to know King Nebuchadnezzar's dream. King Nebuchadnezzar realized that Daniel's God was the best and praised Him.

## **Do Right and Feel Right**

What do you do when you're in a hard situation? Do you try to take care of it yourself, do you go in a corner and cry, or do you remember to pray and ask God to help you and give you wisdom? You can pray and ask God for wisdom anytime and anywhere.

## **Review Questions: What did we discover today?**

1. Was the king in our lesson named King Nebuchadnezzar or King Karl? (King Nebuchadnezzar)
2. Did Daniel have three friends named Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego? (Yes)
3. Did King Nebuchadnezzar want his "wise" men to tell him what his dream was and tell him what it meant? (Yes)
4. Who did Daniel go to when he needed wisdom? (God)
5. Did God give Daniel wisdom or a new toy? (Wisdom)
6. Who did Daniel say was the only one who could tell the mystery of the dream? (God)
7. Did the king give Daniel and his three friends rewards, or did they get in trouble? (The king gave them rewards)
8. Will you ask God for wisdom?
9. When can you ask God for wisdom? (Anytime)

## Discover Time

**Transition to Discover Time:** Our God gives wisdom. What book tells us how to get wisdom? (The Bible) Let's go on a hunt to find some letters today. I think we will need some binoculars to find our letters.

**Do Right:** I will ask God for wisdom.

**Goal:** To reinforce the word "wisdom."

**Location:** Indoor space

**Supplies:**

- Tracker puppet and puppeteer
- Walking rope
- The following letters: W-I-S-D-O-M; each class or team's letters should be printed on a designated color and hidden throughout your space (see Resources Booklet)
- Poster that says " \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ comes from God" with space for attaching the letters to it (see Resources Booklet) or a poster created on a poster board or large piece of construction paper
- Tape or stapler to attach letters to poster
- Binoculars, magnifying glasses, and/or maps (one item per child)
  - Optional idea: glue two toilet paper rolls together to make homemade binoculars)

**Set Up:**

- Tracker should be in his house 45 minutes into class but hiding until classes come by with the completed project.
- Have an area supplied with binoculars, magnifying glasses, and/or maps for children to use to find the letters W-I-S-D-O-M.

**Instructions for the DT Leader:**

1. Start by having all children hold onto a walking rope. As you pass the supply area, stop and have each child take a pair of binoculars, a magnifying glass, OR a map. The goal is to have them feel as if they are going on an adventure.
2. Say: Today we are going on an adventure! We are going to try to find six missing letters on \_\_\_\_\_ (*insert designated color*) paper.
3. As you search, collect the letters.
4. As you are searching for the letters, ask children: Where do you find wisdom? (God) How do we know we should go to God? (The Bible tells us)
5. Be sure to stop by any adults or other children you see along your walk to tell them where to find wisdom.
6. Once you find all the letters, attach them to the paper and give the completed project to Tracker. Tell Tracker about wisdom based on your Bible lesson. Note: Tracker should be animated and excited to find out where to find "wizzzzzdom."

**Optional:** Take a class photo with Tracker!

## Classroom Review Time

**Lead Teachers ~ Connecting the DT to the Lesson:** Where do you find wisdom? (God) Did you find Tracker? (Yes) Was Tracker excited to learn where to find wisdom? (Yes) Why do we need wisdom? (So we make the right choices and do things God's way)

## Reviewing the Know Right:

### Supplies:

- Bag with the following items: cereal box, backpack, lunch box or bag, small pillow

### Instructions:

1. Say: How did Daniel know to do what was right? (He was wise) Where did he get his wisdom from? (God) When should we ask God for wisdom? Let's look in our bag for some clues.
2. Pull the following props from your bag one at a time and explain how we can ask God for wisdom throughout the day:
  - Cereal box: When we wake up and start our day, we can ask God for wisdom.
  - Backpack: When we're getting ready to go to daycare or to preschool or to our friend's house, we can ask God for wisdom in how to treat other children.
  - Lunch box: At lunch time, we can ask God to help us use our words wisely as we talk to other children.
  - Pillow: At bedtime, we can thank God for the wisdom He gave us throughout the day.
3. Have a child close this time in prayer, asking God for wisdom.

## Think Right Activity while waiting for parents:

### Option 1

#### Supplies:

- Wordless Book Bingo cards (one card per child; the printable resource includes six different cards, which all have the same 16 images, but in a different order) (see Resources Booklet)
- Wordless Book Bingo leader cards (see Resources Booklet)
- Bingo markers - either tokens or a small cup of dry cereal or other snack for each child – *check for allergies*

#### Instructions:

1. Have children sit at tables with a leader. Each child will need a Bingo card and bingo markers.
2. Say: As Christians, we can ask God for wisdom at any time. How do you become a Christian? Let's talk about each color of the Wordless Book and what it means as we play our Wordless Book Bingo Game.
3. The leader will randomly select a leader card and hold it up for the children to match on their Bingo card. Children should mark the picture with a token/ cereal/ snack.
4. When a child gets four in a row, they should yell "Bingo!"
5. Then have all children clear their cards and start a new game. (Note: If using cereal or other snack, you can decide if they can eat their snack every time someone gets Bingo or after playing a few games.)
6. Repeat as time permits.

### Option 2

#### Supplies:

- Ball-pit balls or colored bottle tops/caps (one per child)
- Solid colored bag with one of each colored ball in it
- Fun praise music (suggested song "Jesus Loves Me")

#### Instructions:

1. Have children sit in a circle.
2. Give each child a ball/ bottle caps.
3. Play a song as children pass the balls/ caps.
4. Stop the music at any time, and select a ball/ cap from the bag.
5. Whoever has a ball/ cap with the matching color should stand up and say Proverbs 3:5-6.
6. Repeat as time permits.

# Lesson 8

## Daniel 3

<b>Know Right:</b>	Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego are thrown into the fiery furnace.
<b>Think Right:</b>	"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight." Proverbs 3:5-6 (Top 12)
<b>Do Right:</b>	I will trust in God's power.
<b>Feel Right:</b>	I can feel peaceful when I trust in God's power.

### GET READY!

**Have you witnessed the power of God in your life and in the world around you? God is amazing, powerful, grand, and He is at work in a million different ways! Stand in awe of God as you prepare for this lesson, thinking about what He has already done and what He will do in the future!**

**Pray:** Ask God to move in powerful ways in your class - to eliminate distractions, to open hearts, to provide real understanding of Scripture, and to cause life change.

**Read:** Daniel 3

#### **Know Right: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego are thrown into the fiery furnace**

Although King Nebuchadnezzar recognized Daniel's God as the one who revealed his dream, he did not abandon the worship of lifeless, man-made gods. In fact, he erected an image of gold that was ninety feet high and nine feet wide and commanded everyone in his kingdom to worship it. When Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refused to obey this order, King Nebuchadnezzar threatened to throw them into the blazing furnace. Armed with trust in God's power to deliver them, the three faithful men defied him still and were thrown into the flames. King Nebuchadnezzar watched as Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego, and a fourth unidentified man miraculously walked around in the fire unharmed. The king ordered the three friends to come out of the fire, gave praise to their God, and rewarded them with a promotion. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego are true examples of how to be courageous and trust in God's power.

### GET SET!

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

- Please refer to the Children's Ministry Resource Bible: page 1015 (Lesson: The Fiery Furnace).
- Know this lesson well as you will be reading from your Bible often. Dramatically read the Scripture to capture and keep the children's full attention.
- What should you do with wiggly children during the Bible lesson? Add in sound effects that children can make at appropriate times or facial expressions that match the situation, have children repeat key words, etc.
- Remind children to keep their hands to themselves and sit up during the Bible lesson so they can focus. Coach the Shepherd and DT Leader to sit next to children that have a hard time

focusing. You (the teacher) should aim to never stop and discipline children during the lesson; the DT Leader and Shepherd should address those issues.

### Creative Ideas for the Bible Lesson:

1. Use pictures or use a flannel board (optional: use a black light with the flannel board).
2. Create a large statue in one corner of your room, a platform with a horn in another corner, instruments in another, and a furnace in the corner of your classroom made with sheets and chairs/tables (tent style). Inside, use red and orange tissue paper to create a “hot” fire. Have your children rotate and face the corner you are talking about.
3. Create a diorama of this lesson. Use clothespin/ clothes peg people or stick puppets to teach the lesson.
4. Find a picture online of a building nine stories tall to show children how tall the statue was.



GO!

### Pre-Service Review Game

Worship Leaders will lead children in a review game. Game details are in the Resources Booklet.

### Large Group Opening Time

**Offering:** We are going to worship God right now by giving our money. When we give our money to God, the church will use it to tell others about Jesus. *Or insert a specific way your church will use the offering.*

### Think Right verse: Proverbs 3:5-6

I'm thinking of a verse that teaches me to trust in God. Does anyone know where to find a verse like this in the Bible? What book? (Proverbs) What chapter? (3) What verses? (5-6) *Look up Proverbs 3:5-6 in your Bible, and read it to your children so they know it comes from the Bible.*

Why would we memorize this verse? Could we say it when we have to make a hard choice? Could we say it if we feel like we want to do things our way instead of God's way? Let's all stand up and say our verse with confidence.

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

**Transition:** Isn't it great to trust in our all-powerful God? Do you know that our God can be our King, just like He is the King of the jungle?

**Song 1:** "King of the Jungle"

## Puppet Skit: Proverbs 3:5-6

*Tracker comes up.*

WL: Hey, Tracker, what's up?

T: *(looks up)* Ummm...the ceiling? *(laughs and snorts)*

WL: What?

T: Well, ya asked what's up, didn't cha?

WL: Yeah...

T: Well, the ceiling's up! *(points up, laughs and snorts)*

WL: Oh, Tracker! That's not what I meant, and you know it. Ok, let's move on to something else. Do you know Proverbs 3:5-6?

T: Oh, I gots that one memorized!

WL: It is a great verse to know, that's for sure. So, do you think you can say the verse for us right now?

T: Sure! *(clears his throat – multiple times)* "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight."

WL: That was great! Kids, can you say the verse and show Tracker the hand motions?

T: Yeah, I would love that! *(Tracker says the verse with them, but does limited motions with his hands)*

WL: That was great!

T: Trustin' in God is not always easy, but when I think about God, I know He will help me to make wise decisions.

WL: That's right.

T: I gotta go and tell my mom and dad this verse. They need to remember to trust in God, too.

WL: Sure, Tracker. See you around! Bye!

**Transition:** Because God is all-powerful and we can always trust Him, let's praise Him!

**Song 2:** "Praise the Lord"

**Pray**

## **Bible Lesson Introduction**

**Pray:** Each week, encourage a child to pray. Remind children that we fold our hands, bow our heads, and close our eyes out of respect to God as we pray. Reinforce weekly that God hears us when we pray, and He wants us to ask for wisdom, just like Daniel and his friends did in the lesson last week.

**Find It:** Ask the class if Daniel is in the New Testament or Old Testament. (OT) Have children stand and listen to you recite the books of the OT. When you come to Daniel, have children sit down, clap, and cheer! Show your children how to find Daniel chapter 3, verse 1 in your Bible.

**Timeline:** *The purpose of the timeline is to challenge children to see the Bible as a big picture rather than individual lessons that do not connect. Point to the timeline so children can see we are in the OT.*

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

We learned last week how Daniel was able to tell King Nebuchadnezzar about his dream. To reward Daniel and his friends, King Nebuchadnezzar made Daniel the ruler over Babylon, and he made Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego leaders, too. Remember how all four stood firm and didn't eat from the king's table? God helped them to become leaders in Babylon. But now Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were going to be challenged again to either go against the king or go against what God had said. What would they do? It all started when King Nebuchadnezzar made a very BIG statue!

## **Scripture Outline: Daniel 3**

### **King Nebuchadnezzar makes a golden statue**

#### **Paraphrase of Daniel 3:1-3:**

King Nebuchadnezzar made a huge golden statue. It was as tall as a very tall building, and it was made of gold. This means if you went to a building that is nine stories tall and you walked up all the stairs, you could touch the top of the statue's head! That is really tall! King Nebuchadnezzar called all the leaders in Babylon to come to a special meeting. The leaders came and stood in front of the giant golden statue. Listen to what King Nebuchadnezzar told all the people to do.

### **The king orders everyone to bow down and worship the statue**

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

**Recap:** King Nebuchadnezzar ordered everyone to bow down and worship the golden statue when they heard music! But wait a minute. God tells us in the Bible we shouldn't worship anything or anyone but Him!

Let's keep reading to find out what else the king said.

### **The punishment for not worshipping the statue**

#### **Read Daniel 3:6**

**Recap:** Whoa! That's a very bad punishment! Now it will be harder for Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to obey God, won't it? Will they disobey God and bow down to the statue? Or will they disobey the king and be thrown into the blazing furnace filled with fire?

