

DISCOVERY LAND

Year 2 – Quarter 3

Spring 2025

Elementary Curriculum



A Message from Kris Smoll

Dear Leaders,

Could you imagine what would happen if you and the other children's ministry leaders at your church united with parents to truly challenge kids to live with a solid biblical worldview? Spiritual conversions would happen during the week and on weekends. Kids would be coached to take the events and needs of the world and funnel them through the 4 Rights. Kids would see prayers answered, and the Bible would become a valuable tool to help them stand firm while lovingly witnessing to their peers. Hope, joy, peace, confidence, patience, and trust in God would begin to stabilize and bring God-sized excitement to this generation.

Where do we start, and what is our responsibility as a children's ministry leader? God placed us in the church age with the incredible power of the Holy Spirit, so we could confidently present the truth of God's Word to children who desperately need Him. We have the opportunity and honor to pray for kids by name and point them to truth in the classroom. As we begin our Spring quarter, let's refocus our minds on the importance of teaching a solid biblical worldview. Let's study hard, pray diligently, serve Him wholeheartedly, and challenge parents to read and complete Tracker's Treasures with their kids each week.

Our time is limited, and the return of Christ is soon...let's race for the soul.
2 Corinthians 6:2

Kris Smoll

Executive Director of Discovery Land Global

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Understanding the Curriculum

Overview

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

The curriculum was developed to teach students:

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

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

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

Leaders

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

LEADER TIPS

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

Smaller classes may combine the DT Leader and Shepherd positions.

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

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

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

Elementary Program Overview

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

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

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

SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

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

Pre-Service Review Game

LEADER TIPS

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

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

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

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

Worship

Worship is designed to:

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

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

LEADER TIPS

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

Discover Time

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

LEADER TIPS

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

Bible Lesson

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

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

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

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

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

Suggested steps for preparing your Bible lesson:

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

End-of-Class Review Game

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

LEADER TIP

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

Classroom Resources

The following teaching tools are provided in the classroom:

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

Tracker Tickets

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

Currency Rate

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

Tracker's Treasures

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

Elementary Syllabus

Year 2 – Quarter 3

Lesson 1: March 2, 2025

Matthew 14:22-33

Know Right:	Jesus walks on water.
Think Right:	Proverbs 3:5-6 (Top 12)
Do Right:	I will trust in Jesus.
Feel Right:	I can feel confident when I trust in Jesus.

Lesson 2: March 9, 2025

Matthew 18:1-5, 18:10-14

Know Right:	Jesus teaches about being humble, like children.
Think Right:	1 Peter 5:6
Do Right:	I will be humble when I follow Jesus.
Feel Right:	I can feel humble knowing that I am following Jesus.

Topical Lesson: March 16, 2025 – Jesus understands us

Know Right:	Jesus understands us.
Think Right:	Psalms 139:1-2
Do Right:	I will remember that Jesus understands my emotions and experiences.
Feel Right:	I can feel loved because Jesus understands me and helps me.

Topical Lesson: March 23, 2025 – Jesus is our true friend

Know Right:	Jesus is our true friend.
Think Right:	John 15:13
Do Right:	I can enjoy my friendship with Jesus.
Feel Right:	I can feel joyful with Jesus as my true friend.

Lesson 3: March 30, 2025

Matthew 20:17-19, 21:1-11

Know Right:	Jesus enters Jerusalem.
Think Right:	Psalms 95:6
Do Right:	I will worship Jesus as my King.
Feel Right:	I can feel joyful when I worship Jesus as my King.

Lesson 4: April 6, 2025

Matthew 26 – 28

Know Right:	Jesus rises from the dead.
Think Right:	Acts 16:31 (Top 12)
Do Right:	I will believe that Jesus died for my sin and rose again.
Feel Right:	I can feel thankful that Jesus died for my sin and rose again.

Lesson 5: April 13, 2025

Acts 1:1-11; 1 Corinthians 15:3-8

Know Right:	Jesus returns to heaven.
Think Right:	John 11:25b
Do Right:	I will believe that Jesus is alive in heaven.
Feel Right:	I can feel hopeful when I believe that Jesus is alive in heaven.

Topical Lesson: April 20, 2025 (Easter) – He rocked, it rolled!

Know Right: Jesus is alive.
Think Right: 1 Corinthians 15:3-4
Do Right: I will celebrate and tell others Jesus is alive.
Feel Right: I can be filled with joy knowing Jesus is alive.

Lesson 6: April 27, 2025

Acts 2:1-24

Know Right: The Holy Spirit comes upon the disciples.
Think Right: Acts 1:8a
Do Right: I will depend on the power of the Holy Spirit.
Feel Right: I can feel powerful through the Holy Spirit.

Lesson 7 (this lesson is not being used during this sequence)

Acts 2:22-41

Know Right: ~~Peter tells others about Jesus.~~
Think Right: ~~Mark 16:15~~
Do Right: ~~I will tell others the Good News about Jesus.~~
Feel Right: ~~I can feel excited when I tell others the Good News about Jesus.~~

Lesson 8 (this lesson is not being used during this sequence)

Acts 3:1 – 4:22

Know Right: ~~Peter stands firm for Jesus.~~
Think Right: ~~1 Corinthians 15:58 (Top 12)~~
Do Right: ~~I will stand firm for Jesus.~~
Feel Right: ~~I can feel courageous when I stand firm for Jesus.~~

Lesson 9: May 4, 2025

Acts 5:17-42

Know Right: The disciples face persecution.
Think Right: Acts 5:29
Do Right: I will obey God.
Feel Right: I can feel joyful when I obey God.

Lesson 10: May 11, 2025

Acts 12:1-18

Know Right: Peter escapes from prison.
Think Right: Joshua 1:9 (Top 12)
Do Right: I will confidently pray to God.
Feel Right: I can feel peaceful when I confidently pray to God.

Lesson 11: May 18, 2025 – Review Day

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

Topical Lesson: May 25, 2025 – Prayer

Know Right: God wants us to trust Him when we pray.
Think Right: Proverbs 3:5-6 (Top 12)
Do Right: I will trust God when I pray.
Feel Right: I can feel peaceful when I pray.

Quarter Overview

Year 2 – Quarter 3

As we continue our walk with Jesus, we learn many important truths in the books of Matthew and Acts.

We should always trust in Jesus as we travel through the storms of this world and, just like Peter, we will be able to walk on the turbulent waters. We may become distracted by the wind and the waves, but when we cry out to Him, He will catch us before we sink.

After failing to learn from their Master's humility, the disciples argued about which one of them would be the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Jesus took this opportunity to explain that He wants children to come into His kingdom and, in fact, grown-ups must change and become like children to enter as well. This change requires us to see ourselves as God sees us and become humble as we follow Jesus.

As we envision Jesus making His triumphal entry into Jerusalem riding on a donkey, we understand who He truly is because we live in the church age. But many of the Jewish people in Jesus' time, and even His own disciples, did not yet understand, even though He had told them how He would be betrayed, crucified, and raised to life. As Jesus approached Jerusalem, the people shouted "Hosanna!" (which means "save us now"). Their eyes were on this life, not the life to come. On Palm Sunday, Jesus was worshiped. Days later, He was crucified. Will we make the same mistake and fail to recognize Jesus for who He truly is? Will we worship Him only for a moment or a day or until life disappoints us? Or will we always worship Jesus as our King?

Jesus knew what was ahead as He made His way into Jerusalem among shouts of praise. He knew He was on His way to be betrayed, mocked, beaten, and crucified. He knew He was going there in our place to pay the full price only He could pay. The two criminals who hung on either side of Him on the day of His crucifixion are a reminder of the choice we all have. Will we be the one that rejects Him, to suffer an eternity of punishment, or will we believe that Jesus died for our sin and rose again?

Before He died, Jesus told His disciples that He would be raised to life on the third day. However, their behavior after Jesus' crucifixion revealed that the disciples neither understood nor believed this essential truth. Knowing this, Jesus responded to the disciples with patience and love, as He demonstrated in undeniable ways the reality of His resurrection. As we begin to walk with Jesus through the book of Acts, we can observe the 180° turn that the disciples made as they believed the truth about our risen Savior. Now we, too, can believe that Jesus is alive in heaven.

Forty days after His resurrection Jesus left this earth and ascended to the right hand of His Father. Thankfully, He did not leave His people alone. He sent a Helper, who would stay with us until the end. This Helper is one of the three Persons of God, the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit seals us in Jesus, guides us through this life, and bears fruit through us. When we trust in Jesus as our Lord and Savior, we are not left in our own strength, but now have the ability to depend on the power of the Holy Spirit.

(Lesson 7 is not being used during this sequence) ~~After we are saved by Jesus, we get to live for Him every day. God gives us the power to live for Him through the Holy Spirit. One thing the Holy Spirit gives us the power to do is to tell other people about Jesus, so they, too, can be saved and inherit the kingdom of God. That is an amazing privilege! The disciple Peter had the chance to tell others about Jesus, but before Jesus was crucified, he actually denied Him three times! Later, after Jesus' resurrection, Peter boldly explained the truth to a crowd, and many received eternal life. Peter's example should encourage us to do as he did and tell others the Good News about Jesus.~~

(Lesson 8 is not being used during this sequence) ~~Once again, we see Peter's bold faith when God used him to heal a disabled beggar. Peter capitalized on the opportunity and proclaimed the Gospel of Jesus to the gathered crowd. Many chose to believe. However, in spite of the obvious miracle, the religious leaders chose to reject the truth. They persecuted Peter and John by throwing them in jail and threatening them. But the Holy Spirit continued to supply these believers with courage, and they refused to stop speaking about what they had seen and heard. When we are faced with threats and persecution, what will we do? Will we give in to the pressure, or will we be like Peter and John and stand firm for Jesus?~~

Peter and the other disciples maintained their stand for the Lord and performed many more miracles that brought people to Christ. In their jealousy, the religious leaders threw the disciples in jail, Peter for the second time. The disciples were ordered to stop teaching in the name of Jesus, to which they replied, "We must obey God rather than men!" Now we know when we are faced with the choice to obey men or to obey God, it is God we must obey.

As Jesus had warned, the persecution of His followers continued. After King Herod had John's brother James executed, he threw Peter in jail (this was Peter's third time to be imprisoned). The church of believers began to earnestly pray for Peter. In the midst of his imprisonment, guarded by four soldiers at a time, Peter was able to sleep soundly. When the angel of the Lord arrived to free him, he had to strike Peter in the side to wake him up! God delivered another miracle and showed all believers that we can confidently pray to God, and He hears and answers our prayers.

As we come to a brief rest in this journey, we should take some time to consider all that we have learned. Jesus has taught us some incredible truths in Matthew and Acts – truths that we need to always remember and live by. Let's celebrate what Jesus has done this year and make the commitment to remember God's Word and use it.

Lesson 1 – March 2, 2025

Matthew 14:22-33

Know Right:	Jesus walks on water.
Think Right:	“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.” Proverbs 3:5-6 (Top 12)
Do Right:	I will trust in Jesus.
Feel Right:	I can feel confident when I trust in Jesus.

GET READY!

How comforting it is to know that Jesus is always with us, even when we encounter difficulties in life! Instead of becoming overwhelmed by our current circumstances, we can choose to fix our eyes on Jesus and trust Him. This week, let’s find ways to put this truth into practice. We can confidently trust in Jesus!

Pray: Give thanks for each student in your class and for the opportunity to teach them the Word of God.

Read: Matthew 14:22-33

Know Right: Jesus walks on water

We should always trust in Jesus as we travel through the storms of this world and, just like Peter, we will be able to walk on the turbulent waters. We may become distracted by the wind and the waves, but when we cry out to Him, He will catch us before we sink.

GET SET!

Lead Teacher’s Notes:

- Please refer to the Children’s Ministry Resource Bible: page 1213.

Creative Ideas for the Bible Lesson:

1. Bring a tub or tray to class to fill with water. Use action figures and a boat to enhance your lesson.
2. Show a map or a picture that highlights the Sea of Galilee, where things happened (use the internet to find a map).
3. Create a “storm” in your classroom with special effects: wind (fan), flashing lights, rain (squirt guns), etc. and a boat made up of chairs in a row.



GO!

Pre-Service Review Game and Worship

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

Discover Time: Got trust?

Goal: To teach students what it means to **trust** in something.

Kindergarten: Water Station

Supplies:

- Four nice, clean buckets in different colors (one per team; place water in each bucket so balloons do not break)
- Four small boxes in poor condition with sharp rocks and/or thumbtacks in the bottom (one per team)
- Water balloons (recommend 80-100 in case some break; place in the water)
- Starting line
- Four cones (the colors should match the buckets; place a cone, a bucket, and a box for each team on the starting line)
- Tracker Tickets

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Divide students into four teams.
2. Teams will compete in a relay. The goal is to bring twelve water balloons, one at a time, to one of their team buckets.
3. Students will begin at their cones and run to the water area to pick up a water balloon and carefully return back to their team's buckets. Students will need to decide where to safely place their water balloon, either in the nice clean bucket or the small box in poor condition.
4. The first team to safely bring all twelve balloons to their team buckets will win.
5. Throughout the activity, ask students which bucket/box they can **trust** to safely hold all twelve balloons. Just like the balloons are safe in the bucket, we can **trust** God to hold us and keep us safe.
6. Award two Tracker Tickets to each member of the winning team.
7. Safely return the balloons to the water area and repeat the activity.

1st Grade: LEGO® Station

Supplies:

- Long gutter pieces, long boards, or large trays
- Finish line (at least twenty feet away from the LEGO Station)
- Obstacles between the LEGO Station and the finish line; teams will need to carry their finished creation over the obstacles to the finish line
- Tracker Tickets

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Divide students into two teams.
2. Teams will compete to create the longest line of LEGO bricks. Then as a team they must transport their creation over the obstacles to the finish line intact – all hands must be touching the LEGO bricks as they are transported.
3. Students have the option of building their line of LEGO bricks with the bricks standing up or laying down. Students are also allowed to use the gutter pieces, boards, or trays to safely transport their LEGO bricks to the finish line. They can even build their line of LEGO bricks inside the gutter or on the boards or trays. Either way, repeatedly highlight how they can **trust** the gutter/board/tray to safely hold their LEGO bricks. We can **trust** God to hold us and keep us safe, just like the gutter/board/tray holds the LEGO bricks.
4. Teams have ten minutes to build and deliver their line of LEGO bricks to the finish line.
5. Award three Tracker Tickets to each member of the winning team.



2nd Grade: Art Station

Supplies:

- White cardstock (cut into 5.5 x 8.5-inch pieces; one per student)
- Paint
- Paint brushes
- Water cups
- Fun craft supplies (popsicle sticks, markers, glue, pipe cleaners, etc.)
- Sample of a completed sign
- Special prize for winner



Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Students will compete to create the most creative sign that says “Trust Jesus”.
2. Tell students that the leaders will judge the signs, and the winner will be announced at the end of class. The winner will receive a special prize. (Optional: Display the winning sign at the entrance of your children’s ministry space next week in a special frame.)
3. Alert students of the amount of time they have left as the activity progresses.
4. When time is up, have students leave their signs at the Art Station. Explain that they will need to **trust** that their signs will appear outside their classroom by the end of class, and that the winner will be awarded a special prize.
5. During class, you (the DT Leader) should bring the paintings from the Art Station and set them outside the classroom for the students to take home when they leave.
6. At the end of class, you (the DT Leader) should bring in the winning sign and announce the winner. Award the special prize to the winner (make sure it is really special!). Ask students if they really **trusted** that the prize they were going to win was really a “special prize”. Ask them if they’ll trust you more the next time, since they’ve seen how special the prize is.

3rd Grade: Box Station

Supplies:

- Two stools
- Two sets of 20 boxes with one or more words of Proverbs 3:5-6 on them (print each set on different color paper) (see appendix)
- Tracker Tickets

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Teams will race to stack Proverbs 3:5-6 in order. Each team must stack their boxes on top of a stool.
2. The first team to stack their boxes in order on the stool will receive two Tracker Tickets each.
3. Then have students move back and pull out the stools and watch the boxes collapse.
4. Have teams repeat the activity, stacking their boxes on the floor.
5. The first team to stack their boxes in order on the floor will receive two Tracker Tickets each.
6. Once both rounds have been completed, ask students the following questions: 1) How stable was the stool? 2) Did you **trust** the floor or the stool to support the boxes? Emphasize the difference between **trusting** in something that cannot be moved (the floor) and **trusting** in something that isn't stable (the stool).

4th Grade: Play-Doh® Station

Supplies:

- Play-Doh letter stampers (individual plastic stamp tools that press letters into the Play-Doh; if letter stampers aren't available, use craft sticks to "write" in the Play-Doh)
- Poster with Proverbs 3:5-6 (see appendix)
- Special prizes for the members of the winning team

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Divide students into four teams.
2. Give students ten minutes to roll out their Play-Doh and then stamp out Proverbs 3:5-6.
3. Tell students that the team who completes the challenge first will win a special prize.
4. Ask students if they **trust** that the prize will be special.
5. Start the competition and encourage students to work as a team. Note: Divide the verse into sections and have each student work on their section. Then at the end they can link their verse together. This will keep all students involved.
6. When there is a winning team, award them the special prize. Make sure it is really special!
7. Ask students if they really **trusted** that there was going to be such a special prize.
8. Ask them if they'll **trust** you more next time since they've seen how special this prize is.



5th Grade: Mission Station – *The Mission Lesson is in the appendix.*

Bible Lesson Introduction

Lead Teachers ~ Connecting the DT to the Lesson:

Discuss the element of your grade's activity that the students needed to trust.

When you were doing your Discover Time activity, did you trust in the _____ (K – bucket, 1st – gutter/board/tray, 2nd – leader and prize, 3rd – the floor, 4th – leader and prize)? What does it mean to trust in something? If you had not trusted in the _____ (*insert based on activity*), would you have been successful in the activity or would you have failed?

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

Pray: *Have a student open in prayer asking God to give you (the teacher) wisdom as you teach the Word of God.*

Find it: *Where do we find Jesus doing ministry on this earth, in the OT or the NT? (NT) Write the scripture reference, Matthew 14:22-33, on the board and have students open their Bibles to Matthew 14:22. Teach that the reference is the verse's "address" in the Bible. Remind students that Matthew is the book, the first number "14" is the chapter, and the second number "22" is the verse. Younger students and visitors may need assistance. A more advanced class may use the "Sword Drill" method.*

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

Timeline: *Have students find the life of Jesus on the timeline.*

Introduction to the Bible Lesson:

Remember a couple of weeks ago when we learned about Jesus feeding the 5,000? We learned that we need to depend on Jesus for all our needs. When we focus on 1 Peter 5:7, we are to cast all our anxiety on Him. When we do that, we need to trust in Jesus completely. Right now, we're going to study God's Word to see how one of Jesus' disciples learned that he needed to always trust in Jesus!