### **Everyone worships the statue but Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego**

#### **Paraphrase of Daniel 3:7-12:**

As soon as the music played, all the people stopped what they were doing and bowed down and worshiped the golden statue that the king had set up. But what about Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, do you think they obeyed God? (Yes!) They did NOT bow down and worship the golden statue. They knew it was more important to obey God than people. That is so awesome!

But wait! What was going to happen to them? Remember, King Nebuchadnezzar said that anyone who did NOT worship the statue would be thrown into the blazing hot furnace. Oh, no! Let's keep reading to find out what happened to Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego!

### **Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego get a second chance**

#### **Read Daniel 3:13-15 dramatically**

**Recap:** Oh boy, I bet Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were afraid! How do you think you would feel if you were sent to a blazing hot furnace of fire? I would be really afraid! A great verse to think about when we're afraid is our Think Right verse, Proverbs 3:5-6. Let's all say Proverbs 3:5-6. I wonder if Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego thought about this verse?

### **Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego trust in God's great power!**

#### **Read Daniel 3:16-18 with special emphasis on verses 17-18**

**Recap:** Who did they say had the power to rescue them? (God) They trusted in God's power to save them. Do you think it would be hard to trust in God's power?

But there's something else Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego said: even if God didn't save them, they would never serve King Nebuchadnezzar's gods or worship the golden statue. They were saying they would rather die than disobey God! Wow! Do you know why they were so courageous? Because they trusted in God's power and His plan for their lives. Even if they did die - they knew they would go to heaven and be with God forever! And that's the best thing ever!

### **Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego are thrown into the furnace**

#### ***Paraphrase of Daniel 3:19-23:***

Oh boy, did King Nebuchadnezzar get mad! He couldn't believe that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego would not worship his statue! He had the fire in the furnace made seven times hotter than normal! Then he had strong guards tie up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and throw them in the furnace. The furnace fire was so hot that the guards who threw them in the furnace died. If it was that hot, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego must have died right away, right? Let's find out.

### **There are four men in the fire walking around unharmed**

#### **Read Daniel 3:24-25**

**Recap:** How many men were in the fire? *Count to four.* Who do you think the fourth man was? Maybe it was God's angel or maybe it was Jesus! The Bible doesn't tell us, but we know there was a fourth man in the furnace. Because of God's power, none of them were hurt! God was with the friends even in the flames of the furnace and they were protected. The king was very surprised!

### **Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego come out of the fire**

#### **Read Daniel 3:26-27**

**Recap:** Whoa! Their bodies weren't harmed, their clothes weren't burnt, and they didn't even smell like smoke! That is amazing! Our God is so powerful – He can do anything! King Nebuchadnezzar could finally see God's power and protection. Now the king understood why Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego worshiped the one true, amazing God.

### **King Nebuchadnezzar praises the one true God**

#### ***Paraphrase of Daniel 3:28-30:***

King Nebuchadnezzar praised God. He told the people how Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego trusted in God's power and how God saved them. Then he even gave Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego more important jobs!

## **Conclusion**

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were courageous friends who trusted in God's power to save them in the fire.

## **Do Right and Feel Right**

Will you trust in God's great power? The first thing you need to do is trust in Jesus to save you from your sin and make Him the leader of your life. *Opportunity to share the Gospel with the Wordless Book and offer an invitation for salvation.*

If you have made the choice to trust in Jesus, you can know that you are in God's family, and He is always with you. No matter what situation you face, you can know that God is powerful enough to help you and you can feel courageous and peaceful.

## Review Questions: What did we discover today?

1. Did King Nebuchadnezzar have a short or tall statue made? (Tall)
2. Did the king tell everyone to fall down and worship the statue when it rained or when they heard the music? (When they heard music)
3. Did Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego obey the king's order to fall down and worship the golden statue? (No)
4. What did the king say would happen to anyone who didn't worship the golden statue? (They would be thrown into a blazing hot furnace of fire)
5. Who did Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego say was able to save them? (God)
6. Did Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego walk around unhurt in the blazing hot furnace? (Yes)
7. Will you always trust in God's power to save you no matter what?

## Discover Time

**Transition to Discover Time:** As we go to Discover Time, let's make muscle arms for our all-powerful God and say Proverbs 3:5-6.

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

**Goal:** To encourage children to trust in God's power.

**Location:** Outdoor Space

**Supplies:**

- Starting line – 20 feet long
- Finish line – 20 feet long
- Blindfolds
- Potential water hazards: water balloons, water buckets, small baby pools, etc.

**Instructions for the DT Leader:**

1. Split class into two teams. They will race to see which team can finish first without getting wet!
2. Assign the Shepherd to be one team leader and the Teacher to be the other team leader, while you wait with the other children at the starting line. Have them cheer as they wait for their turn.
3. All leaders should help children take off their shoes. Once their shoes are off, they should sit down.
4. Each team should have three children put on blindfolds and hold hands. Note: If you have less than eighteen children, you could do groups of two or even one child at a time.
5. The team leader stands in front of the group of three, takes the hands of the two outside children, and then guides the group through the "water hazards" to the finish line while highlighting the word "**trust**". Children will then sit on the grass and wait for everyone to finish.
6. Children must **trust** the leader and not go their own way!
7. Once a group makes it safely to the finish line, the team leader should go back and take the next group until they all finish.
8. Once everyone is done, they should all be sitting on the grass.
9. Say: Was it hard to **trust** your leader when you couldn't see where you were going? It can be hard to trust when we can't see where we are going. But your leaders care about you, and they wanted you to do well. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego had to trust God, even though they didn't know what would happen. God wants us to trust Him, even if we can't see what's coming next!
10. Have children put their shoes on to go back to class.

## Classroom Review Time

**Lead Teachers ~ Connecting the DT to the Lesson:** Did your feet get wet today during Discover Time? Did you need to trust your leader to help you? Did Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego have to trust in God, when they were in the blazing hot furnace of fire?

### Reviewing the Know Right:

#### Supplies:

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

#### Instructions:

1. Have children color the furnace.
2. After coloring, have them glue on pieces of tissue paper to make it look like flames in the furnace.
3. As they work, review the lesson by asking the review questions.
4. Challenge children to use this art project as a tool to retell the Bible lesson to their family when they get home.

### Think Right Activity while waiting for parents:

#### Supplies:

- Song “Trust in the Lord”
- Red “hot potato” object(s)

#### Instructions:

1. Have children sit in a circle.
2. Have children pass a “red-hot looking” item as you play the song.
3. When the music stops, whoever is holding the object should pop up and recite Proverbs 3:5-6.
4. Repeat as time permits.

# Lesson 9

## Daniel 6

<b>Know Right:</b>	Daniel is thrown into the lions' den.
<b>Think Right:</b>	"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight." Proverbs 3:5-6 (Top 12)
<b>Do Right:</b>	I will trust God.
<b>Feel Right:</b>	I can feel loved when I trust God.

## GET READY!

**When you become part of God's family, God makes a commitment to you and you to Him. God's commitment never waivers; it remains strong and steadfast. As fallen humans, we tend to be fickle and struggle with steady faithfulness. Thankfully, by God's grace, He always gives us another chance. He also gives us His Word to spur us on. Daniel is a great example of what commitment looks like when there is pressure to lose focus and bend to the things of the world. This week, let's recommit our lives to God and stand firm like Daniel!**

**Pray:** Ask God to help your children understand the importance of commitment in a world where this is often broken. Pray that they will grasp and appreciate the truth of God's commitment to them both now and for eternity.

**Read:** Daniel 6

### **Know Right: Daniel is thrown into the lions' den**

As God had foretold through King Nebuchadnezzar's dream, Babylon was conquered by the next world power. The new king, Darius, admired Daniel and intended to promote him to oversee his kingdom. Babylon's other officials manipulated King Darius into making a new law that forbade prayer to anyone other than the king. Those who disobeyed this decree would be thrown into the lions' den. When Daniel continued to faithfully pray to the only true God, King Darius had no choice but to throw his trusted advisor into the lions' den. God sent His angel to protect Daniel, and the lions were treated to a meal of Babylon's other officials instead. In spite of the threat of death, Daniel demonstrated how we should all trust God.

## GET SET!

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

- With preschoolers, you need to make sure you keep their attention, which means you must be prepared and know your lesson. Use visual aids or props as you present vital truth from the Bible!
- Before you teach this lesson, think about what you expect children to take home and "do." This is more than an exciting story; it's a Bible lesson that they should apply to their lives.

- Definition of commitment: a promise made with the intention of faithfully carrying it out (actually doing it)
- What does commitment look like to an average preschool child today? Are commitments often broken? As you teach your children to remain committed to God, remember that many of them have never seen this word put into action. Reteach the value of commitment in your lesson today and the value it plays in their relationship with God.

### Creative Ideas for the Bible Lesson:

1. Create a twelve-box comic strip paper with a long strip of paper (tape to the wall). During your lesson, draw out main events. To help speed up the process, pre-draw a few scenes and just add in additional items, facial expressions, or color. Use paint or brightly colored markers; have fun and be creative! If you are not skilled at drawing, don't worry. Children enjoy very simple drawings. You can also recruit another leader to help with the artwork.
2. Draw out pictures and make a "flipbook" of key points of the lesson. Reveal the pictures as you talk.
3. Use costumes and allow children to become actors for the lesson.
4. Create the scene of a den (chairs with a brown/gray sheet draped over the top) and bring in stuffed lions or cut-out pictures.
5. Make paper plate face masks or cut-out pictures of a lion, Daniel, and the king. Select children to wear/hold them as you teach the lesson. Or attach them to large craft sticks or paint stir sticks and hold them up as you teach.

**GO!**

### Pre-Service Review Game

Worship Leaders will lead children in a review game. Game details are in the Resources Booklet.

### Large Group Opening Time

**Offering:** We are going to worship God right now by giving our money. When we give our money to God, the church will use it to tell others about Jesus. *Or insert a specific way your church will use the offering.*

### Think Right verse: Proverbs 3:5-6

How many of you know Proverbs 3:5-6? I am going to say the verse and leave out specific words. You can guess what words I miss. *Repeat several times acting as if you are trying to stump children. At the end, celebrate with children for knowing their verse.*

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

*Note: Songs 1 and 2 are included in the skit.*

**Transition:** Let's sing a praise song to God! *Before the music starts, the puppet skit should begin.*

## Puppet Skit: Praise God!

*Tracker comes up.*

T: Hey, \_\_\_\_\_. Why do you guys *always* sing the songs before I come an' after I leave?

WL: I don't know, Tracker. I guess I never thought about that.

T: Is it cuz you think I can't sing very good?

WL: No, of course not, Tracker! Why would you think that?

T: Cuz it's pretty weird that you just "happen" to finish the song before I get here an' I hear you do *another* song after I leave. It seems a little fishy to me!

WL: Well, I'm sorry, Tracker. Would you like to sing our songs with us today? We would love to have you, wouldn't we children?

T: *(acts embarrassed)* Aw shucks, I don't know...

WL: Tracker!

T: Oh, ok. I guess I could...if you insist!

WL: You are silly! The first song we are doing is "Bigger than Big." Do you know it?

T: Sure do! *(gives a thumbs up)*

WL: *(have children all stand up as the music for "Bigger than Big" starts. Tracker does the song with the group; he should be fun, but not funny)*

T: Whew! That was GREAT! Can we do another one? Huh, \_\_\_\_\_? Pretty please with sugar on top? Please, please...

WL: Ok, ok, Tracker! Yes, we can do another song. Let's do "Trust in the Lord."

T: Alright! Wait...I think I hear my mom callin' me. Count to ten, and I'll be right back. *(Tracker disappears for ten seconds so puppeteer can rest his/her arm for a bit, then reappears)* I gots great news! My mom said I could stay and sing one more song with you!

WL: *(have children all stand up as the music for "Trust in the Lord" starts. Tracker does the song with the group; he should be fun, but not funny)*

T: That was great! I sure love singin'.

WL: We can tell. I'm glad you sang along with us today, Tracker!

T: Me, too. Hey, I gotta go now! But I'll see ya next week!

WL: Ok! Bye, Tracker!

**Transition:** I love singing to God, too. This reminds me of someone in the Bible. We're going to learn more about Daniel today.

**Pray**

## Bible Lesson Introduction

**Pray:** In some parts of the world, people are not allowed to pray out loud in public. It is a crime and you could go to prison. In other parts, they do have that freedom. Let's thank God that today, we can pray together out loud. *Encourage a child to open in prayer before you begin your lesson.*

**Find It:** Ask the class if Daniel is in the Old Testament or New Testament. (OT) Have children repeat after you while saying the books of the OT up to Daniel. Saying the books of the Bible teaches children how to pronounce each name correctly. Inform children we will be studying from the book of Daniel, chapter 6.

**Timeline:** Our lesson today can be found in the Old Testament. Can you point to the Old Testament on the timeline?

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

Do you remember when we learned about King Nebuchadnezzar's dream? Who gave Daniel the wisdom to tell the meaning of the dream? (God!) Through this dream, God told King Nebuchadnezzar that other kingdoms would come and take over Babylon and there would be new kings. Everything happened just like God said it would! Our friend Daniel was still in Babylon when this began to happen. A new king took over in Babylon. The new king's name was Darius. Today we're going to learn about a huge challenge Daniel faced when Darius was the king.

## **Scripture Outline: Daniel 6**

### **Daniel is King Darius' best leader**

#### **Paraphrase of Daniel 6:1-5:**

King Darius took over Babylon just as God had said. The new king chose three men to be in charge of his kingdom, and Daniel was one of these men. Because Daniel worked hard and trusted God, he did such a good job that King Darius was thinking about putting him in charge of the whole kingdom. King Darius must have really liked Daniel.

The other men that worked for King Darius were jealous of Daniel. Jealous means they wanted what Daniel had. Being jealous is wrong. The other men didn't want Daniel to be in charge of the whole kingdom, so they tried to find a way to get Daniel in trouble. But Daniel trusted God completely, and they couldn't find any bad things that Daniel did! And they knew that Daniel worshiped the one true God.

### **King Darius makes a new law**

#### **Paraphrase of Daniel 6:6-9:**

So...the other men tricked King Darius into signing a new law. The new law said that anyone who prays to any god or man other than the king during the next thirty days would be thrown into the lions' den.

What's a lions' den? It's a very scary place where a group of lions live. If a person went into a lions' den, they would become the lions' dinner.

What would Daniel do now? Could he trust God to help him? Getting thrown into the lions' den would be really, really bad! Let's see what Daniel did.

### **Daniel remains committed to God**

When Daniel heard about the new law, he had to make a choice. Should he trust God and be thrown into the lions' den, or should he forget about God and try to save his own life? What do you think Daniel should do? *Wait for responses.* Let's see what Daniel did.

### **Read Daniel 6:10-11**

**Recap:** Daniel was courageous, and he did not follow King Darius' new law!

Why not? (It's a sin to worship anyone or anything other than the one true God) Did Daniel stay committed to God? (Yes!)

What did those other jealous men do? They spied on Daniel and saw him praying to God! Now they could get him in trouble. They ran right over to King Darius!

### **The men confront King Darius about Daniel**

#### ***Paraphrase of Daniel 6:12-13:***

They had caught Daniel praying to the one true God. There was nothing Daniel could do to save himself. Even King Darius, who liked Daniel, couldn't save him. It was a written law, and King Darius had to follow it.

### **King Darius looks for a way out for Daniel – but there is none**

#### **Read Daniel 6:14-15**

**Recap:** King Darius knew he couldn't change the rules and now one of his best workers, Daniel, was in trouble! He felt terrible! He didn't know what to do. There was no way out of it. Those jealous men were going to get their way. Daniel was headed for the lions' den!

### **Daniel is thrown into the lions' den**

#### ***Paraphrase of Daniel 6:16-19:***

King Darius was very sad as he watched his friend Daniel be thrown into the lions' den. But he thought that maybe Daniel's God would save him. Could God save Daniel? (Yes) It was important for King Darius to see that Daniel trusted God. Daniel, just like our friends, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, trusted God – even if it meant he would die!

That night, King Darius went back to the palace. He was so worried about Daniel he couldn't eat or sleep all night! As soon as morning came, he hurried to the lions' den.

### **Daniel is safe in the lions' den**

#### **Read Daniel 6:20-22**

**Recap:** God protected Daniel in the lions' den! He sent His angel to shut the mouths of the lions! That is something only God can do!

### **Daniel and King Darius are reunited**

#### **Read Daniel 6:23**

**Recap:** King Darius ordered his men to get Daniel out of the lions' den right away. Daniel trusted God and was completely committed to Him. God protected Daniel in the lions' den. He didn't even have one little scratch on him!

### **The jealous men are thrown into the lions' den**

#### ***Paraphrase of Daniel 6:24:***

King Darius commanded that those jealous men be thrown into the lions' den! So they were, and the lions killed those men.

What do you think happened after that? Let's find out!

### **King Darius praises God!**

#### ***Paraphrase of Daniel 6:25-28:***

King Darius made a new law that said everyone in the kingdom must worship Daniel's God. King Darius finally understood who God is. Our God is the one true God!

## **Conclusion**

We've learned a lot from Daniel and his three friends, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. They always trusted in the one and only powerful God.

## Do Right and Feel Right

Do you trust God? We can trust Him to save us from our sin. *Opportunity to present the Gospel with the Wordless Book and offer an invitation for salvation.* We can also trust Him when we have good or bad days. We can trust God when we are sick, when we are afraid, when we are happy, and when we are sad. When we trust God, we can feel loved.

### Review Questions: What did we discover today?

1. Was King Darius the new king? (Yes)
2. Did Daniel trust in God? (Yes)
3. Did the jealous men trick King Darius into signing a new law? (Yes)
4. Did the new law say that everyone should pray to the one true God or to the king? (To the king)
5. What was the punishment for a person who prayed to anyone other than the king? (They would be thrown into the lions' den)
6. Was King Darius happy or sad when Daniel was thrown into the lions' den? (Sad)
7. What happened to Daniel in the lions' den? (God kept him safe)
8. After God saved Daniel, did King Darius make a new law that everyone in the kingdom must worship Daniel's God, the only true God? (Yes)
9. Will you trust God like Daniel trusted God?

## Discover Time

**Transition to Discover Time:** As we walk to Discover Time, let's roar like lions.

**Do Right:** I will trust God.

**Goal:** To reinforce that the lions did not eat Daniel.

**Location:** Outdoor or indoor space

**Supplies:**

- Two large cut-outs from poster board, cartons, or construction/manilla paper of a lion's head with his mouth open (may want a blanket or bucket behind to catch the tossed food)
- Two buckets of plastic food items or pictures of food for the lion to eat (one bucket for each team)
- Starting line (20 feet from the lions)
- Optional: soundtrack of a roaring lion (place behind the lions)

**Instructions for the DT Leader:**

1. Divide children into two teams. Then have them close their eyes and imagine that the lions in front of them are real, they're hungry, and they are looking for their dinner.
2. Say: That sounds really scary, right? But Daniel trusted in God to protect him. Today you will take turns feeding the lions.
3. One at a time, have children relay to their team's lion and feed him one food item.
4. Once the team's bucket is empty, have the team celebrate!
5. Remind children that the lions did not eat Daniel. Daniel trusted God, who kept the lions' mouths closed.
6. Repeat as time permits.

## Classroom Review Time

**Lead Teachers ~ Connecting the DT to the Lesson:** Let's make our own lions to take home to remind us to trust God, just like Daniel did when he was in the lions' den.

### Reviewing the Know Right:

#### Supplies:

- Cardstock activity sheet with a lion's head and "I will trust God to protect me, just like Daniel" (see Resources Booklet)
- Brown and yellow yarn or strips of paper, cut into 1.5 inch pieces (about twenty pieces per child)
- School glue on small paper plates (or glue sticks if using strips of paper)
- Q-tips, cotton buds, or cotton swabs (if using school glue)

#### Instructions:

1. Children will add yarn or paper to the lion's mane using glue.
2. Leaders should ask lesson review questions as children work on their projects.
3. Remind children that we should trust God, just like Daniel did when he was in the lions' den.

### Think Right Activity while waiting for parents:

#### Supplies:

- Small plastic lion or a picture of a lion
- Small stickers or other very small reward

#### Instructions:

1. Have children close their eyes and recite Proverbs 3:5-6.
2. While they are saying the verse, have someone in the classroom hide the lion in visible sight. The first child to point out the lion will earn a sticker/ reward.
3. Peeker alert! Have several leaders pretend to hide the lion so the "peekers" will be confused about where the actual lion is hidden.
4. Repeat as time permits.

Note: As children are picked up, encourage them to do their Tracker Jr.

# Lesson 10

## Esther 1-10

<b>Know Right:</b>	Esther courageously risks her life by doing what is right.
<b>Think Right:</b>	"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight." Proverbs 3:5-6 (Top 12)
<b>Do Right:</b>	I will do what is right.
<b>Feel Right:</b>	I can feel safe knowing God helps me when I do what is right.

### GET READY!

**When we risk our own comfort and safety to do what is right, we take action knowing that God is behind us and before us, and that nothing can thwart His plan. We should be quick to do what is right and to honor and please God, no matter the cost. Just as God worked through Esther to save the Jews, He can work through each one of us, causing our words and actions to reflect Him. As you study the book of Esther, ask God to show you how He can use you in new ways as you take risks for Him.**

**Pray:** Pray that your children will truly seek God and do what is right no matter the cost. Pray Proverbs 2:1-11 over your children each day of the week.

**Read:** Esther 1-10

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

After King Darius' death, he was succeeded by his second-born son, known as King Xerxes I. The book of Esther begins with the deposition of Queen Vashti for refusing to obey a vulgar request of King Xerxes and her unlikely replacement by a beautiful Jewish girl named Esther, who had been raised by her cousin Mordecai. King Xerxes, at the urging of his vengeful confidant Haman and unaware of his new wife's Jewish heritage, signed into law an order to execute all of the Jewish people. Esther knew that God could use her to help save her people, but she would have to risk her life to plead before the king uninvited. Esther and the other Jewish people fasted for three days, after which she courageously entered the king's presence, revealed her heritage, and exposed Haman's evil plot to annihilate the Jewish people. The furious king called off the senseless genocide and instead had Haman executed. Inspired by the account of Esther and supported by our all-powerful God, we too can be used by Him if we do what is right.

### GET SET!

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

- We are covering an entire exciting book of the Bible in one class. Paraphrasing will be critical to making the Bible come to life in the limited time available.
- Because we are covering so much content, it is essential to be very prepared.

## Creative Ideas for the Bible Lesson:

Select one or two props per chapter. Reveal the prop as you teach each chapter. Ideas include:

- Chapter 1: Royal food on a special plate - real or pretend (to represent a banquet)
- Chapter 2: Crown, fancy bottle of lotion (royal beauty treatments)
- Chapter 3: Scroll with a seal and a fancy ribbon to tie it (royal decree)
- Chapter 4: Empty plate (fasting)
- Chapter 5: Royal food on a special plate - real or pretend (to represent a banquet)
- Chapter 7: Royal food on a special plate - real or pretend (to represent a banquet)
- Chapters 8-10: Sign with the words "The Jewish people are saved!" written in gold glitter

# GO!

## Pre-Service Review Game

Worship Leaders will lead children in a review game. Game details are in the Resources Booklet.

## Large Group Opening Time

**Offering:** We are going to worship God right now by giving our money. When we give our money to God, the church will use it to tell others about Jesus. *Or insert a specific way your church will use the offering.*

### Think Right verse: Proverbs 3:5-6

We have learned about kings from our Bible. Today we are going to learn about a queen. Her name is Queen Esther. Let's all pretend to be kings and queens as we say our Bible verse.

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

*Repeat several times. At the end, celebrate with them for knowing their verse.*

**Transition:** In order for a good king or a good queen to make the right decisions, they should trust in God. Let's sing our verse!

### Song 1: "Trust in the Lord"

#### Puppet Skit: Cami the Queen

*Cami comes up dressed like a queen and acting "royal".*

**C:** Welcome friends, to my royal palace. I'm Queen Cami.

**WL:** Wow, you look beautiful today!

**C:** I always look beautiful because I am the queen of preschool...Queen Cami.

**WL:** What do you do as a queen?

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

**WL:** That doesn't sound very kind. You kind of sound like a mean queen.

**C:** *(mouth should drop open)* Are you kidding? “ME” a mean queen? I am a royal, beautiful, and a perfect queen...the queen of preschool!

**WL:** Cami, you are being selfish.

**C:** Are you calling the queen of preschool selfish?

**WL:** Yes, you are being very selfish and not choosing to do what is right. You are being a mean queen.

**C:** *(head should drop)* No... I don't want to be a mean queen. I want to be a good queen.

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

**C:** I'm sorry, friends. I was very selfish. Will you forgive me for being so mean?

**WL:** We sure will. *(give her a hug)* What do you think we should do next, Queen Cami?

**C:** I have to go, but why don't you all sing a song to worship the one and only true God!

**WL:** Now THAT'S a great idea. You are a good queen!

**C:** Thank you. I want to be a queen who loves Jesus. See ya later!

**WL:** Bye, Cami!

**Transition:** Let's all stand up and sing praises to our God!

**Song 2:** “Praise the Lord”

**Pray**

## Bible Lesson Introduction

**Pray:** *Each week, encourage a child to pray. Remind children that we are talking to the God of the universe, and He hears us when we pray. The same God that made kings and queens designed and created each of us.*

**Find It:** Today, we will find our lesson about Queen Esther in the book of Esther. Esther is in the Old Testament.

**Timeline:** We see many kings on our timeline. Can you find a king on the timeline? Today we will learn about a queen.

### Introduction to the Bible Lesson:

We've been learning about Daniel, who chose to do what was right even though it meant putting his own life at risk. Today we're going to learn about a woman named Esther. She was very brave, and God used her to do something very important. Let's find out exactly what happened to this queen.