Scripture Outline: Matthew 14:22-33

Jesus prays

Read Matthew 14:22-23

Recap: Jesus had just heard that His cousin, John the Baptist, had been beheaded by King Herod. Jesus then fed 5,000 people. Now Jesus sends His disciples ahead, and He stays alone to talk to His Father, God.

Do you ever do this? Get alone and talk with God?

Where is your favorite place to quietly pray?

When you pray, God hears you! He is never too busy for you.

Jesus walks on water

Read Matthew 14:24-26 *with a lot of expression!*

Recap: The wind was blowing hard, and the disciples' boat was struggling in the large waves. Very late at night Jesus walked on top of the water out to the disciples' boat! The disciples thought Jesus was a ghost and were very afraid.

Can you imagine that? It was better than any action movie you see at a theater because it really happened. That is how powerful Jesus is.

Jesus speaks to the disciples

Read Matthew 14:27

Recap: What did Jesus tell His disciples? (Take courage and do not fear!) Do you know that our God is not a God of fear? He doesn't want you to ever be afraid. If you are afraid, He wants you to trust in Him, so He can help you overcome the fear.

What is a verse that teaches us to "Trust in the Lord?" (Proverbs 3:5-6)

Jesus speaks to Peter

Read Matthew 14:28-30

Recap: Jesus told the disciples who He is, and Peter asked for proof. Jesus told Peter to come to Him, and Peter walked on the water toward Jesus. Peter became afraid because of the wind. Because He focused on the wind, he stopped trusting in Jesus and started to sink. He cried out to Jesus to save Him. *This is a good time to remind students to pray, which will help them keep their eyes fixed on Jesus. In doing this, they should also remember and use God's Word that they've hidden in their hearts. The wind and waves Peter saw were real, just as the problems our students face are real.*

Jesus catches him

Read Matthew 14:31

Recap: Jesus immediately saved Peter from sinking. Jesus asked Peter why he didn't trust in Him. Did you notice how fast Jesus reached out to Peter? Immediately! If you call out for Jesus, He will be there for you right away!

They worship Jesus

Read Matthew 14:32-33

Recap: Jesus and Peter got into the boat and the wind died down. The disciples recognized Jesus' power and worshiped Him. He is God's Son! Then everyone made it safely to shore.

Conclusion

Peter and the other disciples were facing something difficult. Jesus was there to help them, but Peter wanted proof. When Jesus gave Peter that proof, Peter still didn't trust in Him, and he sank into the waves. He could have continued to walk on the water. All Peter had to do was keep his eyes on Jesus and always trust in Him.

Do Right and Feel Right

When you are facing difficult challenges, Jesus is there with you. He wants to help you get through the tough times. Will you choose to focus on your problems, or will you trust in Jesus? When you trust in Jesus, you can feel confident as He helps you walk on top of your troubles.

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

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

1. Why did Jesus stay alone when He sent the disciples away in the boat? (He stayed to talk to God, His Father)
2. What happened to the disciples when they were crossing the lake? (The wind blew and made the boat struggle in the waves)
3. How did Jesus get to His disciples in the boat? (He walked to them on the water)
4. How did Jesus prove to Peter He was who He said He was? (He allowed Peter to walk on the water towards Him)
5. Why did Peter start to sink? (He looked at the wind and became scared instead of trusting in Jesus)
6. What are some problems in your life? Will you trust in Jesus to help you get through them?
7. What specifically will you do when you face problems? (Pray, use Scripture, and then trust)

Lesson 2 – March 9, 2025

Matthew 18:1-5, 18:10-14

Know Right:	Jesus teaches about being humble, like children.
Think Right:	“Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that He may lift you up in due time.” 1 Peter 5:6
Do Right:	I will be humble when I follow Jesus.
Feel Right:	I can feel humble knowing that I am following Jesus.

GET READY!

Jesus reveals that children can teach us much about humility. This week, let’s thank God that He has put us in a position to teach and learn from children. What a gift! What might our students be able to teach us about humility? Let’s ask God to give us eyes to see and learn from these students as we prepare to lead them this week.

Pray: Ask God to open your students’ eyes and minds, so they can fully understand the value of being humble.

Read: Matthew 18:1-5, 18:10-14

Know Right: Jesus teaches about being humble, like children

After failing to learn from their Master’s humility, the disciples argued about which one of them would be the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Jesus took this opportunity to explain that He wants children to come into His kingdom and, in fact, grown-ups must change and become like children to enter as well. This change requires us to see ourselves as God sees us and become humble as we follow Jesus.

GET SET!

Lead Teacher’s Notes:

- Many students are taught to depend on themselves, rather than to seek advice and apply it to their lives. While this lesson may conflict with what they’ve learned at school or at home, it provides an opportunity to remind them that God’s way is often different from the world’s way of doing things. As Christians, we need to choose God’s way.
- This lesson doesn’t necessarily have a strong “story plot” but is more topical.
- What does humble mean? Understanding my weakness and seeking to understand and learn from others.

Creative Ideas for the Bible Lesson:

1. Fill three gift bags and number them 1-3. Choose one student at a time to come up and “discover” what is inside the bag. Use the props to teach each part of the lesson:
 - Bag 1: A crown (the kingdom of heaven)
 - Bag 2: A picture of Jesus (Jesus is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven)
 - Bag 3: Picture of children or little children from a dollhouse (Jesus talked about being like children)
2. In the center of the whiteboard, write the word “Humble.” As you teach the lesson, have students write words or phrases that will help define this word such as: putting others first, listening to others, knowing I need God’s help, focusing on Jesus, not bragging, etc.
3. To explain flesh versus soul, use a candy bar in a wrapper. The wrapper represents the flesh, and the soul is the chocolate. When we die, the wrapper stays behind, but our soul goes to heaven. Our soul is eternal, and our soul is what is forgiven.

GO!

Pre-Service Review Game and Worship

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

Discover Time: How humble are you?

Goal: To introduce students to the concept of being **humble** (humility). Being **humble** in this activity means they will listen and follow their leader’s instructions and advice.

Kindergarten: Sand Station

Supplies:

- Water (or a water hose ready to use)
- Shovels and buckets
- Timer
- Tracker Tickets

Setup instructions: Divide the sand into four sections.

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Divide students into four teams.
2. Assign each team a section of the sand.
3. Challenge students to work as a team to dig the biggest hole.
4. Set the timer for eight minutes and allow teams to start. Make it a huge competition and cheer for each team.
5. During the competition, a preselected leader should say, “I’ve done this before; does anyone want any tips to dig their hole faster?” For those who desire to listen, give advice such as: if you work as a team, you will dig faster (have one partner dig while the other partner pushes the sand to the side); don’t kneel too close to the sand hole or sand will drop back into the hole; wet the sand as you work.
6. If students follow the advice, highlight how they were **humble** by listening and doing what the “experienced digger” had to say.
7. Announce the winning team and award five Tracker Tickets per person.

Alternate idea: Have students make the tallest sand tower, instead of digging the biggest hole.

Tips for the Lead Teacher: Observe to see if any students are **humble** enough to ask questions, seek advice, listen, and then depend on the leader's instructions during the activity, or if they ignore the instructions and keep doing things their way. Use the **humble** students as positive examples in the lesson.

1st Grade: Art Station

Supplies:

- Cardstock activity sheet with "Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand..." 1 Peter 5:6a written in bubble letters (see appendix)
- Paint
- Thin paint brushes
- Glitter
- Water cups
- Hand washing supplies
- Sample painted poster that looks amazing and is displayed like it is a prized piece of art
- Optional: invite a special guest artist

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Challenge students to paint in the letters of the verse on their activity sheet.
2. Tell students that you will talk about what the word **humble** means in class.
3. As the students paint, one preselected leader (or guest artist) should announce that they have experience with painting. Ask students if they would like some advice. If students raise their hands for advice, walk around and give advice such as: take your time, outline the edges first and then paint on the inside. Coach students on how to blend a few colors to make unique colors (without making an ugly color), add glitter to the paint to make it sparkle, etc. Hint: Do research before you arrive.
4. Have students take their posters to their classroom at the end of the activity and lay them out to dry. At the end of class, have students take their posters home.

Tips for the Lead Teacher: Observe to see if any students are **humble** enough to ask questions, seek advice, listen, and then depend on the leader's instructions. Use these **humble** students as positive examples in the lesson.

2nd Grade: Food Station

Supplies:

- Recipe cards (see recipe below or use your favorite smoothie recipe) (see appendix)
- Smoothie ingredients
- Measuring cups (1 cup and ¼ cup)
- Blenders
- 8 oz. cups
- Guest chef (actor or real chef)

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Divide students into groups of four.
2. Before allowing students to begin, explain what they will need to do. Then, throughout the activity, instruct them how to measure and how to use the blenders.
3. Students should carefully measure and pour smoothie ingredients into their blenders.

Tips for the Lead Teacher: Observe to see if any students are **humble** and listen to the leader's instructions or if they just rush through the activity. Use the **humble** students as positive examples in the lesson.

Strawberry Banana Smoothies

- 1 banana
- 2 cups frozen strawberries
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup sugar
- 2 cups milk

Place all ingredients in a blender and blend until smooth. Each recipe serves six.



3rd Grade: Play-Doh Station

Supplies:

- Play-Doh (make sure it is soft and colorful)
- Rolling pin for each team, plus other supplies such as Play-Doh machines, plastic knives, cookie cutters, Play-Doh letter stampers, etc.
- Quart-sized or larger round bowls (one for every three students)
- Sample “cake” decorated with Play-Doh following the pre-selected theme (it needs to be amazing and displayed on a special cake plate to enhance its awesomeness; the person doing this cake may need to come in advance or make it at home and bring it in)
- Designated “Cake Boss” (actor or gifted baker) who comes dressed for the part
- Tracker Tickets



Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Divide students into teams of three.
2. Choose a theme (such as birthday, Easter, Wordless Book, etc.) and challenge the teams to a Play-Doh cake decorating contest (“Cake Boss” style). The teams who create the top three cakes will receive Tracker Tickets; first place will get five, second place will get three, and third place will get one.
3. One preselected leader or guest baker should be the expert “Cake Boss” and be willing to give tips as needed as students are busy working.
4. Their goal is to cover their tub (cake) with Play-Doh as they design their cake.
5. As in any cooking show, time is important. Students only have twelve minutes to work on their cakes.
6. Determine the winners and award Tracker Tickets to the top three cakes.



Tips for the Lead Teacher: Observe to see if any students are **humble** enough to ask questions and learn from the “Cake Boss.” Use the **humble** students as positive examples in the lesson.

4th Grade: Water Station

Supplies:

- Gutter pieces that are two feet long (one per student)
- Two buckets
- Small plastic balls (divided equally between the two buckets)
- Two containers (they should be floating in the water)
- Tracker Tickets

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Divide students into two teams.
2. Give each student a piece of gutter.
3. Line each team up perpendicular to the water, with the bucket of balls at the end of the line (away from the water).
4. As a team, students must use their piece of gutter to roll a ball from the farthest person to the person nearest the water. The ball will travel down one person's gutter into the next person's gutter.
5. Multiple balls can be rolling down the gutters at the same time.
6. The person nearest the water must drop the ball into the floating container that is in the water to score a point.
7. Any balls that fall out of the gutters before landing in the floating container will not count.
8. Teams will have five minutes for round one.
9. After round one, count the balls in each container and announce a winner.
10. Have students take a knee, so they all have the opportunity to listen. You (the DT Leader) should now give both teams advice about how to improve their game for round two.
11. Repeat activity and instructions for round two and shorten the time to two minutes.
12. If there is time, repeat activity and instructions for round three and shorten time to one minute.
13. Declare the overall winner and award five Tracker Tickets to each winning team member.

Tips for the Lead Teacher: Observe to see if any students are **humble** enough to listen and learn from the DT Leader, who is giving tips after round one. Use the **humble** students as positive examples in the lesson.

5th Grade: LEGO Station

Supplies:

- Green LEGO boards
- Two ladders (one per team)
- Tape measure
- Tracker Tickets

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Divide students into two teams.
2. Challenge teams to work together to build the tallest tower using LEGO bricks in a limited amount of time.
3. Teams will have five minutes for round one.
4. After round one, announce the winner of that round.
5. You (the DT Leader) should ask teams if they would like any advice. If a team wants some tips, pull them quickly to the side and give them advice. Example could be: challenge eight members to put

together 2 inch x 2 inch x 1 foot of interlocked LEGO bricks that can easily be connected with the tower; the remaining students will help connect and support the LEGO tower as it is constructed. (Ideas must be explained quickly and must be valuable.)

6. If the tower becomes taller than the students can reach, they can climb up the ladder to continue building.
7. Have students continue building on what they built in round one and see what happens.
8. Declare the overall winner and award five Tracker Tickets to each winning team member.

Tips for the Lead Teacher: Observe to see if any students are **humble** enough to listen and apply what they heard. Use the **humble** students as positive examples in the lesson.

Bible Lesson Introduction

Lead Teachers ~ Connecting the DT to the Lesson: Today, we'll learn what it means to be humble. Do you think you know what it means to be humble? I'll give you a hint: during your DT activity, some of you were humble. That means you knew you needed help, you listened to what your leader told you to do, and then you did it. Do you think Jesus wants us to be humble or not? We're about to find out!

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

Find It: *Ask students if Matthew is in the Old Testament or the New Testament. Have the class recite the books of the New Testament as you point to the NT chart on the wall. For new students, this is a great time to teach them how to pronounce each book.*

Write the verse reference, Matthew 18:1 on the board and have students open their Bibles to Matthew 18:1. Teach that the reference is the verse's "address" in the Bible. Remind students that Matthew is the book, the first number "18" is the chapter, and the second number "1" is the verse.

Timeline: *Point out the time period on the classroom Bible timeline. Remind students that the New Testament is where we find the lessons about Jesus teaching others here on earth.*

Introduction to the Bible Lesson:

Do you know anyone who is prideful? Someone who thinks they are better than everyone, and they never ask for advice? Someone who acts like they know it all? The word 'humble' is the total opposite of this. This is what Jesus is teaching about in our Bible lesson this week.

While Jesus was here on earth, He had one thing to do. That one thing was to do His Father's (God's) will. "God's will" means "God's plan." What was God the Father's will for Jesus? (For Jesus to die on the cross and rise again, so people could be saved from their sin) But guess what. Before anyone can be saved from their sin, there is something they must be: humble!

During our Discover Time today, I saw a few of you having a hard time being humble. We all have a hard time being humble sometimes. Jesus even had to teach His own disciples that they needed to be humble. Listen as I read from God's Word, and we'll learn what Jesus has to teach us about being humble.

Scripture Outline: Matthew 18:1-5, 18:10-14

Jesus teaches about being humble, like children

Read Matthew 18:1

Recap: Do you know what the kingdom of heaven is? Jesus is the King of all the people who trust in Him as their Savior. Once Jesus becomes your King and Leader, you are part of His special, royal family. It means that you are part of His family now, and you will get to be with Him forever in heaven someday.

Do you know what eternal life is? (It means you live forever) Does that mean you'll never die? (It means that even when your physical body dies, your soul – the real you – will keep on living with the King) Our Bible tells us that when we leave our body here on earth, He will give us a new perfect body that will last forever. Wow, what a day that will be!

But, back to the question about who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Do you ever wish you were the greatest or the best one on your team? Or the smartest student in your class? Or the best at playing a musical instrument? Well, Jesus' disciples wanted to know who was the greatest person in Jesus' kingdom of heaven. This was a silly question because, of course, Jesus is the greatest! But the disciples wanted to know if maybe they were the greatest. Let's listen to what Jesus told them.

Jesus tells the disciples that they must be humble, like children

Have students listen for the word "humble".

Read Matthew 18:2-5

Recap: Jesus told His disciples that unless people become humble like children, they could never even go to heaven! I think it's pretty important to understand what humble means, don't you?

So, let's talk about what humble means. Jesus said that children are humble. How are they humble? Young children know they need help, don't they? They depend on their parents or other adults for everything they need to live. Little children aren't in control – their parents are. The parents need to take care of their children to keep them alive. They need to give them food, clothes, a home to live in, and lots of love!

That's why Jesus said that people must be humble, like children, to go to heaven! You see, God is the One who is in control. He made us, and He loves us so much. He also knows that the only way we can be saved from the punishment of our sins and have eternal life is if He does it for us. Remember what sin is? (Anything we think, say, or do that is against God)

When we are humble, like children, we understand that we can't save ourselves from our sin. We understand that we can't become part of God's kingdom by working hard or being really awesome. Instead, we must humbly depend on God to save us. That means we trust in His Son, Jesus, to save us from our sin, and we make Jesus the leader of our lives. When we are humble, we see ourselves as God sees us – very, very loved but very, very much in need of a Savior.

Now let's make sure we all understand what Jesus was teaching. What did Jesus' disciples ask Him? (Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?) What is the kingdom of heaven? (It's all the people who believe in Jesus to save them from their sin, and Jesus is their King)

How do people get into the kingdom of heaven? (They have to be humble and understand they really need Jesus to save them and truly want to make Him the leader of their lives)

What does it mean to be humble? (I fully understand that I am sinner. I need Jesus to save me from my sin, and I need Him to help me make the best and right decisions each and every day. He is the One in control. Just like children depend on their parents for everything, I will depend on God.)

Let's think back to our Discover Time activity. Think about if you were humble and depended on your leader to help you _____ (*insert the activity*).

Now think about this: Jesus told His disciples that people need to be humble like children to go to heaven, but what about children? Can children go to heaven? Let's continue to read and find out what Jesus said about children going to heaven.

Children are important to God

Read Matthew 18:10-14

Recap: Wow, this means that every single child and every single person that follows Jesus is important to God. His angels watch over them!

Conclusion

The kingdom of heaven is for everyone – no matter what age you are, or where you were born, or how much money you have! How do you become part of the kingdom of heaven? Whether you are a grown-up or a kid, you must be humble. Humble means you recognize you have a need. You realize you are a sinner, and you know you can't save yourself from your sin. You see that Jesus is the only One who can save you. Why? Because Jesus is the only One who never sinned. He took your punishment and died on the cross for your sin. He rose again on the third day, so you can know that when you trust in Him, you can live forever with Him in His kingdom.

Do Right and Feel Right

When you are humble and you belong to God's kingdom, do you know how you can feel? You can feel humble knowing God is in control. This can help you to have peace, joy, and hope every day of your life.

Let's all quietly bow our heads. Are you humble? If you are a Christian, are you willing to listen to God and do what He says? Or maybe this is the first time you heard about Jesus and being humble. Let me ask you, have you trusted in Jesus to forgive your sin and made Him the leader of your life? If you haven't and you would like to, as we play the review game, we will have a leader available to explain how Jesus can be your Savior. *Have a leader share the Gospel through the Wordless Book and give an invitation for salvation.*

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

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

1. What did Jesus' disciples ask Him? (Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?)
2. What is the kingdom of heaven? (It's all the people who believe in Jesus to save them from their sin)
3. Who is the King of heaven? (Jesus)
4. How do people get into the kingdom of heaven? (They have to be humble and trust in Jesus to save them from their sin)
5. What does it mean to be humble? (I see myself as God sees me; I see that I am totally dependent on Him for everything because He is the One in control, just like children depend on their parents for everything)
6. Can children go to heaven? How? (Yes, by being humble and trusting in Jesus to take away their sin and making Him the leader of their lives)
7. Is it important to Jesus that children enter the kingdom of heaven? (Yes)
8. Who is in control when you belong to God's kingdom? (God)
9. Have you become humble and trusted in Jesus to take away your sin and let Him be the leader of your life?

On Track Map – March 16, 2025

Topical Lesson: Jesus Understands Us

Know Right:	Jesus understands us.
Think Right:	“O Lord, you have searched me and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar.” Psalm 139:1-2
Do Right:	I will remember that Jesus understands my emotions and experiences.
Feel Right:	I can feel loved because Jesus understands me and helps me.

GET READY!

Jesus is fully God. This means He is all-knowing, all-powerful, and holy. At the same time, Jesus is fully man. This means that He experienced the same trials and heartaches we face on earth, yet He never sinned. Because of these things, Jesus is the only One who perfectly understands us and is able to truly love and guide us through life.

Pray: Pray that your students will recognize how much Jesus understands them and that they will choose to turn to Him for love and help.

Read: Matthew 4:1-11; Mark 3:1-5; Matthew 8:23-24; Mark 6:30-34; John 4:1-6; Matthew 26:3-4, 26:36-56, and Hebrews 4:15-16

Know Right: Jesus understands us

GET SET!

Lead Teacher's Notes:

- Please refer to the Children's Ministry Resource Bible: page 1191 (“The Temptation of Jesus”).
- “Hypostatic union” is a theological term describing how Jesus is fully God and fully man at the same time. We will not be covering this topic in-depth within the lesson, but we will briefly mention it. As the Lead Teacher, it is important for you to know that this concept is foundational to this Bible lesson.
- We are reading from many short Scripture passages in this lesson; mark them in your Bible ahead of time, so you can quickly flip to the right verses.

Creative Ideas for the Bible Lesson:

1. Use your whiteboard or large poster paper to draw and display stick figures and/or faces expressing the emotions mentioned in the lesson.
2. Refer to the Bible Times map, pictures of modern Israel, and/or an online map to show the students where Jesus lived and taught.
3. Have a student or classroom leader dress up and silently act out the passages as you read them. Provide props such as bread (temptation in the desert), a first aid kit (healing the man), pillow (sleeping on the boat), and a flower (Garden of Gethsemane).
4. Pull props from boxes or buckets as you teach each point of the lesson.
5. If questions arise regarding situations students have experienced that Jesus did not personally experience, you can reassure them that He still understands them and their situation perfectly. Remember, Jesus is the Word, the Creator of our bodies, minds, and emotions, and He is omniscient - He knows every thought we have and can see the big picture of every situation. So even in unique situations that did not personally happen to Him on earth, He perfectly understands us.

GO!

Pre-Service Review Game and Worship

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

Discover Time: I've been there and done that...

Goal: To encourage students to ask for help from someone who **understands** what needs to be done.

Option 1: Large open space

Supplies:

- Bandanas or similar-sized pieces of cloth (one for every two students)
- Starting line
- Colorful cones (one for each pair of students) set up in a line at least 20 feet away from the starting line
- Whistle
- For older students: Set up obstacles to make the race more difficult.

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Inform students that they will be participating in a three-legged race today. Begin by lining students up with a partner. Have students stand beside their partners, and tie one student's left leg to the partner's right leg.
2. Before beginning the race, it is very important that you clearly explain that you (the DT Leader) have done this activity many times before, that you **understand** exactly what needs to be done, and that you **understand** that at times students may feel frustrated as they attempt to complete the race.
3. Explain the rules of the race: Students must remain tied together throughout the entire race. They will run to a cone, go around the cone, and then run back to the starting line. The first pair to cross the line wins. After explaining the race, remind students that you've completed this race many times before.

4. Blow the whistle and give students an opportunity to attempt the race without any help. After completing the first race, remind them that you have done this activity many times before, and that you are willing to teach them if they would like help. Allow students to ask for help.
5. If students ask for your help, here are some tips you can give them:
 - a. Put your arms around each other to stabilize yourselves as you race.
 - b. Assign a number to each leg (i.e. 1 is the outside leg, and 2 is the inside leg that is tied to your partner's leg).
 - c. Practice lifting the correct leg when you say "1" or "2" (start slow, and then increase the speed).
 - d. Begin the race with foot #1 on the starting line and foot #2 pulled back, ready to step forward.
 - e. When the DT Leader blows the whistle, make sure to count with your partner, so your feet work together.
6. Allow students to practice applying the tips you've provided, then begin a second race. In each race, the winning team earns three Tracker Tickets per person.
7. Repeat the race as time permits.

Option 2: Large open space (optional: add tables)

Note for Director: Select a few puzzles/challenges in advance (see the Supplies section), and make sure your DT Leader understands how to complete them. If you need to find more challenges, search 'word games' or 'party tricks' online.

For younger students, this DT can be adapted to be one large jigsaw puzzle, rather than multiple smaller challenges. The DT Leader should already know what the completed jigsaw puzzle looks like. The puzzle should be simple enough for younger students, yet challenging enough that students will want help. The DT Leader should first prompt the students to assemble the puzzle without the box/image of the completed puzzle, and then offer to help.

Supplies:

Puzzles/Challenges

- Balancing Glass Trick:¹
 - Supplies: one drinking glass, three butter knives (the same size and style), three empty glass bottles, water
 - Challenge to students: Using these supplies, can you make the glass balance on all of the knives and bottles?
 - How to make the glass balance on the knives:
 - Place the three glass bottles in a triangle, an equal distance apart, and make sure that the knives can rest on the tops of the bottles.
 - Weave the knives together, creating a triangle, and have the blade of one knife rest on the handle of the next.
 - Place the knives on top of the bottles (the knives should remain intertwined), so that the handles of the knives rest on the tops of the bottles.
 - Place the drinking glass on top of the knives (at the place where the three knives intersect) and pour water into the glass. The glass will not fall!

¹ <https://stevespangler.com/experiments/balancing-glass-trick/>

- Floating Paperclip:
 - Supplies: paperclip, water, tissue paper, bowl
 - Challenge to students: Can you make the paperclip float in the water?
 - How to make the paperclip float:
 - Fill the bowl with water, and place a small piece of tissue paper on the water's surface.
 - Gently place the paperclip on top of the tissue paper.
 - Carefully push the tissue paper down into the water using your finger. The paperclip will float on the surface tension of the water.
- Balancing Forks:
 - Supplies: two forks, a toothpick, and a drinking glass
 - Challenge to students: Can you make the forks float?
 - How to suspend the forks:
 - Interlock the forks together and insert the toothpick into the tines of the forks.
 - Balance the toothpick on the rim of the glass, making the forks balance on the toothpick.

Riddles/Word Games (No supplies needed)

- Bridge Riddle:
 - Have another leader begin by asking, "May I build a bridge from ____ to ____?" (The answer is "No.") Then the same leader should ask, "Ok, but may I build a bridge from ____ to ____?" (The answer is "Yes.") Students should then begin to try to solve the riddle. (Answer: You may build a bridge anywhere, as long as your question begins with "**Ok**").
- Word Chain:
 - Inform students that they need to figure out how to add onto your word chain. Start with a word (such as "apple") and invite students to try to add onto the word chain. As they suggest words, simply respond with "yes" or "no." If they ask for help, add a word to the word chain, and see if they can recognize the pattern. (Answer: Each new word on the word chain needs to begin with the last letter of the previous word.)
- "I'm Going on a Picnic":
 - Inform students that you are going on a picnic, and only certain items can come. These items will follow a hidden pattern (some examples: items in alphabetical order, items with a double letter, items that are edible, etc.). Students can take turns guessing what they will bring. As they suggest items, simply respond with a "yes" or "no." If they ask for help, add an item, and see if they can recognize the pattern. (This game can be played multiple times with different rules).

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Inform students that they will be solving multiple puzzles and riddles today. It is very important that you clearly explain that you (the DT Leader) have done these activities many times before, that you **understand** exactly what needs to be done, and that you **understand** that students may feel frustrated as they attempt to solve the challenges.
2. Present one of the challenges (with only a basic explanation, so that students will be more likely to ask for help), and give students the supplies as needed. Remind students that you've done this challenge many times before.
3. Give students an opportunity to try the activity without any help. After a few attempts, remind them that you have done this challenge many times before and that you are willing to teach them if they would like help. Allow students to ask for help.

4. Note: If a student already knows how to complete one of the challenges, have the student join you at the front of the group and serve as another “expert” rather than participating with the other students. The other students can ask this student for help.
5. The first student to solve the puzzle or the challenge earns one Tracker Ticket.
6. Repeat challenges as time permits.

Bible Lesson Introduction

Lead Teachers ~ Connecting the DT to the Lesson: In our Discover Time today, your leader perfectly understood how to complete the challenge. Wouldn't it be nice if there was someone who could perfectly understand us and the challenges we face in life?

Sometimes it feels like others don't understand how we feel or what we're thinking. For example, maybe someone thinks you're not having fun at a birthday party, but you really are – you're just more of a quiet person. Or maybe you smile and look happy on the outside, but really you're feeling lonely on the inside. Or maybe you try to explain something to your parents, but the words don't come out the way you mean them, and your parents get upset with you. Or maybe your friend or sibling said something that hurt your feelings, and you tried to tell them, but they didn't take you seriously. During times like these, it would be really nice to have someone who understands what we are feeling and can help us.

Guess what. There is someone who *always* understands us and is *always* there for us!

Pray: Let's pray and ask God to help us understand His Word as we learn today.

Find It: Today we'll be reading from a few books in the New Testament, learning about when Jesus walked on earth. Let's open our Bibles to the beginning of the book of Matthew. That's the first book in the New Testament.

Timeline: Can you find Jesus on our timeline? When He walked on earth, He performed miracles, taught people about God, and invited people to follow Him. While He was doing all of those things, He also experienced the world just like we do.

Introduction to the Bible Lesson:

How can we know that Jesus understands us? Have you ever felt tempted to do something wrong? Or maybe you've felt frustrated, tired, rejected, or lonely. Well, guess what. Jesus felt all of those things, too! He understands how we feel! But the amazing thing is, even though He felt all those emotions, He never sinned.

Lesson

Jesus felt hungry and was tempted

Read Matthew 4:1-2

Recap: How did Jesus feel? *Invite students to respond.* Jesus felt hungry.

At the very beginning of Jesus' ministry, right before He began to teach and care for people, He went out to the desert to pray and fast, which means He did not eat so that He could focus on talking to God. He was very hungry. While He was in the desert, Satan tried to tempt Jesus. Temptation is when someone or something tries to draw us into doing something that goes against God. Anything we think, say, or do that goes against God is called "sin."

Paraphrase of Matthew 4:3-11:

Satan, the enemy of God and of us, wanted Jesus to sin. He tried to tempt Jesus to disobey God the Father. Do you think Jesus fell for it and sinned? (No!) Jesus did NOT sin. Every time Satan tempted Him, Jesus used verses from God's Word to remember the truth and to resist temptation. Even when He felt hungry and was tempted to sin, Jesus was faithful and obedient to God.

We sometimes feel tempted to sin, too. When Jesus was tempted, He set an example for us. When we feel tempted, it is really important for us to pause and remember what we know from God's Word. This is why it's so important for us to read the Bible and memorize verses!

Jesus felt angry when people sinned

Read Mark 3:1-5

Recap: How did Jesus feel? *Invite students to respond.* Jesus felt angry.

These people were trying to catch Jesus doing something wrong. They knew that Jesus healed many people, so when Jesus met a man with a shriveled hand, they watched closely to see if Jesus would heal him. It was the Sabbath, and Jewish tradition said that a person could not get medical help unless they were going to die, so these people thought they could catch Jesus breaking the Sabbath. They did not care about this man or want him to be healed. Their sinful attitudes made Jesus feel angry because He knew that loving others mattered more than following tradition.

Sometimes we think of anger as a bad emotion to feel, but feeling angry is not always sinful. Did Jesus ever sin? (No!) But Jesus did feel angry when He saw others sinning. In Ephesians 4:26, God tells us not to sin when we are angry. When we see evil things happening in the world and people being hurt or becoming confused because of sin, it is right for us to feel angry and to ask God to help us do the right thing. For example, if you see someone getting picked on at school, you can feel angry at the situation, but you should not sin. Being mean back to the bully or ignoring the person who needs help would be a sin. Instead of

sinning, you could talk to the bully and tell them to stop, ask a grown up for help, and choose to be friends with the person getting picked on. *If time permits, invite students to give examples.*

Jesus felt tired

I'm going to read a bunch of different Bible verses about times when Jesus was teaching and caring for people. I want you to listen carefully and think about how Jesus felt.

Read Matthew 8:23-24, Mark 6:30-34, and John 4:1-6

Recap: When Jesus walked on this earth, He traveled all over Israel to teach and to do miracles. He taught large crowds, and He walked long distances. If that's how you spent your day, how do you think you'd feel? (Tired) Jesus is fully God AND fully human. Being fully human means that His body could become tired from walking and teaching and serving others. We even read that He was able to sleep during a big storm! He must have been really tired!

Even when we are doing good things and serving God, we might still feel tired. Have you ever felt tired when serving God? Jesus understands how we feel. When Jesus walked on the earth, He needed to sleep, to sit, and to rest, just like we do.

Jesus felt abandoned and rejected

Read Matthew 26:3-4

Recap: Did people always like Jesus? (No, they didn't.) In fact, many people, especially the Jewish leaders, rejected Jesus. They did not like Him, they did not trust His teachings, and they wanted to hurt Him. But it wasn't just strangers and leaders who rejected Jesus. Even His own friends, the disciples, failed Him and even abandoned Him. Let's read about what happened.

Read Matthew 26:36-38

Recap: The events in these verses took place shortly before Jesus' death. He knew what was coming, and He took three of His closest friends to keep Him company as He prayed. How did Jesus feel at this point? (Sorrowful – very, very sad)

Paraphrase of Matthew 26:39-56a:

Jesus stepped away from His three disciples to pray. Remember, He asked them to stay and keep watch. When He stopped praying and went back to His friends, they were asleep! How would that make you feel, if you were feeling deep sadness and asked your friends to be with you, but instead they fell asleep? *Invite students to respond.* Jesus again told them to keep watch and to pray, but they fell asleep two more times. And that's not even the end. After this, a different disciple of Jesus, named Judas, betrayed Jesus and handed Him over to the religious leaders and Romans to be arrested and crucified. Let's read the end of this passage.

Read Matthew 26:56b

Recap: Jesus' closest friends failed Him by falling asleep over and over, one of His followers betrayed Him, and just as Jesus was arrested, all of His disciples abandoned Jesus and ran away.

How do you think Jesus felt when He was rejected and when the disciples abandoned Him? *Invite students to answer.*

Even though this was all part of God's plan and Jesus was ready to obey God perfectly, He still felt very sad in the Garden of Gethsemane while He prayed. He knows how we feel when we are deeply sad and grieving. And He knows what it feels like when people abandon you and let you down.

***The following section is for older students, if time permits.
For younger students, jump to the Conclusion.***

Jesus understands us, and He rescues us

Read Hebrews 4:15-16

Recap: These verses say that Jesus is a "great high priest." In Bible times, the high priest was an important person who brought sacrifices to God on behalf of the people, in payment for their sins. Sometimes, the people were not allowed to go directly to God, so the high priest had to bring the sacrifice to God for them. But the high priest wasn't perfect. Sometimes he did things his way instead of God's way, which is sin.

These verses tell us that Jesus is the *great* high priest. He also faced struggles and temptations, like all people do. He understands what it's like to be tempted. But Jesus never sinned – not even once! Jesus is perfect! Because Jesus is perfect, He is able to perfectly fix our broken relationship with God. That means, because of Jesus, those of us who are saved can confidently know that God will always give us His mercy and His grace when we need Him.

Conclusion

We've read about just a few ways that Jesus experienced the world like we do. We know that He felt angry, tired, sad, lonely, and so much more. But He never, ever sinned, even when He was tempted to go against God's way. This means that Jesus understands exactly what you and I are feeling and experiencing, and that means He is the only One who can rescue us and help us by being our perfect Savior.

Has Jesus saved you? *Opportunity to share the Gospel using the Wordless Book and offer an invitation for salvation.*

Do Right and Feel Right

If you have trusted Jesus and asked Him to save you from your sin, that means He is always with you and promises to help you. When you experience difficult situations, or when you feel angry, sad, lonely, tired, or any other feeling, you can stop and remember that you are never alone. You can pray and ask God to help you, to comfort you, and to give you the strength to obey Him. We know that, because of Jesus, we can pray confidently, knowing that God will always love and help us.

Let's stop right now and think about a time when we had a bad day or when we were tempted. Jesus understands how we feel in every situation. Let's each quietly pray by ourselves and thank God for sending Jesus.

Encourage students to pray silently and thank God for sending Jesus and for the ways He understands us.