## Scripture Outline: Esther 1-10

### King Xerxes

#### **Paraphrase of Esther 1:**

King Xerxes was a very powerful and very rich king. He had a huge party to show off how rich he was. He invited all the important people in the area to his party. At the end of the celebration, he had another special party. This time he invited all the people in the area – from the least to the greatest.

During this party, the queen, Queen Vashti, didn't do what the king asked her to do. The king did not like this at all! He was so mad he said that Queen Vashti couldn't be the queen anymore.

### Esther is made queen

#### **Paraphrase of Esther 2:1-17:**

The king's helpers said that a search for a new queen should begin. Women came to the palace and had beauty treatments hoping they would be chosen to be the new queen.

One of the women was named Esther. Esther had a cousin named Mordecai. They were Jewish. Remember, the Jewish people were the people who believed in the one true God. Mordecai had adopted Esther as his own child when her parents died. Esther was older now, so she went to the palace to try to be the new queen. Esther's cousin Mordecai told her not to tell anyone she was Jewish. So Esther followed Mordecai's instructions and kept it a secret that she was Jewish. The king liked Esther and made her the new queen! She got to wear the queen's crown.

### **Read Esther 2:18**

**Recap:** The king gave another party for his new queen. Could you imagine what it would be like to become a king or queen?

*Due to limited time, we will skip Esther 2:19-23.*

### Haman seeks to destroy the Jews

#### **Paraphrase of Esther 3:**

One of the people who worked in the king's palace was a man named Haman. Haman was mean, and he did not like the Jewish people. Haman thought he was a great person and made all the people bow down to him at the gate. But Mordecai wouldn't bow down to Haman. This made Haman very angry! Haman was so mad he made a plan to kill all of the Jewish people. Oh, no! Mordecai and Esther were both Jewish. He even convinced the king to pass a law to kill all of the Jewish people.

### Esther does what is right

#### **Paraphrase of Esther 4:**

Mordecai and Esther found out about Haman's terrible plan and the new law to have all the Jewish people killed. Mordecai, Esther, and all the other Jews were very sad. All the Jewish people began to pray.

Mordecai pleaded with Esther to help. He told her that maybe God made her the queen just so she could help the Jewish people! God always has a plan. Do you think she helped save the Jewish people?

Esther was very courageous! She said she would try to save the Jewish people - even if it meant she herself would die. She was also very wise. She asked the Jewish people to pray and fast for three days. When you fast, you choose to give extra attention to God by praying and you don't eat. Have you ever had a problem and asked all your friends and family to pray?

### Esther goes to the king

#### **Paraphrase of Esther 5:**

In order for Esther to help save the Jewish people, she needed the king's help. So, she asked if she could meet with the king. She wasn't supposed to do this - it was against the law! It's hard to

understand, but Esther could have been killed for going to the king. Yet she bravely did it anyway! The king allowed Esther to come to him and make a request. She invited the king and Haman, the mean man, to a special dinner she prepared for them. Then she invited both of them to another special dinner the next day.

*Due to limited time, we will skip Esther 6.*

### **Haman is caught**

#### **Paraphrase of Esther 7:**

The next day, during the special dinner, Queen Esther told the king about Haman's terrible plan to kill all of the Jewish people. She asked the king to save her and the other Jewish people. The king said yes! God answered all their prayers, and the Jewish people were rescued.

### **The king blesses Esther**

#### **Paraphrase of Esther 8:**

That same day, the king gave Queen Esther everything that Haman had owned. The king also gave her cousin Mordecai all the power that used to belong to Haman.

## **Conclusion (includes Esther 9-10)**

Esther was courageous, and she did what was right. God used her to save His people. God continued to use Esther and Mordecai to bless the Jewish people.

## **Do Right and Feel Right**

Esther was probably very afraid, but she still did what was right. She was bold and courageous, and she trusted God. What about you? If a friend wants you to be mean to another kid, will you say 'no' and then be friends with him? Will you let someone go ahead of you at the park? Will you obey your mom or dad right away when they ask you to help with something? Will you share your toys with your friend? Esther put others first and did the right thing, and so can you.

## **Review Questions: What did we discover today?**

1. Who had a huge celebration? (The king)
2. Was the new queen named Judy or Esther? (Esther)
3. Did Haman, the mean man, have a plan to hurt the Jewish people? (Yes)
4. Did Queen Esther do what was right? (Yes)
5. Did Esther, Mordecai, and all the other Jewish people pray or did they play games? (They prayed)
6. When Esther did what was right, did God save the Jewish people? (Yes)
7. Should you do what is right? (Yes)

## **Discover Time**

**Transition to Discover Time:** We're going to go make something that will help us remember what we learned about Queen Esther today!

**Do Right:** I will do what is right.

**Goal:** To give children an opportunity to make a crown as a reminder to do what is right, just like Queen Esther did.

### **Location A: Art Station**

**Supplies:**

- Paper crowns (one per child)
- Self-adhesive jewels (or colorful paper cut-outs and glue)

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

1. Children will decorate a crown to help them remember what they've learned about Queen Esther.
2. Ask lesson review questions as children decorate their crown.
3. Towards the end of Discover Time, have children work together to clean up the Art Station.
4. Then, before heading back to class, children should say "thank you" to the leaders for helping them make their crowns.
5. Have children wear their crowns as they walk back to class.

#### **Location B: space with tables**

*Same activity as Location A*

## **Classroom Review Time**

**Lead Teachers ~ Connecting the DT to the Lesson:** You did such a great job. You were also very kind to your friends and to the leaders. Doesn't it feel good to be kind to others?

#### **Reviewing the Know Right:**

##### **Supplies:**

- "Royal" snacks (any snack presented with a creative royal flourish)
- Tablecloths

**Setup instructions:** While children are at Discover Time, have a parent volunteer or a Shepherd put tablecloths over tables and set out "royal" snacks to create a fun banquet atmosphere.

##### **Instructions:**

1. As children arrive back to class, have them sit at tables.
2. Remind children that, like Esther, they should pray.
3. Have a child pray for the snack.
4. As they eat their "royal" snack, ask review questions about Esther with the whole group or at each table.

#### **Think Right Activity while waiting for parents:**

##### **Supplies:**

- Ball-pit balls or colorful bottle tops/ caps (one per child)
- Bag with one of each colored ball-pit ball or colorful bottle top/ cap in it
- Fun praise music (suggested song "Jesus Loves Me")

##### **Instructions:**

1. Have children sit in a circle.
2. Give each child a ball/ cap.
3. Play a song as children pass the balls/ caps.
4. Stop the music at any time.
5. Select a ball from the bag.
6. Whoever has a ball with the matching color should stand up and say Proverbs 3:5-6.
7. Repeat as time permits.
8. Option: you can also play the game passing a single beanbag, whoever has the beanbag when the music stops can stand and say Proverbs 3:5-6.

# Lesson 11

## Review Day

<b>Know Right:</b>	True wisdom comes from God's Word.
<b>Think Right:</b>	Acts 16:31 and Proverbs 3:5-6 (Top 12)
<b>Do Right:</b>	I will remember God's Word.
<b>Feel Right:</b>	I can feel wise when I remember God's Word.

## GET READY!

**Review days are days of celebration for both children and leaders. It is so exciting to see how the children have grown in their understanding of God through His Word. Enjoy seeing the fruit of how God has been at work this quarter!**

**Pray:** Pray that God will give you a clear understanding of Scripture, creativity, and a fresh new excitement for teaching God's Word to children.

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

Finally, we will take a day to reflect and remember everything that God has taught us this quarter. We invite you to join us next quarter when we return to the book of Genesis and study God's creation of our world and the unfolding of His plan to save us from our sin. God bless you for humbly serving Him.

## GET SET!

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

- What did you learn this past quarter? Has God been speaking to you? If yes, stop and thank God for His presence and for continuing to work in your life!
- If you saw God at work this quarter, share that testimony with your children's ministry leader. We want to celebrate and be encouraged with you!
- This is a review day, so prepare to have fun while reviewing previous lessons. Please review the lessons thoroughly so you can confidently summarize how these people were courageous.

### **Review lesson setup instructions and tips:**

1. Place five suitcases or small tents throughout your children's ministry space. Inside the five suitcases/tents should be props and a small journal or notebook with a handwritten journal entry (see lesson for ideas for the journal entries). The items will be used to review a few of the Bible lessons from the quarter. Create a map to help lead your class to the correct suitcase/tent that matches the lesson. This complete Bible Review lesson should take around 40+ minutes.
2. Serve a celebration snack back in the classroom after the review activity.
3. Optional: Have children take one item from each suitcase/tent to take home (tissue, goldfish crackers, small patch of lion fur or a veggie, whistle or small instrument). Children can use this to review a few lessons from the quarter with their family.

# GO!

## Pre-Service Review Game

Worship Leaders will lead children in a review game. Game details are in the Resources Booklet.

## Large Group Opening Time

**Offering:** We are going to worship God right now by giving our money. When we give our money to God, the church will use it to tell others about Jesus. *Or insert a specific way your church will use the offering.*

### Think Right verses: Acts 16:31 and Proverbs 3:5-6

We are going to review the two verses we learned this quarter. Can you tell me which verse teaches us to trust in the Lord – Acts 16:31 or Proverbs 3:5-6? (Proverbs 3:5-6) Let's say it together with the hand motions. *Have all the leaders clap and cheer!*

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

Can you tell me which verse teaches us that if we believe in Jesus we will be saved – Acts 16:31 or Proverbs 3:5-6? (Acts 16:31) Let's say it together with hand motions. *Have all the leaders cheer and encourage children to give each other "high fives."*

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

**Transition:** Where do all our verses come from? (The Bible!)

**Song 1:** "B-I-B-L-E Bible"

### Puppet Skit: Tracker reviews the quarter

**WL:** Let's see if Tracker is here today! (*call Tracker with the children*)  
*Tracker comes up*

**WL:** Hi, Tracker! Wow! We learned so much this quarter, didn't we?  
**T:** *We sure did, \_\_\_\_\_.*

**WL:** Tracker, what was your favorite Bible Lesson this past quarter?  
**T:** *I loved Jonah an' that big fish. Remember he vomited up Jonah? What a big mess. Jonah musta smelt bad for months. Stink-eeee!*

**WL:** What did we learn from Jonah in the Bible?  
**T:** *We should obey God and not run away from Him.*

**WL:** Jonah wasn't the most courageous guy at first, but eventually he did obey God. Who was another person you remember from our Bible?

**T:** I forgot the name of that little kid who was the king and found the Bible in the temple...King Jo\_\_\_\_\_ (have children guess)

**WL:** That was King Josiah. He loved God, and he was so excited when they found the Bible.

**T:** Yeah, he sure was! Oh, I can't wait to talk more about all these awesome people in class today!

**WL:** Neither can I. We're going to sing one more song, and then we will go back to class to do a review of everything we learned this quarter.

**T:** Ok. Bye, friends!

**WL:** Bye, Tracker!

**Transition:** This quarter, we learned that our God is powerful, big, and strong, and we can trust Him! Our God is bigger than big! This reminds me of one of our favorite songs.

**Song 2:** "Bigger than Big"

**Pray**

## Bible Lesson Introduction

**Pray:** Each week, encourage a child to pray. Remind children that we fold our hands, bow our heads, and close our eyes out of respect to God as we pray.

**Find It:** Recite the books of the OT through Daniel. Have children repeat each book after you to teach them how to pronounce each one.

**Timeline:** The purpose of the timeline is to challenge children to see the Bible as a big picture rather than individual lessons that do not connect. Point to the timeline so children can see what we studied in the OT.

### Introduction to the Bible Lesson:

We have learned about some really courageous people in the Old Testament. Today, we are going to go on an adventure to see if we remember some of these courageous people. Let's follow this map.

Roll out a map that will lead you to different suitcases/tents in your building or your classroom. As you visit each station, use the props in the suitcase/tent to review the lesson and ask children questions about the lessons. You will also notice a journal page included in the suitcase/tent from the person you studied. This will help explain the importance of each lesson. Each suitcase/tent should take around seven minutes, which includes walking time between locations.

## Scripture Review Stations

### **Station A: Lesson 1**

**Naaman is healed of leprosy after a young girl shares her faith. (2 Kings 5:1-15a)**

**Supplies:**

- Bucket or pool of water
- Action figure to dunk in the water
- Bible
- Sample journal entry: "Dear journal, I can't believe how bad my sores are. I'm thankful for the young Israelite girl who told me about Elisha. I hope he can help me. He'll tell me what the one true God wants me to do. Signed, Naaman"

**Instructions:** Show the props and explain that you found what looks like a journal and it has a note in it. After you read the journal entry, ask the following questions:

1. What did Elisha tell Naaman to do? **Read 2 Kings 5:10**
2. Did Naaman do it right away? (No)
3. Did he finally do what Elisha said? (Yes)
4. Who can you tell about our great God?