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

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

1. What emotions did Jesus experience? (Anger, sadness, loneliness, tiredness, etc.)
2. Did Jesus ever sin? (No)
3. How did Jesus respond to temptation? (He remembered God's Word and did not sin)
4. Why did Jesus feel angry? (Because of the people's sinful attitudes)
5. What happened when Jesus asked His three closest friends to keep Him company while He prayed? (They fell asleep – three times!)
6. When Jesus was arrested, did the disciples stay with Him? (No, they all abandoned Him and ran away)
7. Who is the only One who can fully understand us and help us? (Jesus)

On Track Map – March 23, 2025

Topical Lesson: Jesus is Our True Friend

Know Right:	Jesus is our true friend.
Think Right:	“Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.” John 15:13
Do Right:	I can enjoy my friendship with Jesus.
Feel Right:	I can feel joyful with Jesus as my true friend.

GET READY!

When was the last time you paused to really *enjoy* your relationship with Jesus? Jesus wants to spend time with us, walk with us, and talk with us. He wants to be with us during the challenging times in our lives, but He also wants to be with us during the joyful times. What a friend!

Pray: Pray that your students who have been saved by Jesus will enjoy friendship with Him, and pray that the students in your class who are not saved will hear the Gospel, believe, and surrender.

Read: John 1:1-3; John 14:6; 1 John 1:9; John 1:12; 1 John 3:1a; John 15:12-14; Psalm 139:1-4; Matthew 28:20; Proverbs 18:24

Know Right: Jesus is our true friend

GET SET!

Lead Teacher's Notes:

- As we help students understand that Jesus invites us into friendship with Him, it is important that we recognize that Jesus is not our peer – He is our Lord and is perfect, righteous, and worthy of our worship. At the same time, Jesus truly enjoys us and wants us to enjoy His company. He invites us to enjoy Him as a friend. We can honor and enjoy Jesus at the same time.

Creative Ideas for the Bible Lesson:

- Prepare props to go with each part of the lesson (such as a globe for “Creator,” a cross for “Savior,” a family picture or family tree for “God’s Family,” and a friendship bracelet for “Friend”).
- Create posters saying “Creator,” “Savior,” “Family,” and “Friend” and hold them up during the corresponding parts of the lesson.
- Challenge students to stand up (or cheer, or raise their hand, etc.) every time they hear the word “friend” during the lesson.

GO!

Pre-Service Review Game and Worship

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

Discover Time: Who is Jesus?

Goal: To introduce students to the characteristics of Jesus.

Option 1: Large open area (jumbo version) or any station with tables (regular version)

Supplies:

- “Characteristics of Jesus” memory cards (one set per group of 4 students) (see appendix)
 - Setup: Lay all the cards face down on the floor or table in grid fashion.
 - Tip: For younger students, use fewer cards.
- Poster listing characteristics of Jesus (see appendix)
- Optional: Instead of printing memory card sets, create a *jumbo* deck of cards by writing the attributes onto large poster-sized paper. This will make the game more exciting and interactive. See the “Bonus Tips for Jumbo Memory Game” for additional instructions.

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Divide students into groups of four students. Then divide each group into two teams of two students.
2. Teams will be competing against each other in a memory card game to match as many characteristics of Jesus as possible (explain that the words in this activity are characteristics of Jesus, or the special things that make Him who He is).
3. Have the teams take turns flipping over two cards. If the cards match, the team keeps them. If not, they flip them back over and the other team takes their turn. When all cards have been matched, the team with the most matches is the winner.
4. Students can refer to the provided poster as needed as they attempt to flip the matching cards.
5. Each member of the winning team will earn three Tracker Tickets.
6. Repeat as time permits.

Bonus tips for Jumbo Memory Game:

- If you are playing with jumbo cards instead of the regular memory card deck, use a large open area to set up. Divide your class into four equal teams, and line those teams up on a large square, with one team on each side of the square, surrounding the cards. (Note: if your church uses an Awana circle or something similar, that would work very well for this activity.)
- On each team, assign each student a number. (Each team’s numbers should start with 1.)
- Announce one of the assigned numbers. The four students with that number (one from each team) should run to the cards and quickly flip two jumbo cards to attempt a match. If they are successful, they earn a point for their team and take the cards back to their team. If they are not successful, the leader will flip the cards back, so they are concealed again. (Tip: Wait for a few moments before flipping the cards, so all students have a chance to see what the cards were.)
- Have students return to their lines and call another number.
- Make this game more challenging by calling numbers out of order, so students need to stay focused and listen for their number.
- The team to earn the most points in your allotted time will win five Tracker Tickets per person.

Option 2: Art Station

Supplies:

- Poster listing characteristics of Jesus (see appendix)
- Cardstock posters for students to decorate with “Jesus is my True Friend” at the top (one per student) (see appendix)
- Art supplies such as markers, crayons, paint, glitter, etc.
- Bibles
- Optional: Worship music to play in the background as students work

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Challenge students to a poster contest. Students will fill their posters with characteristics of Jesus. Posters will be judged on creativity, use of color, and variety of characteristics to describe Jesus.
2. Show students the poster listing characteristics of Jesus. They can use this to help them think of characteristics but may also come up with their own (explain that the words in this activity are characteristics of Jesus, or the special things that make Him who He is).
3. As students work, classroom leaders should talk with students about the characteristics they’ve chosen to put on their posters.
4. After approximately 10 minutes, have students stop working and bring their posters to a central location.
5. Students should do a tour of the posters while the classroom leaders choose the winning poster.
6. Choose the best poster, and award three Tracker Tickets to the student with the winning poster.

Bible Lesson Introduction

Lead Teachers ~ Connecting the DT to the Lesson: In our Discover Time today we saw many different characteristics describing Jesus. Can you remember a few? *Invite students to answer.* In our lesson today, we’re going to learn about a few special characteristics of Jesus. I’m excited to share them with you!

Pray: *Encourage a student to open your class with prayer. Remind students that God hears us when we pray. We can talk to Him like we are talking to a friend.*

Find It: Recently, we have been learning all about Jesus’ miracles and teachings, which we read about in the New Testament. Today we’re going to take a step back and learn about Jesus Himself, who He is, and some of His promises. We will read verses in the Old and New Testaments.

Timeline: Can you find Jesus on our timeline? *Students should point to the section of the timeline covering Jesus’ ministry on earth.* Today we’re going to hop all over the timeline, from the very beginning, to the middle, and to the end!

Introduction to the Bible Lesson:

When I say the word “friend”, what kinds of words and ideas come to your minds? *Invite students to share.* Did you know that Jesus wants to be your friend? It’s pretty amazing! Before I can explain, we need to go back to the very beginning. There are some important things you need to know about Jesus, so you can understand how He can be your friend.

Scripture Outline

Jesus is our Creator

Read John 1:1-3

Recap: *Point to beginning of the Bible Timeline.* Did you know that Jesus was there at the very start of the world? These verses say that “the Word” was there in the beginning. Later, in John 1:14, we find out that Jesus is the Word! This means that Jesus was there at the creation of the world. Jesus is our Creator.

For older students: Jesus is part of what we call the Trinity. The Trinity is made up of three Persons – God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit – and they are all one God. That means that Jesus (God the Son) was there at the beginning of the world, and so were God the Father and God the Holy Spirit!

All students: When you create something cool with Play-Doh or LEGO bricks or mud or cardboard, how do you feel about what you’ve made? *Invite students to respond.* When God created the world, He said it was good. And when He created people, He said that they were very good. God loves His creation, which means He loves us!

But there is a problem. God’s creation was perfect at the beginning, but it isn’t anymore. Now people get hurt and die, people feel sadness and fear, and people do bad things. This is because of sin. Sin is anything we think, say, or do that is against God. When Adam and Eve sinned, it changed everything. Sin hurts all of us, and we all sin. Which verse tells us that we all sin? (Romans 3:23) *Invite a student to confidently recite Romans 3:23.* Our sin separates us from our holy, just, and perfect God.

But remember when I said that God loves His creation? He doesn’t want us to be separated from Him.

Jesus is our Savior

Read John 14:6 and/or 1 John 1:9

Recap: Jesus isn’t just our Creator; He is also our Savior. This means He can rescue us from our sin and make us right before God. Jesus is the **ONLY** way we can be saved from our sin.

How can Jesus rescue us from our sin? *Refer to Jesus’ death and resurrection on the Bible timeline.* Jesus died on the cross to take the punishment for our sin. He didn’t stay dead – He came back to life! Because He did this, He can forgive our sins and make us clean before God.

Jesus makes us part of God's Family

Read John 1:12 and 1 John 3:1a

Recap: If Jesus has rescued you from your sin, that's just the beginning. Jesus is your Creator and your Savior, and now you are part of His family! When we are saved, we become God's children. We get to enjoy being part of God's family now and forever. But there's more!

Jesus wants to be our true friend

Read John 15:12-14

Recap: Once we are saved, we know we will spend eternity with Jesus in heaven. But Jesus is also with us now! *Point to the Church Age on the Bible Timeline and remind students that this is where we are now.* If we've trusted in Jesus to forgive us and save us from our sin, He is our friend. When Jesus died on the cross, He showed us He is our true friend – the most perfect, loving, faithful friend we could ever have. He was willing to die, so we could be rescued from our sin. In these verses, Jesus says that we can be good friends to Him by obeying Him and living like Him.

If Jesus is our true friend, let's think about what a really good friend is like. A good friend loves you very much. A good friend wants to spend time with you, talk with you, know the things you like and dislike, and know what makes you feel sad and what fills you with joy. Those are all really wonderful things. Now, let's think about how Jesus, our true friend, does all these things perfectly.

Jesus knows us better than anyone else

Read Psalm 139:1-4

Recap: Jesus knows everything about us. He knows everything we do and everything we say, but He also knows our thoughts: the things we hope for, the things we're afraid of, the things we've never said aloud. Jesus knows all of these things, and He loves us!

Jesus walks with us and talks with us

Read Matthew 28:20

Recap: Jesus wants to be with us. He enjoys our company! When you sit down to eat with a friend, you want to talk with them, hear about their life and what they've been doing, and share about your own life. Jesus wants to talk with us, too. Reading the Bible is one way to start a conversation with Jesus, because that's how He talks to us. And praying is another way to enjoy His friendship, because that's how we talk to Him. Jesus wants to walk with us and talk with us in the good times and in the hard times.

Jesus never lets us down

Read Proverbs 18:24

Recap: When we trust in Jesus for salvation and He becomes our friend, He never stops being our friend. While our other friends sometimes sin and may let us down or hurt our feelings, Jesus is perfect and has no sin. Jesus never changes and will never let us down. Even when we do something wrong or we forget about Him, He never leaves us and never forgets us.

Conclusion

Isn't this amazing? Jesus is our Creator and our Savior. When He saves us, He welcomes us into God's family, and then He invites us to be His friends. As our friend, Jesus wants to walk with us and talk with us. He likes to be with us! And we can always count on Him because He is perfect and never changes.

If you're not sure if Jesus has saved you, you can meet with a leader right now and talk more about it. *Provide clear instructions for how a student can meet with a leader to talk through the Gospel.*

If Jesus has saved you, you can feel joyful knowing that He is your true friend!

Do Right and Feel Right

What would it look like for our class to enjoy being friends with Jesus this week? *Invite students to share ideas.* A friendship takes time to grow, and there are things you can do to help your friendship with Jesus grow. You can take a walk and talk to Him through prayer; you can look at the beautiful world He's created and thank Him and enjoy His creation; you can sit down and listen to Him by reading the Bible. There are many ways to enjoy your friendship with Jesus!

Let's end class by praying silently and asking God to help us grow in friendship with Jesus. *Close in prayer.*

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

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

1. Was Jesus there at the beginning of the world? (Yes)
2. When Jesus saves us from our sin, whose family do we join? (God's family)
3. Who wants to be our true friend? (Jesus)
4. As our true friend, what does Jesus do? (He knows us, walks with us, talks with us, never lets us down, etc.)
5. What is one way you can enjoy being friends with Jesus this week? (Reading the Bible, enjoying His creation, praying, etc.)

Lesson 3 – March 30, 2025

Matthew 20:17-19, 21:1-11

Know Right:	Jesus enters Jerusalem.
Think Right:	“Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker...” Psalm 95:6
Do Right:	I will worship Jesus as my King.
Feel Right:	I can feel joyful when I worship Jesus as my King.

GET READY!

What a joy it is to teach students how to worship! As we prepare for this week, let's set aside some time to worship Jesus as our King. Worship in a way that lets you focus on delighting in Jesus. Read Scripture, sing or listen to worship music, or simply enjoy considering His attributes and promises. Let Jesus fill you with joy as you worship.

Pray: As you begin to prepare for your lesson, ask God to bless you with creativity, wisdom, and a full understanding of His Word. Also pray that God will protect your students physically, spiritually, and emotionally today and throughout the rest of the week.

Read: Matthew 20:17-19, 21:1-11

Know Right: Jesus enters Jerusalem

As we envision Jesus making His triumphal entry into Jerusalem riding on a donkey, we understand who He truly is because we live in the church age. But many of the Jewish people in Jesus' time, and even His own disciples, did not yet understand, even though He had told them how He would be betrayed, crucified, and raised to life. As Jesus approached Jerusalem, the people shouted “Hosanna!” (which means “save us now”). Their eyes were on this life, not the life to come. On Palm Sunday, Jesus was worshiped. Days later, He was crucified. Will we make the same mistake and fail to recognize Jesus for who He truly is? Will we worship Him only for a moment or a day or until life disappoints us? Or will we always worship Jesus as our King?

GET SET!

Lead Teacher's Notes:

- For additional insight into this lesson, please refer to the Children's Ministry Resource Bible: page 1079 (The Promised Messiah); page 1225 (Lesson: Jesus' Triumphal Entry).
- Definition of worship: telling God how much He is worth. We do this by focusing on Him alone and expressing His worth through our words, actions, and thoughts.

Creative Ideas for the Bible Lesson:

1. Create a diagram of events on your whiteboard. Use whiteboard art along with pictures. For example: create a mountain on the whiteboard with a little sign that says "Mount of Olives," then a path to a location that has a picture of a donkey, then a path to a location where you see Jesus sitting on the donkey, etc. Keep the specific locations covered with paper and reveal the new locations as you "arrive".
2. When presenting the Gospel with the Wordless Book, use props that represent each color. For example: gold could be gold glitter, dark could be a broken picture frame (Mom said don't play ball in the house...someone sinned), red could be a cross, white could be a clean white plate or a fresh, clean whiteboard, green could be a healthy house plant, etc.
3. Rent or borrow a real donkey for students to see up close.

GO!

Pre-Service Review Game and Worship

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

Discover Time: The art of worship

Goal: To challenge students to creatively **worship** Jesus, the King.

Definition of “worship”: telling God how much He is worth. We do this by focusing on Him alone and expressing His worth through our words, actions, and thoughts.



Kindergarten: Art Station

Supplies:

- Cardstock pennants with “Jesus is my King!” in bubble letters (see appendix)
- Paint
- Small thin paint brushes
- Water cups
- Hand washing supplies
- Sample painted pennants
- Worship music
- Clothesline rope and clothespins to hang finished pennants (Optional idea: Hang the pennants from the ceiling in a hallway or common area, crisscrossing them back and forth for a 3D effect.)

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Have students paint pennants titled “Jesus is my King!”
2. Challenge students to **worship** Jesus as they paint. They can **worship** by thinking about Him, giving Him praise from their minds and hearts, singing along with the worship music, and/or being thoughtful and creative with their pennants that they will hang for others to see.
3. Hang pennants at the Art Station on a long rope for others to see.

1st Grade: Chalk Wall

Supplies:

- Poster filled with words that describe Jesus – King, Lord, Teacher, Helper, etc. (see appendix)
- Worship music
- Camera (shared for the morning)
- Optional: ladder or step stool so students can write higher on the Chalk Wall



Setup instructions: Make sure the Chalk Wall is clean, then write “Jesus you are...” in large bold letters at the top.

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Challenge students to fill the Chalk Wall with words and pictures that describe Jesus.
2. Challenge students to **worship** Jesus as they work. They can **worship** by thinking about Him, giving Him praise, singing from their minds and hearts, and by being thoughtful and creative with their work.
3. After the wall is filled, take a picture of the class in front of their chalk creation.

Discover Time Tip: These pictures can be used on a church Facebook page to show parents and others the exciting things that are happening in the classroom. You could also print pictures and hang them near the entrance to your children's ministry space.

2nd Grade: Play-Doh Station

Supplies:

- Poster filled with words that describe Jesus – King, Lord, Teacher, Helper, etc. (see appendix)
- Play-Doh (red, yellow, white, blue, purple, orange)
- Play-Doh letter stampers
- Rolling pins
- Worship music
- Camera (shared for the morning)
- Tracker Tickets



Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Divide students into six teams (red, yellow, white, blue, purple, orange) and give each team their assigned color of Play-Doh.
2. Challenge teams to stamp out the most Play-Doh words that describe Jesus (King, Lord, Teacher, Helper, etc.).
3. Instruct each team to roll their Play-Doh into one large flat sheet before they begin stamping out the words.
4. As each team works, remind students to really think about Jesus the King and **worship** Him from their minds and hearts.
5. The team with the most words that describe Jesus will win three Tracker Tickets each.
6. At the end of the activity, take a picture of students and the Play-Doh words they stamped out.

Discover Time Tip: These pictures can be used on the church website or social media to show parents and others the exciting things that are happening in the classroom. You could also print pictures and hang them near the entrance to your children's ministry space.

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

4th Grade: LEGO Station

Supplies:

- Green LEGO boards (one for every two students)
- Poster filled with words that describe Jesus – King, Lord, Teacher, Helper, etc. (see appendix)
- Camera (shared for the morning)
- Worship music
- Tracker Tickets

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Divide students into teams of two and give each team a green LEGO board.
2. Challenge teams to use LEGO bricks to spell out words (3D style) that describe Jesus (King, Leader, Helper, Counselor, Teacher, Lord, Shepherd, etc.)
3. Have students pick keywords from the poster or think of their own words.
4. As teams work, remind students to **worship** Jesus as they really think about how awesome He is.
5. The team with the most words that describe Jesus will win three Tracker Tickets each.
6. At the end of the activity, take a picture of students and the LEGO words they made.

Discover Time Tip: These pictures can be used on the church website or social media to show parents and others the exciting things that are happening in the classroom. You could also print pictures and hang them near the entrance to your children's ministry space.

5th Grade: Sand Station or large open space

Supplies:

- Volleyball
- Volleyball net (divide the sand area in half)
- Tracker Tickets
- Two identical large posters or sheets of roll paper with names or characteristics of Jesus written on them (Helper, King, Shepherd, Teacher, etc.)



Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Divide class into two teams and assign classroom leaders to be coaches.
2. Challenge teams to a game of "**Worship** Jesus" volleyball. Before each player strikes the volleyball in any way, they must shout out a new word that describes Jesus. The word can be a name, an attribute, or any other worshipful adjective, but can't be a word already used.
3. Before the competition begins, the coaches should huddle their teams together to study the poster for a few minutes. The posters should then be rolled up and put away.
4. Begin the game.
5. If a player fails to shout out a word that describes Jesus (can't repeat words multiple times) before they strike the ball, or they fail to get the ball across the net (normal way to make a point), the other team wins the point. Optional: For the first few rounds, allow students to repeat words after a point is scored.
6. If students seem to be getting stuck, teams may have a time out to study the poster again.
7. At the end of the activity, announce the winning team and award three Tracker Tickets each.

Bible Lesson Introduction

Lead Teachers ~ Connecting the DT to the Lesson: What does it mean to worship Jesus? To tell Him how much He is worth. We do this by focusing on Him alone and expressing His worth through our words, actions, and thoughts.

Is singing songs the only way to worship? (No) You just worshiped in another way when you _____ (*insert your DT activity: painted your worship poster, wrote words of worship on the Chalk Wall, made Play-Doh words of worship, made LEGO words of worship, or played volleyball*). There are so many ways to worship Jesus; it would be hard to think of them all. And you can worship Jesus no matter where you are. In today's lesson, we will learn about a time when people worshiped Jesus as their King, but then less than a week later, people shouted for Him to be crucified.

Pray: *Open your class with a time of worship through prayer. Demonstrate to your students how you can worship God as you pray. "Dear Heavenly Father, You are the King, my Savior, the teacher of this class. I worship You today for being awesome and loving beyond words. Thank You for being such a God of grace and mercy. In Jesus' name, Amen."*

Find It: *Ask the class if Matthew is in the OT or the NT. Have the class recite the books of the NT to teach them how to pronounce each book. Write the verse reference, Matthew 20:17, on the board and have students find it in their Bible. Always encourage students to bring their Bibles to class, so they learn how to use their own personal Bible.*

Timeline: *Ask students to point to where you can find Jesus on the classroom Bible timeline. Highlight the full time period when Jesus physically walked on this earth.*

Introduction to the Bible Lesson:

Remember how we learned about the kingdom of heaven last week? Who is the King in the kingdom of heaven? (Jesus) And if we have trusted in Jesus to save us from our sin, we belong to the kingdom of heaven, and Jesus is our King. That is why we take time every week to worship Jesus by singing to Him. Some of you participate in worshipping Jesus by focusing on Him when we sing. Today, we will study why Jesus is totally worthy of our worship now and forever. Listen as I read what Jesus told His disciples.

Scripture Outline: Matthew 20:17-19, 21:1-11

Jesus tells His disciples He will be crucified and rise on the third day

Read Matthew 20:17-19

Recap: Where was Jesus going? (Jerusalem) To whom was Jesus speaking? (His disciples) What did Jesus tell His disciples would happen to Him in Jerusalem?

He would be:

- betrayed to the chief priests and the teachers of the law,
- condemned to death,
- turned over to the Gentiles (people who weren't Jewish, specifically the Romans in this case),
- mocked,
- beaten,
- crucified, and then
- raised to life on the third day.

How did Jesus know all of this would happen to Him? (Jesus is God) If you had been Jesus, would you have gone to Jerusalem knowing this would happen to you? Why do you think Jesus went, even when He knew what would happen to Him? (He loves us, and He wanted to save us from our sin) Remember, Jesus told His disciples exactly what would happen to Him in Jerusalem, but Luke tells us that the disciples did not understand what He was talking about. Let's find out what happens next.

Jesus sends two disciples to get a donkey

Paraphrase of Matthew 21:1-5:

Jesus then sent two of His disciples to get a donkey. Why do you think Jesus wanted the disciples to get Him a donkey? Do you know that way back in the book of Zechariah, in the Old Testament, over 500 years before Jesus, God said that the Savior would come riding on a donkey? *See Zechariah 9:9.* We would expect a king to come on a horse or maybe even in a limousine or an airplane now, but a long time ago, Jewish kings would ride donkeys. Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey because He is the King and Lord of all. Let's keep reading.

The people want Jesus to save them now!

Read Matthew 21:6-11

Recap: The people shouted praises and worshiped Jesus. What is worship again? (To focus on God alone and tell Him how much He is worth through my words, actions, and thoughts) They shouted "Hosanna!" Hosanna means "save us now!" At this time in Jesus' life here on earth, the Romans ruled the people in Israel. Just think: if our country was taken over and ruled by a foreign country, wouldn't you want someone to come and save us from them? (Of course!) Well, that's how the people in Israel felt. But did Jesus come to save them from the Romans and be an earthly king? No, He came to bring the kingdom of God to the people, so they could really know God, be rescued from their sin, and have a relationship with Him.

Conclusion

Remember, these people worshiped Jesus—the right King—for the wrong reason. When we worship Jesus, it should be for the right reason: because He is God, and He died for our sin and rose again. He is the King and Lord of all! And how long should we worship Jesus? (Forever!) When you come back next week, we will find out how people turned on Jesus and shouted for Him to be crucified.

Do Right and Feel Right

When we begin to understand who Jesus really is and trust Him to save us from our sin, we can then truly worship Him as our King. Question: Can we worship Jesus our King when we're alone? (Of course, and we should!) Can we worship Jesus anywhere and everywhere? (Yes, and we should!) But remember, we should always come together with other believers at church and worship Jesus, our King. As we worship Jesus for the right reasons, we can feel the joy that only He can give us.

Let's go through the Wordless Book now, so we can make sure we know why we should worship Jesus. *Share the Gospel through the Wordless Book and offer an invitation for salvation.*

Let's stop and worship by bowing our heads. *Read Psalm 95:6.* Let's take thirty seconds to silently worship Him individually. Just tell Him how awesome He is and what He means to you. *You (the teacher) should close this time in prayer.* We often forget to just be still and worship Him. You can do this every night before you go to bed or when you wake up in the morning.

Now let's talk about some ways we can worship Jesus. Think about what you did in your DT activity. *Spend some time discussing ways to worship. Challenge students to be creative. Here are some examples: singing and other arts, praying, studying and thinking about His Word, serving others, doing a good job when we are working, obeying Him, etc.*

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

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

1. What did Jesus tell His disciples would happen to Him in Jerusalem?
For younger students: (He would die on the cross and rise to life on the third day)
For older students: *Accept any of these answers until all are given.* (He would be betrayed to the chief priests and the teachers of the law, condemned to death, turned over to the Gentiles, mocked, flogged, crucified, then raised to life on the third day)
2. How did Jesus know what would happen to Him? (He knew because He is God)
3. Why did Jesus ride a donkey into Jerusalem? (Because He is the King)
4. Why did the people in Jerusalem worship Jesus when He rode in on the donkey? (They thought He would save them from the Romans)
5. What did Jesus come to save people from? (Their sin)
6. What is worship? (To focus on God alone and tell Him how much He is worth through my words, actions, and thoughts)
7. Why should we worship Jesus as our King? (He died for our sin and rose again, and He is the King and Lord of all)
8. How long should we worship Jesus? (Forever)
9. What are some ways we can worship Jesus? (Singing and other arts, praying, studying and thinking about His Word, serving others, doing a good job when we are working, obeying Him, etc.)
10. What verse reminds us about worshiping Jesus? ("Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker..." Psalm 95:6)

Lesson 4 – April 6, 2025

Matthew 26 – 28

Know Right:	Jesus rises from the dead.
Think Right:	“Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved — you and your household.” Acts 16:31 (Top 12)
Do Right:	I will believe that Jesus died for my sin and rose again.
Feel Right:	I can feel thankful that Jesus died for my sin and rose again.

GET READY!

When Jesus was crucified, He took the punishment for our sin and paid our debt in full. When He rose again on the third day, He had victory over death! As we prepare for this week, let’s dwell on the Good News of Christ’s resurrection. He has conquered sin and death. Our risen Savior is alive and reigns in victory!

Pray: Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your thoughts as you prepare for the lesson. Pray for each student by name and ask God to place them in situations where they will remember God and apply His Word.

Read: Matthew 26 – 28

Know Right: Jesus rises from the dead

Jesus knew what was ahead as He made His way into Jerusalem among shouts of praise. He knew He was on His way to be betrayed, mocked, beaten, and crucified. He knew He was going there in our place to pay the full price only He could pay. The two criminals who hung on either side of Him on the day of His crucifixion are a reminder of the choice that we all have. Will we be the one that rejects Him, to suffer an eternity of punishment, or will we believe that Jesus died for our sin and rose again?

GET SET!

Lead Teacher’s Notes:

- Please refer to the Children’s Ministry Resource Bible: page 1363 (Jesus is Put on Trial and Crucified) and page 1367 (Jesus Rises from the Dead).
- Definition of “Savior”: A person who rescues someone or something from danger. Jesus is our Savior because He can save us from the punishment of our sin.
- We recognize this is a long passage of Scripture. Please paraphrase as needed to make the lesson highlight the death and resurrection of Jesus.

Creative Ideas for the Bible Lesson:

1. Flip a table upside down and fold down the legs. Cover the table with a tarp and fill with several buckets of sand to create a 3D scene for your lesson. (The sides of the upside-down table will help hold sand better.) Use action figures, popsicle sticks, or bottles to mark specific locations on your 3D scene. Move your tables into a “U” shape, so all students can see and participate during the lesson.
2. Hang a sheet of poster board in each of the four corners of your classroom. On each one, draw a different part of the lesson: coins, crown, tomb, empty tomb/silhouette of a person. Move to each poster board as you teach that part of the lesson.
3. Use a flannel board to depict the events of the lesson.

GO!

Pre-Service Review Game and Worship

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

Discover Time: Paid in full! -OR- Made clean!

K-1st Grade Goal: To experience what it means to be “**paid in full**”.

3rd-5th Grade Goal: To experience what it means to be “**made clean**”.

(2nd Grade will be going to the Mission Station)

Kindergarten and 1st Grade: Turn your classrooms into a fun Spring Carnival this week.

Kindergarten: Sand Station

Supplies:

- 100+ plastic eggs (inside 50 eggs place small prizes such as candy, Tracker Tickets, plastic rings, etc.; all eggs should be hidden throughout the sand area)
- Paper lunch bags (one for each student to collect their eggs)
- Carnival-style poster with “Egg Hunt – 300 Tracker Tickets per student” (see appendix)
- One gallon-sized plastic zipper bag with “**paid in full**” written in large letters filled with an assortment of Tracker Tickets
- Leader to hand you the plastic bag of Tracker Tickets

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Have students arrive at the “Egg Hunt Game.”
2. Inform students that eggs are hidden throughout the sand area. Some have prizes, some do not. They will have ten minutes to find as many eggs as they can.
3. Hand out paper lunch bags.
4. Line students up around the sand area and build excitement.
5. Right before you say, “Go!”, say, “Stop! I totally forgot that Mr./Ms./Mrs. _____ *(insert name of leader in your church)* said that because this game uses extra supplies, each of you will have to pay 300 Tracker Tickets to participate.” Point to the sign.

6. Count the students and do the math (number of students x 300). Say, "Wow, this activity will cost _____ Tracker Tickets for our class to participate. Does anybody have that many? Even if we put all of your tickets together, we wouldn't have enough."
7. Allow them to realize that they can't pay their own way to play the game.
8. At this point, a leader should walk by and freely give the bag filled with Tracker Tickets to pay for their game.
9. You (the DT Leader) should look amazed and thankful, as you show the class the bag marked "**paid in full**".
10. Have all students cheer and thank the leader for **paying the price in full!**
11. Allow students to play the game.

1st Grade: Food Station

Supplies:

- Ingredients for a special carnival treat (fun option: create an ice cream sundae buffet where students get to choose their own toppings)
- Parent volunteers or other leaders to set this up and supervise it
- Carnival-style poster with "Treats – 300 Tracker Tickets per student" (see appendix)
- One gallon-sized plastic zipper bag with "**paid in full**" written in large letters filled with an assortment of Tracker Tickets
- Leader to hand you the plastic bag of Tracker Tickets

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Inform students they will be making a special treat. Be enthusiastic and help them become enthusiastic about getting to make and eat the special treat.
2. Just before you are ready to begin, say, "Stop! I totally forgot that Mr./Ms./Mrs. _____ (*insert name of leader in your church*) said that because this activity uses extra supplies, each of you will have to pay 300 Tracker Tickets to participate." Point to the sign.
3. Count the students and do the math (number of students x 300). Say, "Wow, this activity will cost _____ Tracker Tickets for our class to participate! Does anybody have that many? Even if we put all your tickets together, we wouldn't have enough."
4. Allow them to realize that they can't pay their own way to have the treat.
5. At this point, a leader should walk by and freely give the bag filled with Tracker Tickets to **pay for your full class** to participate.
6. You (the DT Leader) should look amazed and thankful, as you show the class the bag marked "**paid in full**".
7. Have students cheer and thank the leader for **paying the price in full!**
8. Allow students to make and eat the treat.
9. As students eat their treat, ask if they are thankful that the leader **paid the fee in full**.

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

3rd-5th Grade: All three grades will do the same activity, but, if classes are large, they should be set up in separate areas.

3rd Grade: Water Station / **4th Grade:** Box Station or Open Area / **5th Grade:** Art Station

Supplies:

- One giant poster (on large roll paper) per class with the words “THANK YOU, JESUS!” outlined in giant, bubble letters
- Washable poster or tempera paint
- Paintbrushes
- Small, simple snack that can be eaten quickly (one per student) – *check for allergies.*
- Supplies to create the best hand washing stations possible: nice soap, fluffy towels, basins of water (approximately one station for every three students; the stations should be covered up)
- One volunteer for each hand-washing station (this would be a great time to involve parents or others who aren’t usually a part of your children’s ministry)

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Inform students that today we will be thinking about what Jesus has done for us, so we will be making giant posters that say “Thank You, Jesus!” To make the posters, they will be filling in the letters with their handprints. Reminder: Students should not smear their handprints or overlap them.
2. Have students line up and hold out their hands. Leaders should cover each student’s palms and fingers with paint using a paint brush.
3. Each student should go to the poster and put their handprints in the letters. They should continue having paint of the same color put on their hands and making handprints until the letters are all filled up. Do not have the students wash their hands!
4. When the students are done putting their handprints on the poster, the Lead Teacher or Shepherd will offer snacks to the students and let them know they can now take them back to their class and eat the snack.
5. As the students protest that their hands are too messy, offer them three choices: 1) eat the snack with their dirty hands, 2) clean up their hands themselves by wiping them on their clothes, licking them clean, etc., or 3) visit a hand-washing station where someone will clean their hands for them.
6. The students should go to the hand-washing stations. Each station volunteer should gently wash each student’s hands, making sure that they are **perfectly clean** with absolutely no paint remaining.
7. After all the students’ hands are **made clean**, they will go back to class. Snacks should be taken back to the classroom.

Bible Lesson Introduction

Lead Teachers ~ Connecting the DT to the Lesson:

K – 1st: Wow! I've never heard of it costing Tracker Tickets to do DT before, have you? Were you worried that you wouldn't have enough Tracker Tickets? Did you have enough? No? I didn't think so. How many of you could have paid for everyone in your class to do the DT activity? Nobody? Well, it's a good thing that Mr./Ms./Mrs. _____ (insert name of leader) was willing to rescue you and pay for you in full! That means that you didn't have to pay anything yourself! It's just like that with sin. In today's lesson, we are going to learn about how Jesus, our Savior, paid for our sins in full.

3rd – 5th: Before we eat our snack, take a look at your hands. They are clean, aren't they? Did any of you choose to clean them yourself by wiping them on your clothes or by licking them? No way! That really wouldn't have gotten them clean, and it would have created even bigger problems. You needed someone to wash them for you. This is how it is with sin. In today's lesson, we are going to learn about what Jesus did, so that we could be forgiven of our sin and made clean. Let's eat our snack with our clean hands after we pray.

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

Pray: Does God hear our prayers? Let's all just pause and bow our heads and ask God to teach us something new today. *Allow students to pray by themselves and then open the class in prayer.*

Find it: *Ask the class if Matthew is in the OT or the NT. Recite the books of the New Testament together. Optional: Read every other book title and have the students shout out the books you miss.*

Write the verse reference, Matthew 26:1, on the board and have students open their Bibles to Matthew 26:1. Teach that the reference is the verse's "address" in the Bible. Remind students that Matthew is the book, the first number "26" is the chapter, and the second number "1" is the verse. Younger students and visitors may need assistance. A more advanced class may use the "Sword Drill" method.

Timeline: *Where in the OT did someone talk about a Savior coming? There are many prophecies in the Bible that refer to the coming Savior. One that the students may remember is the account of Rahab and the red rope. Talk about how when God says He will do something, He will always do it. Point out the period on the classroom Bible timeline.*

Introduction to the Bible Lesson:

Remember last week when we learned about how all those people worshiped Jesus? They shouted "Hosanna" which means "save us now!" They knew He was supposed to be their Savior. What is a Savior? A person who rescues someone or something from danger. (Jesus is our Savior because He can save us from the punishment of our sin). They thought the Savior that God had promised was going to come and take care of all their problems here on earth, like freeing them from the Romans. Is that why Jesus came? (No) What did Jesus come to do? (He came to show us what God is like, to be our Savior who saves us from our sin, and to be the ruler of our hearts)

Let's think back to what Jesus told His disciples would happen to Him in Jerusalem. We are about to find out if all that really did happen.

Scripture Outline: Matthew 26 – 28

Jesus is betrayed

Paraphrase of Matthew 26:1-13:

Jesus was with His disciples while the chief priests plotted to kill Jesus. Why would they want to kill Jesus? (Because Jesus said He was God's Son) The priests were jealous and mad at Jesus.

While Jesus was in a city called Bethany, He went to the home of a man named Simon. A woman came with expensive perfume and poured it over Jesus' head. Some were upset that she wasted the perfume, but Jesus said she had done a beautiful thing by preparing His body for burial.

Read Matthew 26:14-16

Recap: Judas was one of Jesus' disciples. He was going to betray Jesus, which means he was going to do something against Jesus for his own gain. He was willing to lead the soldiers to Jesus for money.

Paraphrase of Matthew 26:17-46:

That night Jesus and His disciples had supper together. During supper, Jesus told them He would die. After that dinner, they went to a garden where Jesus prayed to God, His Father.

Read Matthew 26:47-50

Recap: Things went exactly as planned, Judas led the soldiers to Jesus, so He could be arrested.

Skip Matthew 26:51-56

Jesus is condemned to death

Paraphrase of Matthew 26:57-66:

After Jesus was arrested, He was taken to the religious leaders. Even though many people came and lied about Jesus, saying He sinned, the chief priests and the leaders couldn't find a true reason to put Him to death. Finally, they asked Jesus if He was God's Son. When Jesus said 'yes, He was God's Son', they got very, very mad. They were so mad they said that Jesus should be killed. They didn't have faith to believe that He was actually God.

Skip Matthew 26:67 - 27:10

Jesus is handed over to the Gentiles, mocked, and flogged

Paraphrase of Matthew 27:11-26:

Jesus also said that He would be handed over to the Gentiles, who are people that aren't Jewish. After the Jewish religious leaders said that Jesus should be killed, they sent Jesus to a Gentile named Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor. Pilate couldn't find one thing that Jesus had done wrong because Jesus never did anything wrong. He never sinned. Even though Jesus was innocent, Pilate ordered his soldiers to crucify Him because some of the Jewish people demanded it.

Just like Jesus said would happen, the soldiers flogged Jesus, which means they beat Him very badly.

Read Matthew 27:27-31

Recap: This makes me feel sad knowing Jesus didn't deserve this.

Jesus is crucified

Paraphrase of Matthew 27:32-66:

Jesus said He would be crucified, and He was. This means that He was nailed to a cross and hurt and beaten until He died. After He died, some men, who believed Jesus was the Savior, came and buried Him in a tomb. A huge stone was rolled in front of the entrance to His tomb, and Pontius Pilate had the tomb guarded by Roman soldiers, so that no one could steal His body.

*Optional for older students: **Read Matthew 27:62-66***

Jesus rises to life on the third day

Read Matthew 28:1-4

Recap: Could you imagine being there? This wasn't just a small earthquake; it was a violent earthquake. The angel rolled back the stone and sat on it. This was so amazing that the guards became like dead men out of fear.

Read: Matthew 28:5-10

Recap: This was a day that the women would never forget. They experienced an earthquake, saw an angel, and saw Jesus! Now their job was to quickly go and tell others.

Paraphrase of Matthew 28:11-20:

Meanwhile, the guards and priests were alerted to what happened, so they created a plan to lie and hide the truth from others. But the disciples knew the truth and were instructed by Jesus to go and make disciples.

Conclusion

Why did all of this happen to Jesus? Why did Jesus have to suffer such a painful death? Guess what – He didn't have to die like this. He chose to die like this. Why? He wanted to save us from our sin because He loves us so much. He died like this, so the punishment of our sin can be paid in full. It's kind of like our Discover Time activity. You needed the leader to do something for you. *Mention the payment in full or the hand washing, depending on which DT your class did.* And Jesus paid in full for our sins because we could never pay for them ourselves. *If your class went to the Mission Station, mention how Jesus can be the Savior of anyone, anywhere in the world.*

Jesus is the Savior, and He paid for all our sins, but there's one important thing you need to understand. What does Acts 16:31 say? *Recite Acts 16:31 as a class.* It is your choice to believe in Jesus to save you.

Did you know that Jesus was crucified between two robbers? One robber chose to trust in Jesus to save him from his sin. The other chose not to believe in Jesus as his Savior. What happened to the robber who chose to trust in Jesus? Even though he was a criminal, he became a child of God, his sins were paid in full, and he went to heaven to live with Jesus forever. Isn't that incredible? What happened to the robber who chose not to trust in Jesus? His sins were not paid in full. He had to go to the place called hell where he would be separated from God and punished forever. That is so sad. God doesn't want us to be separated from Him.

Which robber do you want to be like—the one who chose to trust in Jesus as his Savior, or the one who chose not to trust in Jesus? You can have your sins paid in full by Jesus the Savior, if you choose to believe in Him. *Share the Gospel through the Wordless Book and offer an invitation for salvation.*

Do Right and Feel Right

Jesus will always be the Savior of the world, whether we choose to trust in Him or not. When we choose to trust in Him, so many wonderful things happen! Our sins are forgiven and paid for in full. We also become God's child and part of the family of God. He also gives us a helper – the Holy Spirit, so we can become more and more like Jesus. For those of you who have made this decision, let's stop and thank Him for being our Savior both now and forever. *Have students bow their heads and reflect on the lesson and personally thank Jesus for being their Savior.*

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

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

1. What is a savior? (A person who rescues someone or something from danger. Jesus is our Savior because He can save us from the punishment of our sin.)
2. Name something that happened to Jesus in Jerusalem just like He said. (*For younger students:* He would die on the cross and rise to life on the third day. *For advanced students:* He would be betrayed to the chief priests and the teachers of the law, condemned to death, turned over to the Gentiles, mocked, flogged, crucified, then raised to life on the third day.)
3. Did Jesus ever do anything wrong - sin? (No)
4. Did Jesus have to die on the cross or did He choose to die on the cross? (He chose to die on the cross)
5. Why did Jesus choose to die on the cross? (Because He is our Savior, He loves us and wants to save us from our sin)
6. When you choose to trust in Jesus as your Savior, what happens to your sins? (They are forgiven – paid in full by Jesus)
7. What two different choices did the robbers make when they were crucified with Jesus? (One chose to trust in Jesus as Savior, the other chose not to trust in Him)
8. What happens when you choose not to trust in Jesus as your Savior? (You are separated from God and are punished for your sins forever)
9. What is our Think Right verse that helps us remember why we celebrate Easter? ("Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved – you and your household." Acts 16:31)

Lesson 5 – April 13, 2025

Acts 1:1-11; 1 Corinthians 15:3-8

Know Right:	Jesus returns to heaven.
Think Right:	“... I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies...” John 11:25b
Do Right:	I will believe that Jesus is alive in heaven.
Feel Right:	I can feel hopeful when I believe that Jesus is alive in heaven.

GET READY!

We can find confidence and hope in the resurrection of Jesus. We know and believe that Jesus was victorious over death and is alive! As Christians, we have the promise of eternal life with Jesus! What a joy it is to be able to share this great news with the next generation.

Pray: As you prepare for the lesson, pray that God will open the hearts and minds of your students before they arrive to class. Ask God to bring every single student to your class this weekend. Pray with faith knowing God is aware of each student’s family schedule, and He is able to bring each student to hear truth.

Read: Acts 1:1-11; 1 Corinthians 15:3-8

Know Right: Jesus returns to heaven

Before He died, Jesus told His disciples that He would be raised to life on the third day. However, their behavior after Jesus’ crucifixion reveals that the disciples neither understood nor believed this essential truth. Knowing this, Jesus responded to the disciples with patience and love, as He demonstrated in undeniable ways the reality of His resurrection. As we begin to walk with Jesus through the book of Acts, we can observe the 180° turn that the disciples made as they believed the truth about our risen Savior. Now we, too, can believe that Jesus is alive in heaven.

GET SET!

Lead Teacher's Notes:

- Please refer to the Children's Ministry Resource Bible: page 1371 (The Risen Lord Ascends to Heaven); page 1414 (Introduction to the History of the Church—Acts).
- Definition of “witness”: a witness for Jesus is someone who shows or tells others the truth about God in their lives and how He can save them from their sin.
- It is essential to highlight that Jesus appeared to many after His death. Often, we say Jesus died, rose again, and went to heaven. By doing this we skip something critical: He walked, talked, and ate here on earth after His resurrection. This is an important building block in understanding the historic reliability of the Bible.
- If you'd like your students to read more about apologetics and defending their faith, Cold Case Christianity for Kids: Investigate Jesus with a Real Detective by J. Warner and Susie Wallace is a good resource.

Creative Ideas for the Bible Lesson:

1. Create comic strip boxes on large roll paper and then hang it on the wall. Teach the lesson in sections, so your students see the main themes of the lesson. Comic strip boxes would contain a picture of Jesus teaching and healing, a picture of His death and resurrection, Jesus appearing to many, Jesus giving instructions to His disciples, and Jesus going up to heaven. For older students: Ask why these five comic strip boxes are so important in defending your faith. Discuss each box and really challenge students to think through situations where they could use this evidence to help them stand firm in their faith.
2. In advance, contact a few students who are gifted in art. Have them design and/or color specific comic strip box pictures (each on a separate poster board) to represent different portions of the lesson. Have students drop off pictures in the classroom before worship, so you can arrange the pictures on the wall. By doing this, you are encouraging students to use their gifts to serve God.

GO!

Pre-Service Review Game and Worship

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

Discover Time: Be a witness!

Goal: To remind students that Jesus is alive and that, as His church, we should be eager to be a **witness** and tell our friends about Jesus.

Definition of “witness”: a witness for Jesus is someone who shows or tells others the truth about God in their lives and how He can save them from their sin.

Kindergarten: Play-Doh Station

Supplies:

- Two actors and one adult in authority (Actor 1 will be carrying a tray, Actor 2 will be a thief, and the adult in authority could be a staff member or your children’s ministry director or leader; they should all understand their part in the drama prior to arriving at the DT)
- Tray with plates and cups
- Optional: whiteboard

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Have students form items from Play-Doh that remind them of heaven.
2. As students begin to open the Play-Doh, have Actor 1 carrying a tray of plastic plates and cups walk by and accidentally trip – items should fly off their tray. Actor 2 will come behind the person and take several plates and cups and quickly and quietly walk away. You (the DT Leader) and the teacher should rush to help the person who fell and assist them collecting their supplies on the tray. Actor 1 should notice some items are missing and will either verbally call out for the “adult in authority” or use their cell phone to call the “adult in authority” to figure out who took the extra plates and cups. By this time, the students should be saying, “The other guy took it.” The adult in authority will arrive and ask the students if they were a “**witness**” to the event – did they see what happened?
3. The adult in authority should ask questions like: (Optional: write evidence on the whiteboard)
 - What was the person wearing?
 - Was it a man or woman?
 - How tall was the person?
 - What did you see them take?
 - Where were they heading?
4. After the students are a **witness**, the adult in authority should thank the class and leave to catch the thief.
5. Students should be congratulated for being such a good **witness** to the event.
6. Time should be up, and students should head back to class.

1st Grade: Mission Station – *The Mission Lesson is in the appendix.*

2nd Grade: LEGO Station

Supplies:

- LEGO bricks (make sure you have Wordless Book-colored LEGO bricks)
- Two actors and one adult in authority (Actor 1 will be carrying a tray, Actor 2 will be a thief, and the adult in authority could be a staff member or your children’s ministry director or leader; they should all understand their part in the drama prior to arriving at the DT)
- Tray with plates and cups
- Optional: whiteboard

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Have students make as many people as possible (at least six inches high) using only Wordless Book-colored LEGO bricks.
2. As students begin to work, have a person carrying a tray of plastic plates and cups walk by and accidentally trip – items should fly off their tray. Actor 2 will come behind the person and take several plates and cups and quickly and quietly walk away. You (the DT Leader) and the teacher should rush to help the person who fell and assist them collecting their supplies on the tray. Actor 1 should notice some items are missing and will either verbally call out for the “adult in authority” or use their cell phone to call the “adult in authority” to figure out who took the extra plates and cups. By this time, the students should be saying, “The other guy took it.” The adult in authority will arrive and ask the students if they were a **“witness”** to the event – did they see what happened?
3. The adult in authority should ask the questions like: (Optional: write evidence on the whiteboard)
 - What was the person wearing?
 - Was it a man or woman?
 - How tall was the person?
 - What did you see them take?
 - Where were they heading?
4. After the students are a **witness**, the adult in authority should thank the class and leave to catch the thief.
5. Students should be congratulated for being such a good **witness** to the event.
6. Time should be up, and students should head back to class.

3rd Grade: Sand Station

Supplies:

- Buckets (one per team)
- Craft sticks (at least five per student; place in the bucket)
- Brightly colored markers (one per team)
- Tracker Tickets

Setup instructions: Divide Sand Station, so each team has a space to work. Students will be participating in a relay race using craft sticks ~~and markers~~. Place each team’s buckets of craft sticks and their marker approximately five feet away from their workspace in the sand.

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Assign students to teams in advance.
2. At the beginning of the Discover Time activity, before giving any instructions, have students stand in a large circle and one at a time have them each say their name. Do not explain this exercise, just have students say their names aloud and remind them to listen very carefully.
3. Then have students sit around their team’s workspace in the sand.
4. In the center of their workspace, have each team quickly build the outside walls of a church.
5. Once the churches have been built, have teams line up behind their team’s bucket and explain that today they will be competing in a relay race. The goal is to get as many names as possible into the inside of your church’s walls. These names may only be names of students in their class (or if the class is very small, they may be names of anyone in your church). Students will relay one at a time to write a name on a craft stick, run to their church walls in the sand area, and stick the craft stick into the sand, then tag the next team member. Whoever gets the most names into the church (one at a time) in five minutes wins (misspelled names still count).

6. Tell students that if they believe in Jesus as their Savior, they are part of the Church – the family of God. This is why we are putting their names inside the outline of the church.
7. Begin the relay race. Students should work together to remember as many names as possible.
8. After five minutes, end the race and announce the winner (students on the winning team should receive two Tracker Tickets each). Then ask students to look at the names inside the church.
9. Ask: “Is this what a church should look like... people just sitting in a church? Does anyone have friends who do not know Jesus? We want to bring them to Jesus, so they can become part of His Church, too!”
10. Repeat the relay race, but this time, instruct students to only write names of their unsaved friends and family on the craft sticks. These sticks will be placed in the space surrounding (outside) the church walls. You may need to coach some students on who may be unsaved in their community, school, family, etc. Challenge them to really think about the whole community (teachers, mayor, president, etc.).
11. After five minutes, end the race and announce the winner (students on the winning team should receive two Tracker Tickets each). Then ask students to look at the names outside the church.
12. Ask: “How will these people ever know about Jesus?” *Allow students to answer: pray for them, bring them to church to hear, personally tell them about Jesus, etc.* “It is our job to **witness** to them. To witness means to show or tell others about what Jesus has done for you and how He can save them from their sin.”
13. End by having students quickly collect their sticks from the outside of the church walls. They should bring these craft sticks back to the classroom.

Note for Lead Teacher: At the end of your lesson, give students a few minutes to silently pray for the names on their craft sticks.

4th Grade: Food Station

Supplies:

- Alphabet pasta (enough for each student to write out multiple names)
- Activity sheet with an outline of a church building (see appendix) (one per student)
- Small snack bags (one per student)
- Tracker Tickets

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. At the beginning of the Discover Time activity, before giving any instructions, have students stand in a large circle and one at a time have them each say their name. Do not explain this exercise, just have students say their names aloud and remind them to listen very carefully.
2. Then have them take a seat at the Food Station, and hand out alphabet pasta and an activity sheet to each student.
3. Explain that today they will be competing in a race. The goal is to spell out as many names as possible inside of the church using alphabet pasta. These names may only be names of students in their class (or if the class is very small, they may be names of anyone in your church). Whoever gets the most names written in five minutes wins (misspelled names still count).
4. Explain to students that they can break their pasta pieces to change letters as needed (i.e. change an R into a P).
5. Tell students that if they believe in Jesus as their Savior, they are part of the Church – the family of God. This is why we are writing their names inside the outline of the church.
6. Begin the race.

7. After five minutes, end the race and announce the winner (the winner should receive two Tracker Tickets). Then ask students to look at the names written inside the church.
8. Ask: "Is this what a church should look like... people just sitting in a church? Does anyone have friends who do not know Jesus? We want to bring them to Jesus, so they can become part of His Church, too!"
9. Repeat the race, but this time, instruct students to only write names of their unsaved friends and family in the space surrounding (outside) the church outline. You may need to coach some students on who may be unsaved in their community, school, family, etc. Challenge them to really think about the whole community (teachers, mayor, president, etc.).
10. After five minutes, end the race and announce the winner (the winner should receive two Tracker Tickets). Then ask students to look at the names written outside the church.
11. Ask: "How will these people ever know about Jesus?" *Allow students to answer: pray for them, bring them to church to hear, personally tell them about Jesus, etc.* "Is it your job to **witness** to them? To witness means to show or tell others about what Jesus has done for you and how He can save them from their sin."
12. End by having students pray silently for the people whose names are on the outside of their church outline. After they've finished praying, have them put the alphabet pasta in a small snack bag to serve as a prayer reminder during the week.

Note for Lead Teacher: At the end of your lesson, save time to hand out notecards and pencils to students and ask them to write down the names of their family and friends who are not yet saved. Challenge students to begin to pray intentionally by name for these people. Give students a few minutes to silently pray for the names on their notecard.

5th Grade: Chalk Wall Station

Supplies:

- Colorful cones (one per team, to indicate where each team should line up)
- Chalk (one piece per team)
- Tracker Tickets

Setup instructions: In advance, draw a large chalk outline of a church for each team. If you don't have a large chalk wall/board, use poster boards and markers.

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Assign students to teams in advance.
2. At the beginning of the Discover Time activity, before giving any instructions, have students stand in a large circle and one at a time have them each say their name. Do not explain this exercise, just have students say their names aloud and remind them to listen very carefully.
3. Then have students line up behind their team cones.
4. Give each team a piece of chalk.
5. Explain that today they will be competing in a relay race. The goal is to get as many names as possible written into the inside of their church's outline. These names may only be names of students in their class (or if the class is very small, they may be names of anyone in your church). Whoever gets the most names written (one at a time) in five minutes wins (misspelled names still count).
6. Tell students that if they believe in Jesus as their Savior, they are part of the Church – the family of God. This is why we are writing their names inside the outline of the church.
7. Begin the relay race. Students should work together to remember as many names as possible.

8. After five minutes, end the race and announce the winner (students on the winning team should receive two Tracker Tickets). Then ask students to look at the names written inside the church.
9. Ask: "Is this what a church should look like... people just sitting in a church? Does anyone have friends who do not know Jesus? We want to bring them to Jesus, so they can become part of His Church, too!"
10. Repeat the relay race, but this time, instruct students to only write names of their unsaved friends and family in the space surrounding (outside) the church outline. You may need to coach some students on who may be unsaved in their community, school, family, etc. Challenge them to really think about this. Our goal is for them to think about the whole community (teachers, mayor, president, etc.).
11. After five minutes, end the race and announce the winner (students on the winning team should receive two Tracker Tickets). Then ask students to look at the names written outside the church.
12. Ask: "How will these people ever know about Jesus?" *Allow students to answer: pray for them, bring them to church to hear, personally tell them about Jesus, etc.* "Is it your job to **witness** to them? To witness means to show or tell others about what Jesus has done for you and how He can save them from their sin."
13. End by having students to pray silently for the people whose names are on the outside of the church outline.