### **Station B: Lesson 2**

**King Hezekiah confidently prays. (2 Kings 20:1-7)**

**Supplies:**

- Medical items
- Pillow
- Box of tissues
- Bible
- Sample journal entry: "Dear journal, Today I am feeling very sick. I think I might even die. I am in so much pain. A king shouldn't feel this sick. I'm going to pray and talk to God. I know He hears me when I pray. Signed, King Hezekiah"

**Instructions:** Show the props and explain that you found what looks like a journal and it has a note in it. After you read the journal entry, ask the following questions:

1. What happened to King Hezekiah after he prayed? **Read 2 Kings 20:5**
2. Should you pray to God when you are afraid? (Yes)
3. Do you pray to God?

### **Station C: Lesson 3**

**Jonah makes choices about obedience. (Jonah 1 - 3)**

**Supplies:**

- Ship
- Large fish
- Bible
- Sample journal entry: "Dear journal, I don't want to go! I don't want to tell the people of Nineveh about God. The people in Nineveh are mean and not nice; they don't deserve to hear about God. I don't want to go. Signed, Jonah"

**Instructions:** Show the props and explain that you found what looks like a journal and it has a note in it. After you read the journal entry, ask the following questions:

1. What happened next? (Jonah didn't listen to God. He took a boat to Tarshish instead of going to Nineveh. God sent a terrible storm, so the sailors threw Jonah off the boat into the water, and he was swallowed by a great fish. Jonah prayed to God while he was inside the fish.)
2. After the fish spit Jonah onto dry land, did he courageously obey? **Read Jonah 3:1-3a**

3. Should you obey God?
4. How can you obey God?

### **Station D: Lesson 8**

**Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego are thrown into the fiery furnace. (Daniel 3)**

**Supplies:**

- Fiery furnace (idea: wrap a tin can or box with black paper and add red, orange, and yellow tissue paper to represent fire)
- Small musical instrument
- Picture of a tall statue
- Bible
- Sample journal entry: "Dear journal, King Nebuchadnezzar says we must bow down and worship his statue when we hear the music play. This isn't right! We will only worship the one true powerful God, no matter what the king does to us, even if we're thrown into the blazing hot fiery furnace. Signed, Three very good friends! (Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego)"

**Instructions:** Show the props and explain that you found what looks like a journal and it has a note in it. After you read the journal entry, ask the following questions:

1. What happened next? **Read Daniel 3:14-15**
2. Did the three friends stand firm and only worship the one true powerful God? (Yes)
3. Were Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego thrown into the blazing hot furnace? (Yes)
4. Did Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego walk around unhurt in the blazing hot furnace? (Yes)
5. Do you trust in God's power?

### **Station E: Lesson 9**

**Daniel is thrown into the lions' den. (Daniel 6)**

**Supplies:**

- Fake fur or yarn to represent lion's fur
- Veggies
- Bible
- Picture of Daniel
- Sample journal entry: "Dear journal, I love to pray to God. I know He is the one true God. Today, King Darius made a new law that we must only pray to him, the king. This is wrong, and I will not do it. I will choose to live God's way, no matter what, even if I'm put in the lions' den. Signed, Daniel"

**Instructions:** Show the props and explain that you found what looks like a journal and it has a note in it. After you read the journal entry, ask the following questions:

1. Did Daniel continue to pray to God even when he found out that he might be thrown into the lions' den? **Read Daniel 6:16 and 22-23**
2. Do you believe in the one and only true God?
3. How will people know if you believe in God? (You go to church, you pray, you share what you've learned from Bible lessons, you love others, etc.)

## **Conclusion**

*As children return to class, share a celebration snack together. As they eat, review the items you collected at each station. If you didn't collect items, have children share their favorite Bible lesson from the quarter.*

## Do Right and Feel Right

*Encourage children to continue to trust in God and be truly courageous children for the rest of their lives!*

## Discover Time

*Note: Due to the interactive Review Lesson, we will not be having Discover Time today.*

## Classroom Review Time

**Think Right Activity while waiting for parents:**

**Supplies:**

- Pictures of things that cause fear: a snake, a storm, the dark, being lost, going to the doctor, and bees (see Resources Booklet)

**Instructions:**

1. Hide the six pictures around your classroom.
2. Have children find all six pictures of things that cause fear. When they find a picture, have them bring it to you (the teacher).
3. Review the pictures as a class, talk about how Daniel/Josiah/Hezekiah/etc. would handle the situation, and then say Proverbs 3:5-6 following each discussion.
4. Children should be very confident with this verse and its application to their lives by the time you finish.

# On Track Map

## Topical Lesson: Getting to know the book of Psalms

<b>Know Right:</b>	Psalms is a group of songs written to God.
<b>Think Right:</b>	"May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer." Psalm 19:14
<b>Do Right:</b>	I will worship God.
<b>Feel Right:</b>	I can feel good about worshiping God any time.

### GET READY!

This lesson is designed to introduce kids to the longest book in the Bible - Psalms. They'll learn some basics about the book, as well as what is contained in its pages and the different types of psalms. Through the Psalms, God's people communicate with Him passionately and expressively, but no matter what they are feeling, the writers always go back to their trust in God and their desire to worship and obey Him.

**Pray:** Pray that God will give you a clear understanding of the Scripture and that the children in your class will understand the book of Psalms.

**Read:** Psalm 19:14

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

### GET SET!

#### Lead Teacher's Notes:

- It is very important that as you read the Scriptures from Psalms to the children that you pull from your deepest expression. Think of the Psalms as gut-wrenching heart cries—whether they are cries of despair or overflowing praise and worship. They are passionate, enthusiastic, and heartfelt. This is your opportunity to speak for the writers of these songs and communicate some of what they were feeling. Make the words of the Bible come alive! When you personally experience feelings, they are not mundane or mediocre, so start laying a foundation with these young ones that they can share their deepest feelings with God.
- You will want to mark in advance the verses you will be reading.
- You will be using the words "psalms" and "songs" throughout the lesson. These words sound a lot alike and mean very much the same thing. Be conscious of articulating each word clearly each time you use it.

#### Creative Ideas for the Bible Lesson:

1. Use props as you teach the lesson: a collection (examples in the lesson include a collection of dolls and/or a collection of rocks) and pot lids (use to make music). *This idea is written into the lesson.*
2. Refer to the Feel Right poster as you teach this lesson.

# GO!

## Pre-Service Review Game

Worship Leaders will lead children in a review game. Game details are in the Resources Booklet.

## Large Group Opening Time

**Offering:** We are going to worship God right now by giving our money. When we give our money to God, the church will use it to tell others about Jesus *(or insert a specific way your church will use the offering)*.

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

*Read the current verse from the Bible and then demonstrate the hand motions. Repeat the verse several times while saying it in a loud voice, a quiet voice, and while jumping up and down.*

**Transition:** *You will need to develop a transition based on song choice.*

**Song 1:** *Song of your choice*

### Puppet Skit: Tracker's feelings

**Prop:** Bible

**T:** Hey, hey, \_\_\_\_\_. Can I ask you a question? Have ya ever been happy one day an' sad the next day? *(moves head from side to side)*

**WL:** Well, yes I have. It depends on what's happening.

**T:** Me, too. I was sad *(long sigh)* when I found out my friend is movin' away. *(pause)* But then, the next day *(jumps up and down)* I was real happy when I met a new friend who likes to play Hide and Seek ... just like me! I wonder what God thinks about me bein' happy one day an' sad another day.

**WL:** That is an interesting thing to wonder about, Tracker.

**T:** It's confusing, cuz I don't know when I should talk ta God. Should I only talk ta God when I'm happy? Or should I only talk ta God when I'm sad an' want His help?

**WL:** Oh, Tracker. God wants to hear from you no matter how you feel. He understands all your feelings. He wants you to worship Him and obey Him no matter how you feel.

**T:** *(using his grumpy voice)* Even when I'm mad?

**WL:** Yep, even when you're mad.

**T:** *(squeal)* Even when I'm squealin' cuz I'm so excited?

**WL:** *(chuckles at Tracker's squeal)* Sure thing. Even when you're squealing with excitement.

**T:** *(hangs head)* How about when I'm lonely and feel like cryin'?

**WL:** God wants to hear from you when you're lonely, too, Tracker. I think I have something that might just help you. It's a special book in the Bible. *(hold Bible up to Tracker)* Each chapter of

this book, called Psalms, is written to tell God how that person is feeling. In fact, each one is really the words to a song.

**T:** I'm not real good at readin' yet. Would you read me one of those ... those ... oh, what are they called?

**WL:** Psalms. Sure, I can read one to you. Can you say "Psalms" Tracker?

**T:** Psalms! I'm really excited that you're gonna read one to me.

**WL:** (*chuckles*) I'm excited, too. I'll find you after class and we can read some together.

**T:** Great! Bye, \_\_\_\_\_.

**Transition:** *You will need to develop a transition based on song choice.*

**Song 2:** *Song of your choice*

**Pray**

## Bible Lesson Introduction

**Pray:** *When you pray, remind children that you are talking to God. Have children bow their heads, close their eyes, and fold their hands so they can be completely focused on God.*

**Find It:** Psalms is a special book, almost right in the middle of the Bible. So, when I open my Bible to the center, it's very close to where Psalms is. *Hold your Bible up and open it, slightly toward the front middle of the Bible.* It is the biggest book in the entire Bible, and it is in the Old Testament. *Pinch together all the pages that make up the book, so kids can see how much of the Bible is Psalms.* It sure is a big part of the Bible!

**Timeline:** Let's look at our timeline to see when Psalms was written. Psalms is a collection of songs to God. It was written by lots of different people over many, many, many years. Let's find where Moses is on our timeline. That's when some of the first psalms were written. Now, let's find Ezra. It was about that time that the last psalm was written. It took a long time to collect all the songs that are in Psalms.

### Introduction to the Bible Lesson:

*Show a collection. The children will love observing and making comments about any collection you are able to show them. Below are two examples.*

**Example 1:** If you have a collection of dolls, that means you have a bunch of different dolls. Are they all exactly the same? (No) Some may be newborn baby dolls, and some may be older dolls. Some are boy dolls, and some are girl dolls. Some dolls are large, and other dolls are small and will fit in your backpack. But they are all dolls – a collection of dolls.

**Example 2:** What if you have a collection of rocks? Would they all look exactly alike? (No) Some are smooth for trying to skip in the water. Some have jagged edges. Some might be so little that you can fit ten in your pocket and another one might be so big you can hardly pick it up by yourself. But they are all rocks – a collection of rocks.

Psalms is a book in the Bible that is a collection of songs - all kinds of songs written by all kinds of people. Let's learn more about this special book in the Bible.

## Scripture Outline

We talked about a \_\_\_\_\_ collection. There were all kinds of \_\_\_\_\_ in the collection. Well, the book of Psalms is also a collection. It's a collection of songs written to God – 150 different songs. Wow! One hundred fifty is a big number! That's a lot of songs. In fact, Psalms is the biggest book in the entire

Bible. We don't have the music that goes along with the songs, but we have the words, and that's what Psalms is. They are all different, but they are all songs to God.

*Refer to the Feel Right poster as you explain the book of Psalms.* Some of the songs to God share how much the writer loves God. Other psalms share how sad they are about what is going on in their life. Some psalms are songs to say a giant "thanks!" to God. In Psalms, each person shares their feelings with God. They say over and over how much they want to obey God. No matter how they feel, they can tell God about it.

Let's talk about four different kinds of psalms today.

### **Psalms of thanksgiving**

Many of the psalms are songs of thanksgiving. This means they are songs thanking God for all that He has created, and they can be sung anytime you feel really thankful and want to tell God thanks.

*Say to one child in a bland, monotone voice, "Thank you for the fabulous gift." Now, turn to another child, dance around, jump up and down, and with so much excitement you can hardly contain yourself, say, "Thank you for the amazing gift!"*

Which way makes you believe that I'm really thankful? (The excited one!) The thanksgiving psalms are bursting with thankfulness. Listen to this thanksgiving psalm.

### **Read Psalm 106:1**

Let's all say, "Give thanks to the Lord!" Now, let's say it like we mean it - jump up and down and dance around. Singing a thanksgiving psalm is a way of saying thank you to God.

### **Psalms of worship and praise**

Many of the psalms are songs of worship and praise. These were written when people just couldn't help but stop and worship our awesome God. They felt so full inside that they had to tell God through a song. But they didn't just sing. The Bible tells us they used lots and lots of instruments. *Bang two pot lids together to mimic the sound of cymbals.* Listen to this psalm of worship and praise.

### **Read Psalm 150:5-6**

Let's all say, "Praise the Lord." When I want to tell someone what a great job they did, I clap for them. Our hands can be like a clanging cymbal - our very own instrument on the end of our arms! Let's worship God with a great big clap!

### **Psalms asking for help**

Many of the psalms were written to tell God that they needed His help. They are songs that beg God to help them through whatever they were going through. Grab your elbow if you've ever needed help from someone. We all need someone to help us, and God is always ready to help us when we call out to Him.

When you get hurt and want your mom or dad to hold you, you let them know by stretching up your arms to them. Stretch your arms above your head. That says, "Pick me up. Hold me. Help me get over this." Wiggle your nose if you've ever wanted your mom or dad to pick you up when you got hurt. Listen to this psalm asking for help.

### **Read Psalm 86:7**

Let's let God know we want His help. *Have children stand with their arms outstretched as far as they can and say, "Please help, God" after you read each situation.*

- You can ask God for help when you're not getting along with a friend.
- You can ask God for help when you miss your grandma or teacher or cousin.
- You can ask God for help if your parents aren't getting along.
- You can ask God for help if you're sick.

### **Psalms asking for forgiveness**

Many of the psalms were written as a way to ask God for His forgiveness. Sometimes we disobey God, and we don't live the way He wants us to live. That's called sin. Sin is anything we think, say, or do that is against God. When you admit how you've disobeyed God and ask Him for His forgiveness, He gives you a new start. Listen to this psalm asking for forgiveness.

### **Read Psalm 51:8**

What will make the person singing this song happy? They will be happy when they know that God has forgiven them when they have not obeyed - when God has forgiven their sin. We can know our sins are forgiven when we believe in God's Son, Jesus, and that should bring us great joy and gladness! Show me your best joy and gladness face. That's a face that says, "God forgives!" *Opportunity to share the Gospel through the Wordless Book.*

Now we know four different kinds of songs that are part of the book of Psalms. Let's go through them one last time. There are psalms of thanksgiving. *Hold up one finger.* Everyone jump around and shout, "Give thanks to the Lord!" And we've learned about psalms of worship and praise. *Hold up two fingers.* Everyone clap and shout, "Praise the Lord." We found out about psalms that ask God for help. *Hold up three fingers.* Everyone stretch out your arms for help and say, "Please help, God." And the last group are psalms asking for forgiveness. *Hold up four fingers.* Now give me those big smiles while you say, "God forgives!"

## **Conclusion**

The people who wrote the chapters of Psalms were not afraid to tell God what they were thinking or feeling. The thing they wanted most was to obey God and be close to Him. That meant sharing everything with God.

## **Do Right and Feel Right**

Just like the people who wrote the songs in Psalms, you can worship God no matter how you feel. You can tell Him when you are thankful, when you are full of praise and worship, when you need help, and when you need His forgiveness.

Let's thank God for always hearing us when we pray to Him.

*Close in prayer.*

## **Review Questions: What did we discover today?**

1. Is the book of Psalms a collection of recipes or songs to God? (Songs to God)
2. How can you find the book of Psalms in your Bible? (It is almost right in the middle)
3. When do you need to ask for forgiveness? (When you sin)
4. How can you worship God? (Singing, playing instruments, clapping, etc.)
5. Is God always ready to help us? (Yes!)
6. Name something God created that you'd like to thank Him for.

## **Discover Time**

**Transition to Discover Time:** Psalms is a wonderful book of the Bible. It helps us know how to worship God. Let's go to Discover Time and do that now!

**Do Right:** I will worship God.

### **Large Group Option 1: Open area**

**Goal:** To give children the opportunity to worship God with musical instruments.

**Supplies:**

- Fun children's praise music such as Yancy's "Little Praise Party" (choose a song that children are familiar with, so they can sing along during the activity)
- As many musical instruments as you can assemble: metal pot lids, large spoons, pots, water bottles with rocks, rice, or beans in them, tambourines, anything a little one can bang on or tap together can be an improvised instrument! If you have them available for children, use contextually relevant musical instruments from your area.

**Instructions for the DT Leader:**

1. Children will choose an instrument to accompany the fun praise music. Placing the instruments in different places around the room will make them easier to distribute, rather than having all the children come to the same place to choose their instrument.
2. Begin to play children's praise music.
3. Encourage children to sing along with the music and play their instruments.
4. Stop several times during the song(s) and have children switch their instruments with another person. When you stop to pass the musical instruments, remind children that they are worshipping God with their instruments. It makes God happy to hear us worship Him.

### **Large Group Option 2: Open area**

**Goal:** To give children the opportunity to practice thanking God.

**Supplies:**

- Wordless Book-colored paper (one large set and one small set)
- Tape (tape large pieces of each colored paper high up in different corners/areas of the room)
- Container or bag (put the small pieces of each color in the container/bag)

**Instructions for the DT Leader:**

1. Have children stand in the center of the room.
2. When you (the DT Leader) yell, "Thank You, God!", all children will run to any colored paper area they choose.
3. You will pull out one of the colors from the container and ask the children who are standing by the matching color to respond to one of the "Name Something" statements below.

**"Name Something" statements:**

  - Name something in your refrigerator that you can thank God for.
  - Name something in your backyard you can thank God for.
  - Name something at the grocery store you can thank God for.
  - Name something red you can thank God for.
  - Name someone at church you can thank God for.
  - Name something in your bedroom you can thank God for.
  - Name something in the park you can thank God for.
4. After responding to the prompt, all children will return to the middle of the room and repeat the activity. Use a different "Name Something" statement each round.
5. Say: Wow! You named a bunch of things we can thank God for! God loves to hear our thanks, over and over, for big things and small things. Remember that in the Bible, in the book of Psalms, we can find beautiful songs that people wrote about how thankful they were to God.
6. Repeat as time permits.

## Classroom Review Time

**Lead Teachers ~ Connecting the DT to the Lesson:** Did you have fun today in Discover Time, \_\_\_\_\_ (insert statement based on DT: thanking God for so many things or praising God with your beautiful music)? Remember, the book of Psalms is a collection of songs that people wrote to tell God how they were feeling, whether they were happy or sad. Just like the people who wrote the songs, you can worship God no matter how you feel. You can tell Him when you are thankful, when you are full of praise and worship, when you need help, and when you need His forgiveness.

### Reviewing the Know Right:

#### Supplies:

- Six very large disposable cups

#### Instructions:

1. Ask the Lesson Review questions from above one at a time.
2. When a child answers one of the review questions correctly, that child will place a cup upside down on a flat surface.
3. Build a small pyramid from the six cups as questions are answered (use three cups as the base).
4. Optional: You can also increase the number of cups/pyramids so children can do this in smaller groups so they will have more opportunities to answer and place a cup.
5. Say: God loves each of you! And He wants to hear from you no matter how you're feeling. He wants you to tell Him when you're especially thankful and when you're upset about something. He wants to know that you love Him back. He's there to help you, and He's there to celebrate with you. Most of all, He wants you to obey Him. Let's worship God this week, no matter how we feel or what's going on in our lives. Let's take a minute and talk to God in prayer.

**Pray:** Invite a child to lead the group in prayer. We talked about expressing ourselves personally to God today and this is a great opportunity to allow a child to do that in a supportive environment. Encourage the child to speak clearly so everyone can agree with their prayer. Standing next to you will also help give them confidence and will enable you to guide them, if necessary.

### Think Right Activity while waiting for parents:

#### Instructions:

1. Say: The book of Psalms says to use instruments to praise and worship God. We can use our hands and feet to be instruments of worship.
2. Have children respond to your statements below by performing the action you describe.
3. Then, respond with, "God loves it when we talk to Him!", before going to the next one.
4. Encourage children to contribute their own if-and-then statements also.
  - If you can worship God when you're swinging on the swing set, then pat your head.
  - If you can thank God when you're in a car or bus, then stomp your feet.
  - If you can ask God for help when you skinned your knee, then rub your shoulder.
  - If you can ask God to forgive you when you say something mean, then grab your big toe.
  - If you can praise God with your dolls or toys, then nod your head.
  - If you can ask God to help your friend who is feeling sad, then wiggle your fingers above your head.
  - If you can worship God when you're on a picnic, then blink your eyes.

# On Track Map

## Topical Lesson: When Tragedy Happens

<b>Know Right:</b>	God is our help in times of trouble.
<b>Think Right:</b>	“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)
<b>Do Right:</b>	I will go to God in times of trouble.
<b>Feel Right:</b>	I can feel comforted when I go to God.

### GET READY!

Tragedy and loss are heartbreaking and confusing. We don’t understand why horrible things take place in our world, and we want God to make things right. When our world is dark and fills us with grief, we can find comfort knowing that God is near. Psalm 46:1 reminds us that, at all times, we can count on God as our refuge, strength, and help. This week we will be sharing this hope with our children. As you prepare, pray for God’s perfect peace to fill you and your children. Ask Him to work in each of you through His Word. We know that our world is broken by sin; that means our hearts will continue to be broken by tragedy. During those times, may we find comfort in our God who is always with us.

**Pray:** Pray that God will give you a clear understanding of Scripture and that the children in your class will feel the depth of God’s love for them this week, knowing that He is our help in times of trouble.

**Read:** Psalm 46

**Know Right:** God is our help in times of trouble

### GET SET!

#### Lead Teacher’s Notes:

- This is a difficult lesson for preschoolers. Due to the family-based curriculum (all ages learning the same lesson), we will introduce a few basic concepts in the preschool lesson and focus on trusting God to be our refuge and help.
- Please refer to the Children’s Ministry Resource Bible: page 1544-1545 (Problems Children Face); page 1504 (Teaching Children from Troubled Homes).
- As you prepare to explain a difficult subject:
- Spend a significant amount of time in prayer. Pray that God will use you to help the children in your class understand that He is our help and comfort.
- Be sensitive with your tone and wording as you speak about difficult topics. Do not share anything that is not age-appropriate; do not mention details about specific types of tragedy (unless you are using this lesson because your community has gone through a specific, recent tragedy). The focus of this lesson is God’s strength, presence, and comfort during difficult times; the lesson is not meant to scare children.

- Read through the parent letter included with this lesson.

During your lesson:

- If your community is navigating a recent loss or tragic event, reassure children that it is normal to experience fear, anger or sadness. These feelings are natural and appropriate in these circumstances. Model how to bring these feelings to God. Model how to express these feelings to loved ones. Do not shame children for these feelings or minimize them. Children need to be given places to process painful emotions; the church should be one of those places.
- When teaching young children: make sure that you prioritize creating an environment that feels safe. When young children experience difficult circumstances, they may feel (and often are) unsafe. This lesson should emphasize that they are safe during this conversation, and they are safe in this room.

### Creative Ideas for the Bible Lesson:

1. Build a “fortress/refuge” (a fort) inside your classroom, and have children sit in the fort as you teach.
2. Frequently refer to the Feel Right poster throughout the lesson. Have children make the faces shown on the poster at the right points during the lesson.
3. Use pictures of the following as you teach the lesson: a thunderstorm, a dark bedroom, and cracks in the road (earthquake). (see Resources Booklet) *This idea is written into the lesson.*

**Note:** For this lesson, we recommend including a parent letter to send home. Explain what was covered in this lesson, include Scripture references and book suggestions, and encourage parents to keep this letter somewhere safe so they can bring it out if their family or community ever encounters a tragedy. We’ve provided an example in the Resources Booklet.

# GO!

## Pre-Service Review Game

Worship Leaders will lead children in a review game. Game details are in the Resources Booklet.

## Large Group Opening Time

**Offering:** We are going to worship God right now by giving our money. When we give our money to God, our church will use it to tell others about Jesus. *Or insert a specific way your church will use the offering.*

### Think Right verse: Joshua 1:9

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

Do you remember the verse about being strong and courageous? Listen as I read it from my Bible.  
*Read the verse from your Bible and then demonstrate the verse with hand motions.*

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

Let’s all stand up and say our verse with the hand motions. *Repeat several times while saying it in a loud voice, quiet voice, high voice, and while jumping up and down.*

**Transition:** *You will need to develop a transition based on song choice.*

**Song 1:** *Song of your choice*

### Puppet Skit: God is with me

WL: Hmm. I don't see Tracker this week. Where did he go? Let's call for him! 1, 2, 3, Tracker!

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

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

*Tracker should slowly come up.*

T: *(Sniffles)* Hi, \_\_\_\_\_. I just...I'm just kinda...it seems like...oooooo...I just feel all alone! And kinda sad, too.

WL: Oh, Tracker! I'm so sorry to hear that you're feeling alone and sad. Sometimes I feel those things, too.

T: You do? Really?

WL: Yes, Tracker. I really do. But did you know that you're never really alone?

T: Are ya sure about that? Cuz at night after my mom and dad tuck me into bed, they leave the room, and then I sure am alone in there.

WL: You're not alone! God promises that He will always be with us. He is our help in times of trouble. That means that we can go to Him whenever we feel alone or sad or afraid, or whenever we feel stuck or don't know what to do.

T: Wow, \_\_\_\_\_! Are ya tellin' me the truth? Cuz if you are, that is reeeeeeeally good news.

WL: Yes, I am telling you the truth. And yes, it is good news! Whenever we go through hard times, or we feel scared, or we feel sad, we can call out to God and remember that He is with us, and He will help us. Do you know what it's called when we call out to God?

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

WL: You're right, Tracker! We can know that God hears us when we pray and that He is with us all the time. That makes me feel comforted. How does it make you feel, Tracker?

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

WL: You're right, Tracker. God loves you very much. Thanks for coming and talking with us today!