Note for Lead Teacher: At the end of your lesson, save time to hand out notecards and pencils to students and ask them to write down the names of their family and friends who are not yet saved. Challenge students to begin to pray intentionally by name for these people. Give students a few minutes to silently pray for the names on their notecard.

Bible Lesson Introduction

Lead Teachers ~ Connecting the DT to the Lesson: In our DT, we talked about the word "witness". What does it mean to be a witness? (A witness for Jesus is someone who shows or tells others the truth about God in their lives) How can you witness to others? Why is this so important, and do we really have to witness?

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

Pray: Encourage one of your students to lead your class in prayer. Encourage them to stand up and speak clearly.

Find It: Ask the class if Acts is in the OT or the NT. Recite the books of the New Testament.

Write the verse reference, Acts 1:1, on the board and have students open their Bibles to Acts 1:1. Teach that the reference is the verse's "address" in the Bible. Remind students that Acts is the book, the first number "1" is the chapter, and the second number "1" is the verse. Tell students that Acts is a great book that teaches us about the church when it was first getting started.

Timeline: Point out the period on the classroom Bible timeline and highlight the "church age." Remind students that we live in the church age.

Introduction to the Bible Lesson:

Today, we will begin studying the book of Acts. A man named Luke wrote the book of Acts. Luke also wrote the Gospel of Luke. Luke was a doctor. He believed in Jesus and was a friend of the disciple Paul. Luke was like a special reporter who investigated and told the story of Jesus' life, death, resurrection, and how the Christian church started. Let's listen to what Luke wrote.

Scripture Outline: Acts 1:1-11, 1 Corinthians 15:3-8

Jesus lives, dies, and rises from the dead

Read Acts 1:1-3

Recap: Luke had written about Jesus' life, death, and resurrection in his book called Luke. In Acts, Luke wrote to a man named Theophilus and told him about what happened after Jesus came back to life.

How many days did Luke say Jesus spent with His disciples after He died on the cross and rose again – proving He was alive? (Forty)

People didn't just imagine or dream that Jesus was alive. They saw Him face to face. He talked to His disciples, they saw that He had flesh and bones, and He even ate with them! Listen to how many people the apostle Paul said – all at the same time – saw Jesus after He had been raised from the dead:

Read 1 Corinthians 15:3-8

Recap: How many people saw Jesus at the same time? (More than 500!) Do you think there was any doubt in the disciples' minds, after they saw Him in person, that Jesus was really alive, even though He had died on the cross? (No!) This is evidence that we can know Jesus is alive.

Even though Jesus told the disciples that He would die on the cross, they couldn't understand or believe it. So, after He died, the disciples were terrified. They ran and hid because they didn't know what to do. But after they saw and believed that Jesus had come back to life, they changed. Instead of being afraid, they were very, very brave.

In the next few weeks, we will find out how they courageously told people that Jesus was the One who could save them from their sin and give them eternal life. This is called being a witness. In fact, many disciples died for telling people about Jesus. Do you think they would have willingly died if they thought that Jesus just died and never came back? (No!) They knew Jesus was alive because they had seen Him with their own eyes! They went from being terrified to being courageous.

If you ever hear someone say that they don't believe Jesus came back to life, you can remember how the disciples acted before and how they acted after they knew Jesus was alive. When you remember they went from terrified to courageous, it will help you believe that Jesus really did come back to life and that He is alive forever!

Like I said, we'll learn about how the disciples bravely told people about Jesus over the next few weeks. But right now, let's find out what else happened while Jesus was alive and still here on earth.

Jesus tells the disciples to wait until they receive the Holy Spirit

Read Acts 1:4-5

Recap: The disciples needed the power of the Holy Spirit to do the job that God wanted them to do. Next week we will learn about the special day when the Holy Spirit came.

Next, Jesus tells His disciples what their job will be. Listen.

Jesus tells the disciples their job

Read Acts 1:6-8

Recap: What was the disciples' job? (To be witnesses about Jesus all over the world) What does a witness do? (A witness tells someone else something they've seen or something that has happened to them) A witness for Jesus is someone who shows or tells others the truth about God in their lives and how Jesus can save them from their sin, too.

Do you know that when we trust in Jesus to save us from our sin and be the leader of our lives, it's our job to tell people about Jesus, too? Can you think of an easy way to tell people about Jesus? (The Wordless Book) That's why we spend so much time talking about the Wordless Book – so you have an easy way to tell people about Jesus!

After Jesus told His disciples their job, something amazing happened. Listen.

Jesus ascends to heaven

Read Acts 1:9-11

Recap: Jesus went up to heaven in a cloud to be with God, His Father!

Who do you think the men in white were? (Angels) What did the angels say that Jesus would do? (Come back to earth again)

Did you know that Jesus will come back to earth some day? When He does, He will take all the living people who believe in Him to live with Him in heaven forever. Not only that, everyone who believes in Him, whether they are still alive or they have already died and are in heaven, will get brand new bodies that will never die. Isn't that awesome news? I look forward to the day that Jesus comes again!

But what about the people who don't believe in Jesus? What will happen to them? (The Bible tells us that they will be separated from God and punished for their sin forever in the place called hell)

Conclusion

Isn't it awesome to know that God has always had a plan to send Jesus, so we could have a relationship with Him? And not only that, He also can save us from our sin, so we can know as a fact that we can live with Him forever in heaven. God sent His one and only Son, Jesus, to take the punishment and die for our sin. Jesus is alive today. Now God wants us to be His witnesses wherever we go. So, what if Jesus comes back today? Are you ready? The only way you are ready is if you have trusted in Jesus to save you from your sin and made Him the leader of your life.

Do Right and Feel Right

John 11:25 says "...I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies." We should know and believe that Jesus died, rose to life again, and is alive forever. If He is our Savior, then we are in Him, and we are also alive forever. When we believe this, we have no reason to fear death. We can feel incredible hope because no matter what happens to our body, we will be alive forever!

If you have never trusted in Jesus to save you from your sin and made Him the leader of your life, let me explain how it works, so you can make that choice today. *Share the Gospel through the Wordless Book and give an invitation for salvation.*

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

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

1. How many days did Jesus spend on the earth after He came back to life? (Forty)
2. How many people, all at the same time, saw Jesus alive after He died on the cross and rose again? (Over 500)
3. What was one thing that Jesus did with His disciples that only living people do? (He ate with them)
4. How did the disciples act before they saw that Jesus was alive? (Terrified)
5. How did the disciples act after they saw that Jesus was alive? (Brave and courageous)
6. Who was it that Jesus told the disciples to wait for? (The Holy Spirit)
7. What job did Jesus give the disciples? (To be His witnesses)
8. What does it mean to be a witness for Jesus? (A witness for Jesus is someone who shows or tells others the truth about God in their lives and how He can save them from their sin)
9. Where did Jesus go after He told the disciples what their job was? (Heaven)
10. What did the angel say that Jesus would do? (Come back to earth again)

On Track Map – April 20, 2025

Topical Lesson: He rocked, it rolled!

Know Right:	Jesus is alive!
Think Right:	“For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.” 1 Corinthians 15:3-4
Do Right:	I will celebrate and tell others Jesus is alive!
Feel Right:	I can be filled with joy knowing Jesus is alive!

GET READY!

Christ’s resurrection is central to our faith. Did you know that 1 Corinthians 15:3-7 is one of our earliest documented Christian teachings on the resurrection? From the beginning of the Church Age, we have celebrated that Jesus is risen! This Easter season let’s ask God to fill us with joy as we remember and celebrate.

Pray: Pray Ephesians 1:18 over your students. Ask God to reveal Himself to the students who attend class this week as they take time to think about who Jesus is. Pray specifically for visiting students who have never heard the truth of who Jesus is. Pray that their ears and hearts will be open to the truth of God’s Word.

Read: Luke 22:39 – 24:53

Know Right: Jesus is alive!

GET SET!

Lead Teacher’s Notes:

- The key to teaching this lesson in 15-20 minutes is to know it extremely well. Time yourself as you prepare. When you are ready to teach, tuck away this lesson plan, and use a personal outline for the lesson if needed.
- The following props will guide you through the lesson: palm branch, flowers, thirty silver coins, crown of thorns, and a cross.
- If you need assistance to shorten this lesson more or need lesson tips, please connect with your children’s ministry leader.

Suggested Schedule:

-:20	Volunteers ready and prepared to welcome students as they arrive
-:15	Pre-Service Review Game
:00	Worship (two songs)
:10	Large Group Lesson in Worship Area
:30	Transition to second area for the Resurrection Experience
:33	Resurrection Experience
:43	Transition to third area for DT
:46	DT: Rocks around the Community project
:60	Move to pick-up area(s)
:63	End-of-Class Review Game
:65	Parents pick up students

Important Info:

- There will be a 20-minute large group lesson and an additional 10-minute Resurrection Experience which includes the conclusion of the lesson.
- Students will not have their Bibles as the lesson is being taught.
- Props for the lesson and the Resurrection Experience should be set up and ready in advance. The Resurrection Experience should be in a different location from the large group Bible lesson. See the Resurrection Experience in the Lesson Outline for supplies and setup information.

GO!

Pre-Service Review Game and Worship

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

Bible Lesson Introduction

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

Introduction to the Bible Lesson:

Let's go back a bit before we study Easter. Before Jesus died on the cross, He rode into Jerusalem on a donkey, and the people shouted, "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!" *Show palm branch.* They also shouted, "Hosanna!", which means "Save us!" Many of these people knew about Jesus and His miracles, and they knew of God's promises about the Messiah. They thought God had sent a king to save them from the Romans who ruled over them. But did God send Jesus to save the Jewish people from the Romans? (No) Why did God send Jesus? (To save people from their sin) Many of the Jewish religious leaders didn't want Jesus to be their king; they hated Him. These leaders got what they wanted. Let's find out what happened.

Scripture Outline: Luke 22:39 – 24:53

Jesus prays in the Garden of Gethsemane on the Mount of Olives

Paraphrase of Luke 22:39-46:

Jesus went to the garden (*show flowers*) to pray. Even though Jesus knew He was about to suffer, He still obeyed His Father's will, which was to die on the cross for our sin. Sin is anything we think, say, or do that is against God. Sin separates us from having a relationship with Him.

Jesus is arrested

Paraphrase of Luke 22:47-53:

Judas, who was one of Jesus' twelve disciples, led the Jewish religious leaders and their guards to the garden, so they could arrest Jesus. Judas showed them who Jesus was by giving Jesus a kiss. The leaders paid him thirty silver coins. *Show silver coins.* It was terrible for Judas to help the religious leaders arrest Jesus.

Peter denies knowing Jesus

Skip Luke 22:54-62

Jesus is beaten and put on trial

Paraphrase of Luke 22:63 – 23:25: (*some portions are read as directed below*)

The guards were extremely cruel to Jesus. Jesus was spit upon. They blindfolded, mocked, and beat Him. The religious leaders asked Jesus if He was the Son of God. He told them He was. They said that Jesus was lying, but was He lying? (No! Jesus never sinned or did anything wrong) They took Jesus to Pilate, the Roman governor, and Herod, who was the ruler of Galilee. What do you think happened?

Read Luke 23:3-4 (*emphasize Pilate's declaration of Jesus' innocence*)

Recap: Even though the religious leaders lied about Jesus and accused Him of doing wrong, both Pilate and Herod found Jesus completely innocent. Even though Jesus had never done anything wrong, Pilate ordered Him to be beaten even more and a crown of thorns to be put on His head (John 19:2). *Show crown of thorns.* But that wasn't good enough for the crowd of people and religious leaders. They shouted for Jesus to be crucified. Finally, Pilate gave in to them and ordered that Jesus die on a cross like a criminal.

Optional: *If short on time, you could begin the Resurrection Experience here and have the actress playing Mary summarize the remaining events in the Bible Lesson.*

Jesus is crucified

Paraphrase of Luke 23:26-31:

Jesus was led out of Jerusalem carrying His cross. *Show cross.* They took Him to a place called Calvary and nailed Him to the cross by His hands and His feet. Listen to what happened while Jesus was on the cross.

Read Luke 23:32-35

Recap: Was Jesus the Christ of God? (Yes) Could He have saved Himself? (Yes) But what if He had saved Himself? Could we still be saved from our sins? (No) If Jesus had saved Himself, then we wouldn't have a Savior who could save us from our sins, would we?

Skip Luke 23:36-45

Read Luke 23:46

Recap: This tells us that Jesus said, "It is finished", right before He died. Jesus took the punishment for our sin, so we wouldn't have to.

Skip Luke 23:47-49

Jesus is buried in the tomb

Paraphrase of Luke 23:50-56:

Jesus was buried in an empty tomb and a huge stone was rolled in place to close the tomb.

Jesus comes back to life

Paraphrase of Luke 24:1-12: *(some portions are read as directed below)*

Very early on Sunday morning, the first day of the week, Jesus' followers went to His tomb and found it empty! Listen to what the angels said to some of them at the tomb.

Read Luke 24:5b-6a:

Recap: Jesus had risen from the dead! What would you do if you stood by the tomb and discovered it was empty? *Have students cheer!*

Wait...I think we would cheer more! *Have students cheer more!* What else could we do? (Sing, dance, worship our God!)

I've got an idea...let's go see the empty tomb!!!

Have all students stand up and quickly move to the second area, but don't allow them to go in. As they wait to enter, remind them that they are going to go see what it was like the day Jesus rose from the dead.

Resurrection Experience!

Supplies and setup:

- Set up an area like a garden with a tomb
- Actress to play Mary
- Music/sound effects: “rumble” sound; birds chirping and gently flowing water; song “Unchanging” by Chris Tomlin
- Three confetti cannons

Area before entering the Resurrection Experience:

Mary: I can't believe it. Jesus...He died on the cross (crying). I'm so sad; He didn't deserve it...He was perfect...He loved all of us so much! Then those Romans guards came and got Him...they took Him away...and then they beat Him and nailed Him to the cross. How can it be? Then He was taken to this tomb, to be buried...I can't believe it. My Jesus...He is dead....

Play the “rumble” sound for five seconds as Mary is saying her last sentence.

Inside the Resurrection Experience:

Open the doors and allow students to run to the tomb or sit in front of the area set up as the garden with the tomb; the room should be fairly dark with the tomb area highlighted with lights; play the bird/water sounds.

Mary: *Run to the tomb and search for the body. It's empty!!!! Kids...Jesus is gone, it is empty!!! Our Jesus is alive!!!! He is alive!!!!*

Begin the intro of the song “Unchanging” as Mary says: Let's celebrate...He is alive!!! Students should stand as the Worship Leader and Worship Team lead this song with Mary.

As soon as the song moves to the chorus, confetti will be shot off and the students will continue to worship and celebrate.

At the end of the song, shoot off two additional confetti cannons.

After the song, the music should be turned down. The students should sit down as the teacher finishes the lesson by the tomb.

This is why we celebrate Easter...

Conclusion

All of this is what happened when Jesus died for our sins and rose again. This is why we celebrate Easter!

Do Right and Feel Right

Do you believe that Jesus did all of this for you? He suffered and died in your place, so you don't have to take the punishment you deserve. But how does that work? Do you remember Acts 16:31? *Recite Acts 16:31*. Let's make sure you understand what it means to believe in Jesus to be saved. *Share the Gospel through the Wordless Book and give an invitation for salvation by using the gold, dark, red, and white pages*. When you believe in Jesus, how should you feel? (Forgiven!) And don't forget, Jesus didn't just die on the cross; He rose again on the third day. This is why we can celebrate! This is the best news ever. Hey, I've got an idea, let's go tell everyone around town about Jesus!

No need to line up students, make it an adventure and head out to the DT area.

Discover Time: Rocks around the community!

Goal: To create a rock that will remind people that Jesus is alive.

Supplies:

- Pre-painted rocks (two or three inches in size; paint should be dry)
- Poster board written with phrases and verses (see below)
- Fine tip permanent markers in multiple colors
- Optional: decorate area with balloons

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Students will be writing on pre-painted rocks that will be placed all around the community.
2. Students should choose a verse and phrase from the poster board and write it on their rock. If students need help writing, have leaders outline the words and students can color in the text.
 - He is risen! 1 Corinthians 15:3-4
 - Jesus loves you! John 3:16
 - Do you believe? Acts 16:31
3. Students will take their rocks home and deliver them to schools or parks around the community.
4. Students should search for the rocks all spring/summer.

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

Supplies:

- Two clear plastic or glass tubes
- Candy
- Tracker Tickets
- Plastic eggs (in advance, put a Tracker Ticket or a piece of candy in each egg)

Instructions:

1. Divide students into two teams.
2. A leader will ask review questions.
3. Each time a student answers correctly, hand them an egg. Allow them to open it and keep the candy or Tracker Ticket. Then have them drop the egg into their team's tube.
4. The team with the most eggs will win!

Lesson 6 – April 27, 2025

Acts 2:1-24

Know Right:	The Holy Spirit comes upon the disciples.
Think Right:	“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you...” Acts 1:8a
Do Right:	I will depend on the power of the Holy Spirit.
Feel Right:	I can feel powerful through the Holy Spirit.

GET READY!

It can be easy to forget the power that we have as believers. When we accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior, we receive the Holy Spirit! The Holy Spirit, our Helper, dwells in each of us and empowers us for daily living. We do not need to rely on our own strength. Instead, we are able to depend on the power of the Holy Spirit. Consider how this truth can affect your perspective today.

Pray: Ask God to bring all your students to class this week, so they can discover the power of the Holy Spirit. Pray that pre-scheduled events, health issues, or anything else will be taken away, so students and their families can learn, grow, and worship this weekend.

Read: Acts 2:1-24

Know Right: The Holy Spirit comes upon the disciples

Forty days after His resurrection Jesus left this earth and ascended to the right hand of His Father. Thankfully, He did not leave His people alone. He sent a Helper, who would stay with us until the end. This Helper is one of the three Persons of God, the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit seals us in Jesus, guides us through this life, and bears fruit through us. When we trust in Jesus as our Lord and Savior we are not left in our own strength, but now have the ability to depend on the power of the Holy Spirit.

GET SET!