T: Bye, everyone! See ya next week!

**Transition:** *You will need to develop a transition based on song choice.*

**Song 2:** *Song of your choice*

**Pray**

## Bible Lesson Introduction

**Pray:** *When you pray in class, always remind children that you are talking to God. Tell children that God is always with us and that He loves it when we talk to Him. Have children bow their heads, close their eyes, and fold their hands so they can completely focus on God.*

**Find It:** When I open my Bible up to the book of Psalms, do I find it in the OT or the NT? (OT) Psalms is a book full of poems, worship songs, and prayers! Today we are going to read one song together.

**Timeline:** We aren't learning about a specific event on our timeline today, but we are going to be reading verses written by people who lived during Old Testament times. Which part of our timeline shows the Old Testament? *Have children point at the timeline.*

### Introduction to the Bible Lesson:

Sometimes sad or scary things happen. Did you know that sad and scary things happened a long time ago, in the Bible, too?

Sad and scary things happen because of sin. What is sin? (Sin is anything we think, say, or do that is against God) Because there is sin in the world, sometimes people get sick, and sometimes people do mean things to others, and sometimes our favorite toy or game breaks, and sometimes people that we care about die. All the bad things in our world are because of sin.

But we have good news, right? Who did God send to save us from our sin? (Jesus!) Jesus is God's rescue plan. Every good thing in the world is from Jesus. Once we are saved by Jesus, we can trust Him to be with us and to comfort us. How do you know if you have been saved by Jesus? *Invite students to answer; use this opportunity to share the Gospel and give an invitation for salvation.*

Thankfully, there is a happy ending because Jesus rose again, and He promises to bring an end to all bad things. But, at the same time, when bad things do happen, we know that Jesus really understands what we are feeling. In fact, when Jesus lived on earth, He experienced loss and sadness too, even though He never sinned! His close friends, John the Baptist and Lazarus, died; people were fighting with each other; and Jesus Himself was hurt and even died on the cross. *If your community has recently experienced a tragedy, this would be an appropriate time to talk about that loss.*

What can we do when something scary or sad happens? That is what we are going to learn about today.

## Scripture Outline: Psalm 46

### God is our refuge and help

#### **Read Psalm 46:1**

**Recap:** These verses say that God is our "refuge." A refuge is a place that is meant to keep us safe and protected from things that might be dangerous or scary. These verses also say that God is our strength and our help. That means we can count on Him, even when sad or scary things happen.

### We do not need to be afraid when sad or scary things happen

#### **Read Psalm 46:2-3**

**Recap:** In these verses, we are hearing about some very scary things, right? Even when sad or scary things happen, God promises that He will still be strong, safe, and with you always. God knows how you feel, and He will never leave you! What Top 12 verse does that remind you of? (Joshua 1:9)

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sometimes when we ask Him for help, He makes the bad things stop. Sometimes He helps us by staying with us and helping us get through the bad situation.

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

### **God is always in control**

#### ***Paraphrase of Psalm 46:4-9:***

Even during scary situations, like when people fight or when there are wars, God promises to be with us and to use everything for our good. God is always in control.

Has God ever changed? (No!) When we look at the Old Testament on our timeline, we can know that the people on that timeline prayed to and worshiped the same God that we worship today. God is always the same. He has always been with His people, and He promises to always be with His people. If you have accepted Jesus as your Savior, you are one of His people!

When I think about this, it makes me feel protected, safe, and thankful. How do you feel when you hear this verse? *Use the Feel Right poster and invite children to answer.*

### **God promises to be with us**

#### ***Read Psalm 46:10-11***

**Recap:** God says, "Be still, and know that I am God..."

God wants us to pause and remember who He is, so we can be filled with courage and hope. We can remember that we aren't alone. God is always with us!

Remember when we learned that God is our "refuge"? When we say that God is our "fortress," that means the same thing: God is a safe place for us to go when we need to be protected.

Even in the darkest, saddest, scariest places, God promises to be with us. He has always been the same, and He will always be the same.

## **Conclusion**

What are some true things we can know about God from these verses? (God is with us, God is powerful, God is strong, God is our fortress/shelter/refuge, etc.)

## Do Right and Feel Right

These are important things to remember, especially when sad or scary things happen. Even if we feel sad, confused, or afraid, we can remember that God will always be with us and will comfort us, and we can always go to Him for help.

*Pray together to close.*

*Hand out letter to parents as children are picked up at the end of class.*

## Review Questions: What did we discover today?

1. Did we learn from the Old Testament or New Testament today? (Old Testament)
2. Why do sad or scary things happen? (Because of sin)
3. Who can we go to for help and comfort when sad or scary things happen? (God)
4. What does the word "refuge" mean? (A place of safety/protection)
5. Who is our help in times of trouble? (God)
6. Has God ever changed? (No)

## Discover Time

**Transition to Discover Time:** Today we learned that God is our refuge and help. He is always with us, even when sad or scary things happen. Now we are going to go make some posters to help us remember that God is our help!

On our way to our Discover Time, let's march and chant, "God is my help!"

**Do Right:** I will go to God in times of trouble.

**Goal:** To help children understand that God is with us and is our help during the good and bad times.

### Large Group: Art Station

#### **Supplies:**

- Activity sheet with "God is my help, and He is with me everywhere!" (one per child) (see Resources Booklet)
- Small cards with pictures of locations preschool children go: library, grocery store, park, doctor's office (in advance cut out one set per child) (see Resources Booklet)
- Glue sticks
- Crayons

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

1. Ask children, "Is God with you everywhere?" (Yes!) Explain that today we're going to decorate posters that will help us remember that God is our help in times of trouble, which means we can go to Him and ask for help any time.
2. Hold up one of the location cards and ask, "Can God help me at \_\_\_\_\_?" (Yes!) Talk about ways God can help us at that location.
3. After you've talked about a location, children can color and glue the location card onto their poster. Remind children that they will get to take these posters home, so they should decorate them carefully.
4. Repeat with the other location cards.

5. When time is up, head back to class chanting, "God is my help!"

**Alternate option:** Print the alternate "God is my help" activity sheet (see Resources Booklet). This option is a coloring sheet with the same elements as above but without the cutting and gluing.

## Classroom Review Time

**Lead Teachers ~ Connecting the DT to the Lesson:** That was a fun Discover Time! You did a great job thinking of all the ways God can help us. Today we learned that God is our refuge and help, and that He is always with us, even when sad or scary things happen. Now we're going to review our lesson and see what else you remember!

### Reviewing the Know Right:

**Supplies:**

- Large blocks (if large blocks aren't available, use small blocks to build a tower)

**Instructions:**

1. Ask the review questions from the lesson. When a child answers the question correctly, they will get a block. Children will work together to build a fort with blocks.
2. As the children's fort slowly gets bigger and bigger, occasionally remind them that God is our help in times of trouble.
3. After all the questions have been answered, repeat a few times, so children can confidently answer. If you run out of blocks or if the blocks fall over, start building the fort again.

### Think Right Activity while waiting for parents:

**Supplies:**

- Ball

**Instructions:**

1. Have children stand in a circle.
2. As a group, take turns tossing the ball across the circle. Before tossing, you should say, "\_\_\_\_\_ (insert name) will go to God!"
3. Then toss the ball to that child.
4. Repeat so all children have a chance to catch and toss the ball.

# On Track Map

## Topical Lesson: The Church

<b>Know Right:</b>	The church is made up of people who follow Jesus and glorify God together.
<b>Think Right:</b>	"You are the body of Christ. Each one of you is a part of it." 1 Corinthians 12:27
<b>Do Right:</b>	I will glorify God as a part of His church.
<b>Feel Right:</b>	I can feel joyful when I glorify God in the church.

## GET READY!

In this lesson, we want to help children understand that a building is not what the Bible means when it refers to the church. This is a huge concept to grasp and is different from what society usually means when they talk of the church. The church is made of people who believe in Jesus and follow Him - we are the church! In fact, the Bible often calls the church "the body." Being a part of the church body and glorifying God is a great gift to believers in Jesus!

**Pray:** As you prepare to serve, pray that God will give you a clear understanding of Scripture and that the children in your class will understand that the people are the church. Also pray for those who are not saved, who may attend a church building but are not part of the church. Pray that today they too will become part of the church family.

**Read:** 1 Corinthians 12:27

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

## GET SET!

### Lead Teacher's Notes:

- We want to help children move from understanding church as a destination to something they are part of. This is a huge and important shift! The church as a destination doesn't involve their participation. It doesn't require a choice on their part. It doesn't move or breathe. It isn't loved by God. God doesn't love the building or want to have a relationship with it.
- The church began in the New Testament after Jesus left this earth.
- To glorify God means to do things that show how important God is, like celebrating and worshiping Him.

### Creative Ideas for the Bible Lesson:

1. Create a church building from a box. Put plastic people or clothespin/ clothes peg people inside the box. Lift the box up and talk about how the people are the church. Buildings are temporary, but people are eternal. Even if the "box" were destroyed, the souls of the people would always remain.
2. Create a basic outline of a body on a posterboard and cut out pictures of different parts of the body

(hands, feet, mouth, etc.) to paste onto the outline as you teach the lesson. You will need ears, eyes, hands, feet, and a mouth. *This idea is written into the lesson.*

3. Alternate idea, draw a basic outline of a body on a whiteboard/ chalkboard and add body parts by drawing them one at a time throughout the lesson (or have another leader draw as you teach).

**GO!**

## Pre-Service Review Game

Worship Leaders will lead children in a review game. Game details are in the Resources Booklet.

## Large Group Opening Time

**Offering:** We are going to worship God right now by giving our money. When we give our money to God, the church will use it to tell others about Jesus. *Or insert a specific way your church will use the offering.*

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

*Read the verse from the Bible and then demonstrate the hand motions. Repeat the verse several times while saying it in a loud voice, a quiet voice, and while jumping up and down.*

**Transition:** *You will need to develop a transition based on song choice.*

**Song 1:** *Song of your choice*

### Puppet Skit: The Church

**WL:** How are you feeling today, Tracker?

**T:** Super-de-duper! It's a great day.

**WL:** Are you feeling like your brain is working well? Do you feel smart today?

**T:** Well, I guess so. My mom told me I was really smart this morning, when I figured out how to fix my racetrack so it would do a loopy-loop.

**WL:** Well then, put on your thinking cap because I have a question for you.

**T:** I'm ready. What is it?

**WL:** The question is: What is a church made from?

**T:** (looks around) Ummm...bricks.

**WL:** No. Try again.

**T:** (look around some more) Ummm....wood.

**WL:** No. Try again.

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

**WL:** No. Any more answers?

**T: Hey...is this a trick question?**

**WL: Not really.**

**T: I give up. What's a church made out of?**

**WL: People!**

**T: Oh, I gets it. You're sayin' that the people put down the bricks and the wood. Then, they put in the windows and the doors and stuff.**

**WL: No, that's not what I mean. The Bible says that the church is the people who love Jesus and want to serve God.**

**T: Wait. A. Minute. Are you sayin' that the church is people? Are you sure you readed that right?**

**W: Yes, I'm sure. It's not the building that God loves. He loves people. He loves the people who follow Him, and He calls them the church.**

**T: Sooooo, that means you're the church and I'm the church, 'cause we follow Jesus?**

**WL: That's exactly right. See how smart you are?**

**T: If we were a building, you'd be a window, and I think I'd be a light bulb. (giggles)**

**WL: You are smart, Tracker, but sometimes, you can be pretty silly, too. See you later!**

**T: Bye, friends!**

**Transition:** *You will need to develop a transition based on song choice.*

**Song 2:** *Song of your choice*

**Pray**

## Bible Lesson Introduction

**Pray:** When we pray, who are we talking to? (God) He made the whole world, and He hears us when we pray. When we pray, we want to make sure we're focused and showing respect. How do we do that? (We fold our hands, bow our heads, and close our eyes)

**Find It:** Today we will find our lesson in the New Testament. Is this in the front or back of our Bible?

**Timeline:** We can find the first church in the New Testament. The book of Acts tells how the church started, and the rest of the New Testament tells us more about the church.

### Introduction to the Bible Lesson:

What is a church? Usually when we think of church, we think of a building, right? But that's not what God means when He talks about the church! The church is all of the people who believe in Jesus and love Him. That means that we are the church! Today we're going to learn how we can work together to do things that show how great God is, like celebrating and worshiping Him. That is called "glorifying" God. Can you say "glorify"? We want to glorify God in everything we do.

So how can we, as the church, celebrate and bring glory to God?

## Lesson

### **We can be the church and glorify God by using our...EARS**

*Show the ears cut-out and then put them on the poster board outline.* Let's talk about our ears. How can we use our ears to be the church and glorify God?

- We can listen (*point to your ears*) to God's Word. This means if someone is reading the Bible and teaching us about God and His Word, we should listen.
- When someone is sad, we can use our ears and listen as they tell us why they are sad.
- When someone is praying, we can use our ears to listen to them pray.

We can use your ears to be the church and glorify God. Let's all say, "Glorify!"

### **We can be the church and glorify God by using our...EYES**

*Show the eyes cut-out and then put them on the posterboard outline.* I wonder how we can use our eyes to be the church and glorify God.

- We can use our eyes to see people who need our help, and then we can help them.
- With our eyes, we can read God's Words in the Bible.
- We can also use our eyes to look all around at everything God created and thank Him for it. We can see the sun, the birds, the beautiful flowers, and the animals. I can also use my eyes to look at you boys and girls and see that God created each of you! *If you have a window in your classroom, have children look out the window and think about everything God has made.*

We can use our eyes to be the church and glorify God. Let's all say, "Glorify!"

### **We can be the church and glorify God by using our...MOUTH**

What do you think is going to be next? *Show the mouth cut-out and then put it on the poster board outline.* I wonder how we can use our mouth to be the church and glorify God.

- We can use our mouth to sing praises to God. *Sing a chorus of a song.*
- *Show Wordless Book.* We can use our mouth to tell others about Jesus using the Wordless Book.
- We can fold our hands and pray to God. *Fold hands.*
- We can use our mouth to encourage others and say kind things to them. *Have children say, "God loves you" to someone else.*
- *Show pretend food or a picture of a meal.* We can use our mouth to share a meal with other people. Inviting someone over for a meal is a great way to be the church!
- We can use our mouth to tell other people how awesome our God is. *Have children say, "God is awesome!"*

We can use our mouth to be the church and glorify God. Let's all say, "Glorify!"

### **We can be the church and glorify God by using our...HANDS**

Let's review, we've talked about our ears, our eyes, and our mouth. What's next? *Show the hands cut-out and put them on the poster board outline.* How can we use our hands to be the church and glorify God?

- We can use our hands to hold someone's hand when they are sad or scared. Holding their hand tells them that we are there for them and it'll be ok.
- We can use our hands to praise God when we sing. We can clap our hands during a worship song. Or we can raise or wave our hands during a song. *Clap your hands.*
- We can help someone carry something they can't carry. We can use our hands and carry it for

them.

- We can use our hands to share something we have with a friend or with someone in our family.
- We can also use our hands to give money back to God at church or to someone who needs money because they don't have enough to buy something important.

We can use our hands to be the church and glorify God. Let's all say, "Glorify!"

### **We can be the church and glorify God by using our...FEET**

The last one is our feet. *Show the feet cut-out and put them on the poster board outline.* How can we use our feet to be the church and to glorify God?

- We can use our feet to walk with our family to our neighbor's house and invite them to come to church.
- We can use our feet to bring things to someone who cannot walk.
- We can use our feet to take a meal to someone who can't go out and get a meal. *Stand up and walk in place.*

We can use our feet to be the church and glorify God. Let's all say, "Glorify!"

## **Conclusion**

Okay, boys and girls, do you remember our big word for today? (Glorify) Let's all say, "Glorify!" That means that we're going to show how great God is by celebrating and worshiping Him. I want to read you a verse from my Bible. It's in the New Testament. It's 1 Corinthians 10:31. *Read 1 Corinthians 10:31 from your Bible.* Everything we do should be done to...what's our new word...glorify God! Since we are the church, we should use our ears, eyes, mouth, hands, and feet to glorify God.

After Jesus went back to heaven, the people on earth who followed Him wanted to keep living the way Jesus had taught them. So, they came together, and they were called the church. It wasn't a building, it was the people! They did what Jesus wanted them to do. They worshiped God together. They prayed together. They met together to study, eat, and celebrate what Jesus had done for them. They told other people about Jesus, so they, too, could be believers and be part of the church. They worked together, and they celebrated God.

## **Do Right and Feel Right**

Do you believe Jesus died on the cross? Do you believe that He loves you so much that He died on the cross for you? Do you know what then? You need to celebrate and glorify God in everything you do. When people look at you, they should know that you love and believe in Jesus. Do you think you can use your ears, and your eyes, and your mouth, and your hands, and your feet to glorify God? Do you think you can do all of that for God? You sure can! Everything we do should be done to celebrate and glorify God.

## **Review Questions: What did we discover today?**

1. Is the church a building or is it the people who love Jesus? (The people who love Jesus)
2. Should the church glorify God? (Yes)
3. What does it mean to glorify God? (To show how great God is by doing things like celebrating and worshiping Him)
4. Name one way we can glorify God with our ears. (Listen to God's Word, listen to someone who is sad or scared, listen to someone pray, etc.)

5. Name one way we can glorify God with our eyes. (Look for people who need help, read the Bible, look all around at everything God created, etc.)
6. Name one way we can glorify God with our mouth. (Sing praises to God, share the Wordless Book, share a meal with other people, tell others how awesome God is, etc.)
7. Name one way we can glorify God with our hands. (Clap our hands when we sing songs to God, raise our hands or wave them when we sing songs, give an offering in church, share toys with our friends, etc.)
8. Name one way we can glorify God with our feet. (Walk to the neighbors and invite them to church, take a meal to someone, bring things to someone who cannot walk, etc.)

## Discover Time

**Transition to Discover Time:** Let's sing a praise song to God as we go to Discover Time.

**Do Right:** I will glorify God as part of His church.

**Goal:** To help children identify ways they can glorify God.

### Large Group Option 1:

**Supplies:**

- Pictures of the following: a hand, a foot, a mouth, an ear, an eye (lay pictures on the floor) (see Resources Booklet)
- Bean bags
- Painter's tape/ masking tape or chalk (create a line about five feet away from the pictures for children to stand behind)
- Note: for large classes, set up several of stations with pictures and lines

**Instructions for the DT Leader:**

1. Children should line up behind the line and take turns tossing three bean bags each.
2. If one of the bean bags lands on a picture, the child can tell one way they can glorify God by using that part of their body.

### Large Group Option 2:

**Supplies:**

- Cardboard boxes (from your Box Station) and extra boxes as needed - the more the better!
- Painter's tape, masking tape, or chalk dust (create a square for each team on the floor at least 6'x 6')

**Instructions for the DT Leader:**

1. Divide children into teams of approximately five children.
2. Have each team build a building out of boxes along the taped lines.
3. Once several layers are stacked, invite children inside the walls.
4. Ask children, "Who is the church?" Children should respond, "We are the church."

**Alternate ideas:**

- Use LEGO bricks to build a building. Add LEGO people inside the building walls to create a church.
- Have children create a church building or multiple buildings by gluing "paper bricks" (cut bricks from paper in advance) to the outside of a shoebox(es). Once finished, place clothespin people inside the box(es).

## Classroom Review Time

**Lead Teachers ~ Connecting the DT to the Lesson:** Is the church a building or the people inside the building? We are the church! Each one of you who believes in Jesus as your Savior is part of God's family called the church.

### Reviewing the Know Right:

#### Supplies:

- Body part cut-outs
- Cups (Hide the body part cut-outs from the lesson under cups. Add more cups upside down, so children do not know where the cut-outs are hidden.)

#### Instructions:

1. Have children take turns choosing a cup to turn over.
2. If they find a body part under a cup, they will answer one of the Lesson Review questions before inserting placing the part on the body outline.

### Think Right Activity while waiting for parents:

#### Option 1

#### Supplies:

- Balloons (slightly soft so they will not pop under pressure)

#### Instructions:

1. Give each child a balloon.
2. Say: Balloons are used to celebrate, and we're going to celebrate God in this activity. Let's glorify God by shouting out a praise: "God, You are awesome!"
3. Children will repeat it and then hit their balloons up in the air in celebration until the leader gives a loud signal. Instruct children to grab their balloon and hold it tightly when they hear the signal.
4. Choose a child to suggest a different praise. You may have to repeat it so everyone can hear.
5. Have all children repeat the praise and then hit their balloons until they hear the signal again.
6. Continue doing this, choosing a different child each round to shout out the praise.

#### Option 2

#### Supplies:

- Mirrors (one for each leader to use with a small group of children)

#### Instructions:

1. Say: Who can tell me what the church is? Most of us think about the building we come to on Sundays as the church. But that's not what God means by the church. From the Bible we learn the church is the people who believe in Jesus as their Savior and want to celebrate how great God is. If you believe in Jesus, you are part of the church. That doesn't mean that you are a brick or a pipe or a light fixture. No! You are someone who wants to celebrate how great God is. You are someone who believes Jesus is your Savior. You are someone who wants to...what's our new word today...glorify God!
2. Have each child look at themselves in the mirror and say, "I am part of the church if I believe in Jesus."
3. Pass the mirror to the next child and make the declaration.

# Preschool Printable Resources

Year 3 - Quarter 4



**Lesson 1 - Think Right**  
Acts 16:31 activity sheet



**Lesson 3**  
Nineveh and Tarshish signs  
(8.5x11 and 11x17)



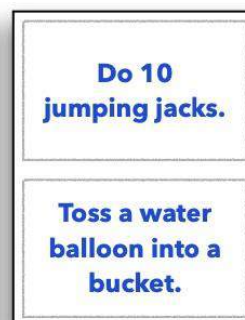
**Lesson 3**  
Tickets to Tarshish  
(enough for six kids)



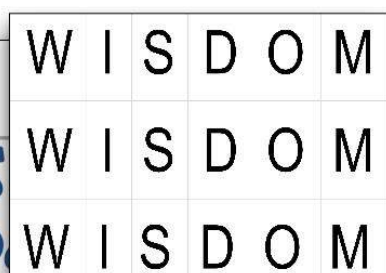
**Lesson 4**  
Bookmarks



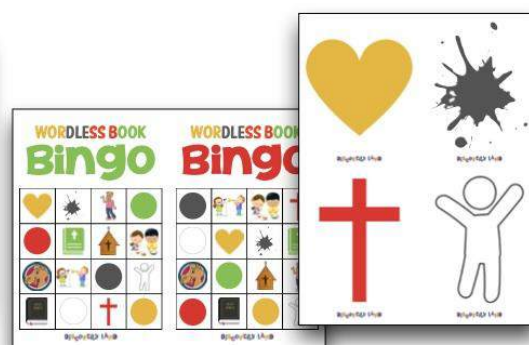
**Lesson 6**  
One Way Challenge Cards



**Lesson 7**  
Wisdom comes from God poster



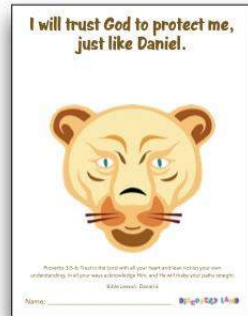
**Lesson 7**  
W-I-S-D-O-M letters



**Lesson 7 - Think Right activity**  
Wordless Book Bingo cards (six different cards) and Leader cards



**Lesson 8 - Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego**



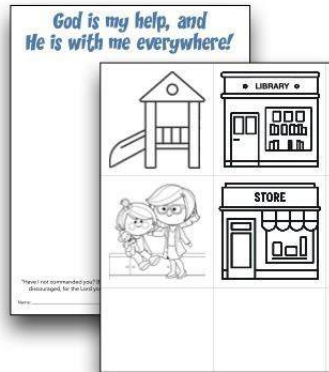
**Lesson 9  
Daniel in the lions' den**



**Lesson 11 - Think Right activity  
Pictures of fearful things**



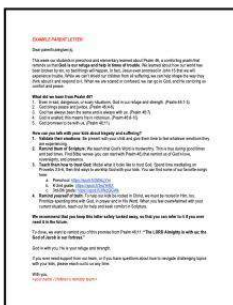
**Get on Track Lesson: When Tragedy Happens  
Creative Idea: Pictures for lesson**



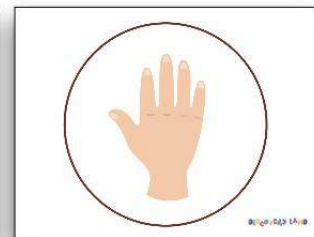
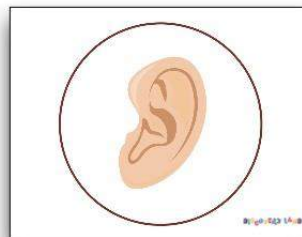
**Get on Track Lesson:  
When Tragedy Happens  
God is my help activity  
sheet and location cards**



**Get on Track Lesson:  
When Tragedy Happens  
God is my help alternate  
activity sheet**



**Get on Track Lesson:  
When Tragedy Happens  
Sample Parent Letter**



**Get on Track Lesson: The Church  
Large Group Option 1: Body parts**

# The Wordless Book - Presenting the Gospel to children



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

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

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

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

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

## Using the Wordless Book:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Additional Tips:

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

## Coaching Kids For Salvation

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

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

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

**Allowing the child to personalize the need for a Savior:**  
**Ask:** Have you sinned? How have you sinned?  
Show child **Romans 9:23** 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 personalizes that they have sinned, you can continue with the conversation.

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

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

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

DISCOVERY LAND

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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


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

Adapted from CEF salvation training.


DISCOVERY LAND


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

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



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





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

# Acknowledgements and Permissions

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

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