Lead Teacher's Notes:

- For additional resources for your personal study, please refer to the Children's Ministry Resource Bible: page 1431 (The Work of the Holy Spirit), page 1508 (The Work of the Holy Spirit in Evangelism), page 1604 (Teaching Doctrines to Children — God the Holy Spirit Is...), and page 1608 (False Philosophies — Holy Spirit).
- Before you begin studying this lesson, as always, remember your audience! You need to teach this lesson at the correct age level. Pray that the Holy Spirit will guide you and give you the creativity and wisdom you need to effectively teach your students the truth of the Holy Spirit. Please contact your ministry leader if you have any questions or need ideas on how to teach this (or any) lesson.

Creative Ideas for the Bible Lesson:

1. Provide a few samples of languages from around the world.
2. Create the NT scene by turning your room into a NT church, a gathering place of believers: have children sit on the floor, and put a fire pot, bowl of grapes, and loaf of bread in the middle of the room.

GO!

Pre-Service Review Game and Worship

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

Discover Time: I've got the power!

Goal: To help students realize the **power** they have through the Holy Spirit.

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

1st Grade: Water Station

Supplies:

- Cotton balls
- Straws
- Leaf blower (electric or battery operated – do not use gas powered) or hair dryers
- Start and finish lines (far apart)

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Give each student a cotton ball and a straw.
2. Have students line up behind the starting line on their knees.
3. Challenge students to blow their cotton balls across the room to the finish line without touching the cotton ball. First person to cross the finish line will earn two Tracker Tickets. Students will be crawling/blowing across the floor to the finish line.
4. Allow students to complete the challenge two times.
5. Tell students to return to the starting line for round three.
6. Repeat the challenge, except this time, help a few students by using a **powerful** leaf blower or hair dryers and watch the cotton balls fly! Cheer for the winning cotton ball and give the student two Tracker Tickets.
7. Ask all students, "What do you think this **powerful** leaf blower could remind us of from the Bible? Let's go back to our classroom and find out."

2nd Grade: Sand Station

Supplies:

- Large shovels (one for each leader; no shovels for students)
- Tracker Tickets

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Challenge students to dig to the bottom of the Sand Station with their hands. Their goal is to reach the bottom and clear it, so both their feet can stand on the bottom of the Sand Station. The first student to do this will earn two Tracker Tickets.
2. Halfway through the race, go to the slowest student and have all leaders jump in and begin to use the **power** of the shovel to help them. Award the student with two Tracker Tickets.
3. Ask all students, "What do you think these shovels could remind us of from the Bible? Let's go back to our classroom and find out."
4. Feel free to give out extra Tracker Tickets to students who worked hard digging their holes.

3rd Grade: Art Station

Supplies:

- Shrinky Dinks paper (in advance cut into circles and punch a hole, similar to an ornament; one per student)
- Fine tip permanent markers in multiple colors
- Colored pencils in multiple colors
- Whiteboard or poster board with Acts 1:8a written on it
- Beaded ball chains with connectors (to create a keychain with their finished Shrinky Dinks projects; one per student)
- Several sample keychains
- Cookie sheets
- Oven
- Tracker Tickets

Setup instructions: Preheat the oven so it's ready to bake the Shrinky Dinks. We recommend having a few parent volunteers who are willing to help with this activity and do the baking while the students are in class. After baking, they will need to deliver the finished projects to the classroom.

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Tell students that we are having an art contest today. The student with the most creative Shrinky Dinks keychain will receive five Tracker Tickets.
2. Have students design their keychain by carefully writing Acts 1:8a (verse and reference) on their Shrinky Dinks shape and then decorate around it.
3. At the end of Discover Time, award the student with the most creative keychain five Tracker Tickets.
4. Ask students why their projects don't look like the sample keychains. Allow students to make guesses.
5. Then explain to students that the **power** of the heat in the oven will transform their projects into hard plastic keychains, like the sample keychains. Without the **power** of the heat in the oven, their projects would be thin, flimsy sheets of plastic and wouldn't work very well as a keychain.
6. Encourage students to hang their keychain, once they are baked, on their backpack to remind them of the **power** we have through the Holy Spirit when we trust in Jesus.
7. Ask students, "What do you think the **powerful** heat of the oven could remind us of from the Bible? Let's go back to our classroom and find out."

4th Grade: Food Station

Supplies:

- Recipe cards – see recipe below or use your favorite smoothie recipe (see appendix)
- Smoothie ingredients
- Measuring cups (1 cup and ¼ cup)
- Unplugged blenders
- 8 oz. cups

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Divide students into groups of six to make smoothies.
2. Instruct student groups to follow the recipe and then try to start their unplugged blenders.
3. Students will recognize they have no **power**.
4. Leaders should then assist them with plugging in their blenders.

5. Have students try again to start their now-plugged-in blenders and experience the **power**.
6. Allow students to enjoy their smoothies.
7. Ask students, "What do you think the plugged-in **powerful** blender could remind us of from the Bible? Let's go back to our classroom and find out."

Strawberry Banana Smoothies

1 banana
2 cups frozen strawberries
¼ cup sugar
2 cups milk

Place all ingredients in a blender and blend until smooth. Each recipe serves six.

5th Grade: Play-Doh Station, then outside

Supplies:

- Two 2-liter bottles of Diet Coke (per class)
- One package of Mentos (per class; one package for every two bottles of Diet Coke)
- Plastic rain poncho for DT Leader
- Goggles for DT Leader

Preparation tips: Google "Diet Coke and Mentos experiment" or go to this website to view a demonstration of this activity: <http://www.eepybird.com/featured-video/the-extreme-diet-coke-mentos-experiments>

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. The key to this activity is suspense! Huddle together at the Play-Doh Station and tell students that you're going to be participating in an awesome and powerful experiment. Then head outside.
2. You should put on the goggles and the rain poncho with the hood up.
3. Really build up the excitement for the students!
4. Ask the students if this myth is really true: Will our **powerful** Mentos really cause Diet Coke to explode out of its container ten feet?
5. Highlight how high ten feet is, shake Diet Coke bottle #1 and set it on the floor.
6. Remove the outer paper cover (not the inside metallic one) from a package of Mentos.
7. Remove the cap from the Diet Coke bottle #2 (unshaken).
8. Drop the full package of Mentos with the metallic wrapper into the Diet Coke bottle #2 and quickly replace the cap.
9. Tell students to stand back!
10. Open the Diet Coke bottle #1, which doesn't have the Mentos in it, and let it fizz over anti-climatically.
11. Then open the cap on the Diet Coke bottle #2, which has the Mentos in it, and watch it shoot into the air and create a huge mess!
12. Ask the students what the difference was between the two bottles.
13. Ask which one had more **power** (bottle #2 with the Mentos).
14. Ask: "What do you think the Diet Coke with Mentos could remind us of from the Bible? Let's go back to our classroom and find out."

Bible Lesson Outline

Lead Teachers ~ Connecting the DT to the Lesson: We did our Discover Time activity two ways—one without power and one with power. Which way did you like the best? (With power was definitely better!) So, what could that remind us of in the Bible? Where do we get the power to live how God wants us to live as we follow Jesus? Let's open God's Word and find out.

Pray: *Encourage one of your students to lead your class in prayer. Remind them to stand up and speak clearly as they lead the class in prayer.*

Find It: *Ask if the book of Acts is in the OT or the NT. Recite the books of the New Testament. Write the verse reference, Acts 2:1, on the board and have students open their Bibles to Acts 2:1. Challenge students to find the verse. If they find the verse quickly, encourage them to help a friend find the verse.*

Timeline: *Point out the period on the classroom Bible timeline.*

Introduction to the Bible Lesson:

Even though Jesus had died on the cross, He rose to life again on the third day and spent forty days on earth before He went up to heaven. Before He went up to heaven, He told His disciples to wait for someone. Who was it? (The Holy Spirit) Who is the Holy Spirit? Remember that there are three Persons of God: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Jesus told His disciples that the Holy Spirit would be their Helper who would give them power. Today we'll learn about the day that the Holy Spirit came. *Let students know that this is a big deal!* Let's find out about what happened to the disciples on the day called Pentecost.

Scripture Outline: Acts 2:1-24

The disciples are filled with the Holy Spirit

Read Acts 2:1-4

Recap: Wow! Just like Jesus had promised, the Holy Spirit came to Jesus' disciples and filled them, which means He came to live in them forever. Did you catch that? The Holy Spirit came to live within them. That's amazing! What was the day called that the Holy Spirit came? (Pentecost) Say it again. (Pentecost) What did the Holy Spirit sound like? (Blowing of a violent wind) What did the Holy Spirit look like? (Tongues of fire) What were the disciples able to do when the Holy Spirit came to live in them? (Speak in different tongues, which means languages) How would you feel if you were suddenly able to speak a foreign language, like Spanish, French, or Chinese? That would be pretty amazing, wouldn't it? We're about to find out the reason the Holy Spirit gave the disciples the power to speak in other languages. Let's listen.

People from other countries hear the disciples speaking their language

Read Acts 2:5-13

Recap: What language did the crowd of people hear the disciples speaking? (Their own language) What did the people hear the disciples talking about? (The wonders of God)

They were amazed and wanted to know what this meant—but not all of them. Some of the people made fun of the disciples and said they were drunk. Remember last week we talked about how the disciples acted before they knew Jesus would be alive forever and how they acted after they knew He would be alive forever. How did they act before? (Terrified) And how did they act after? (Brave and courageous) They were courageous after because they now had the power of the Holy Spirit!

For all except Kindergarten and 3rd Grade: It's kind of like our DT activity. When did you have power? Did you have power when you tried to do your activity with or without the _____ (insert your DT activity: big blower, leaders with shovels, plugged-in blenders, or the Mentos mixed in with the Diet Coke)? That's kind of like the Holy Spirit. He gives us power!

Listen to how brave and courageous Peter was through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Peter tells the crowd about Jesus

Read Acts 2:14-15, 22-24 (skip Acts 2:16-21)

Recap: Peter told the crowd about Jesus! He said that Jesus proved He was the Son of God through His miracles and everything He did. He told them that even though they had put Jesus to death, God raised His Son from the dead, and He is alive forever! Peter could be this brave and courageous because he had the Holy Spirit who gave him power! We'll find out more about this next week.

Conclusion

The Holy Spirit didn't just live in people who believed in Jesus way back then; He lives inside everyone who trusts in Jesus to save them. Even today! He may not sound like the wind or look like fire, but He's really there! Let's talk about exactly who the Holy Spirit is and what He does for us.

- Who is the Holy Spirit? (The Holy Spirit is the Person of God who comes to live inside of me)
- When does the Holy Spirit come to live inside of me? (The Holy Spirit will live inside of you instantly after you admit you are a sinner and ask Jesus to take away your sin and be the leader of your life)
- Why do we need the Holy Spirit? (We need the Holy Spirit to give us the power to live the way that God wants us to live)
- Does having the Holy Spirit mean I will be perfect and never sin again? (No, but when you sin, the Holy Spirit will give you the power to see it, be sorry for it, and change it, so you don't keep on sinning in the same way)
- Will the Holy Spirit ever leave me? (No)

Let's read two verses that teach us something about the Holy Spirit:

- John 14:16-17: "And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Counselor to be with you forever — the Spirit of Truth."
- Ephesians 1:13-14: "And you also were included in Christ when you heard the Word of Truth, the Gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in Him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession — to the praise of His glory."

There is so much more you can learn about the Holy Spirit than what we've just talked about. Do you know where you can learn it? (The Bible)

Do Right and Feel Right

If we want the power of the Holy Spirit, then we must trust in Jesus as our Lord and Savior. The instant that happens, the Holy Spirit will come to live in us. Then we can depend on the power of the Holy Spirit, and we can feel powerful as we follow Jesus.

Have you trusted in Jesus to save you from your sin and made Him the leader of your life? Let's make sure you understand what that means right now. *Share the Gospel through the Wordless Book and give an invitation for salvation.*

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

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

1. What was the day called when the power of the Holy Spirit came? (Pentecost)
2. What did the Holy Spirit sound like when He came? (A violent wind)
3. What did the Holy Spirit look like when He came? (Tongues of fire)
4. What could the disciples do when the Holy Spirit came to live inside of them? (Speak in different languages)
5. What did the Holy Spirit give Peter the power to do? (Tell people about Jesus)
6. Who is the Holy Spirit? (He is the Person of God who comes to live inside of people who trust in Jesus)
7. What is one way the Holy Spirit helps us? (He gives us power to do what is right)
8. When you sin, what does the Holy Spirit give you the power to do? (See your sin, be sorry for it, and change it, so you don't keep on sinning in the same way)
9. Can you say our Think Right verse that reminds us that the Holy Spirit gives us power? ("But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you . . ." Acts 1:8a)

~~Lesson 7~~

~~Acts 2:22-41~~

~~Know Right:~~ _____ Peter tells others about Jesus.

~~Think Right:~~ _____ “He said to them, ‘Go into all the world and preach the Good News to all creation.’”
Mark 16:15

~~Do Right:~~ _____ I will tell others the Good News about Jesus.

~~Feel Right:~~ _____ I can feel excited when I tell others the Good News about Jesus.

This lesson is not being used during this sequence.

Lesson 8

Acts 3:1—4:22

Know Right: _____ Peter stands firm for Jesus.

Think Right: _____ “Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.” 1 Corinthians 15:58 (Top 12)

Do Right: _____ I will stand firm for Jesus.

Feel Right: _____ I can feel courageous when I stand firm for Jesus.

This lesson is not being used during this sequence.

Lesson 9 – May 4, 2025

Acts 5:17-42

Know Right:	The disciples face persecution.
Think Right:	“Peter and the other apostles replied: ‘We must obey God rather than men!’” Acts 5:29
Do Right:	I will obey God.
Feel Right:	I can feel joyful when I obey God.

GET READY!

Each of us have experienced (and will experience) moments when we will have to choose between pleasing God or pleasing other people. In those moments, we can remember the example of Peter and the other disciples, who chose to joyfully obey God, even in the face of persecution. Our students will also face moments like these or may have already experienced them. As you study this week’s lesson, pray that God will use you to prepare your students, so they too will be equipped to joyfully choose obedience.

Pray: Ask God to open the eyes and hearts of your students to fully understand the price and rewards for obeying God. Also pray for wisdom as you prepare to bring the Bible to life for your students.

Read: Act 5:17-42

Know Right: The disciples face persecution

Peter and the other disciples maintained their stand for the Lord and performed many more miracles that brought people to Christ. In their jealousy, the religious leaders threw the disciples in jail, Peter for the second time. The disciples were ordered to stop teaching in the name of Jesus, to which they replied, “We must obey God rather than men!” Now we know when we are faced with the choice to obey men or to obey God, it is God we must obey.

GET SET!

Lead Teacher's Notes:

- Please refer to the Children's Ministry Resource Bible: page 1385 (Lesson: The Apostles Are Persecuted).
- It's important that we communicate that obedience does not equal salvation. Instead, it's an outcome of our salvation; we want to obey out of our love for God. What should Christians do when they realize they've disobeyed? Admit, confess, and repent of their sin, and then ask God to help them say "no" to that sin in the future. When we come to Him with a repentant heart, He is always ready to help us out.
- Why does God allow challenges or "bad things" to happen in our lives? And why is it valuable to obey God rather than man through these difficult times? There are many verses that give us perspective about suffering. Here are just a few:

Psalm 34:17-19

Romans 5:3-5

Hebrews 12:1-12

Psalm 116:15

Romans 8:28

James 1:2-4

Psalm 126:5

1 Peter 3:13-17

Isaiah 57:1

1 Peter 4:12-16

Creative Ideas for the Bible Lesson:

1. As you do the review in the introduction of this lesson, draw out a timeline of events with stick figures. Another option is to draw out the basic figures in advance and add details as you teach.
2. Give each student an index card that says "Obey God", and have students make tally marks every time you refer to this Do Right point in your lesson.
3. Bring in a stuffed "Peter" (or a live actor) and have him sit in the center of your class. Around the chair of Peter, or sitting on his lap, include the following props: sword (his arrest), angel wings (freed the apostles), broken chains (escape from jail), sandals (standing in the temple courts), Wordless Book (Gospel). After you briefly introduce Peter, ask students why they think Peter brought these items to class with him. Then begin to teach Scripture and unfold the meaning of each item.

GO!

Pre-Service Review Game and Worship

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

Discover Time: Obedience challenge!

Goal: To help students learn the value of listening and **obeying**.

Kindergarten: Sand Station

Supplies:

- Two sand scoops
- Gutter pieces* (one per student)
- Tracker Tickets

*If gutter pieces aren't available, try using tubes - either cardboard tubes, cardstock taped to make tubes, or PVC pipes. Another idea is to use plastic cups or small buckets and have each student dump the sand from their cup/bucket into the next cup/bucket.

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Challenge students to listen carefully and **obey** everything you say, so they will be successful in this activity. Students must listen to and **obey** you – not listen to the other students. Explain that each team will race to see who can fill up the bucket with sand first by transferring sand from gutter to gutter until it goes into the bucket. The winning team members will receive five Tracker Tickets.
2. Divide students into two teams.
3. Assign a classroom leader (Lead Teacher or Shepherd) to be the team leader of each team. These leaders will really need to get involved and do some hands-on coaching because this will be a new activity.
4. Give each team leader a sand scoop.
5. Line each team up around the perimeter of the Sand Station. Each team will occupy two of the sides of the perimeter. Each team's line could extend beyond the sand area. The leader with the scoop should be at the beginning of the line and the bucket should be placed after the last student in line.
6. Give each student a piece of gutter.
7. Begin the race by having the team leader take a scoop of sand and place it in the gutter of the first student who is at the beginning of the line.
8. Coach the teams how to "slide" the sand from one gutter to the next, until it hits the bucket.
9. The team leaders will continually add sand to keep the "sand machine" going.
10. Throughout the race, continue to make sure that the students are listening to you and being **obedient**.
11. Feel free to call "timeouts" to test **obedience**.
12. The team that fills their bucket up to the rim first wins.
13. Declare a winner and award the winning team members five Tracker Tickets each.

Alternate idea: If sand is not available, try to fill a plastic jar with marbles.

1st Grade: Art Station

Supplies:

- Cardstock posters with “Ready to obey!” (one per student) (see appendix)
- Multiple colors of washable paint in cups
- Paint brushes or rollers
- Hand washing supplies
- Washable ink pads in multiple colors
- Extra helpers (great day to invite seniors/youth/parents to assist)
- Sample posters that look incredible
- Optional: paint smocks for students to wear to protect their clothing
- Large poster board signs with “I will obey!” written on them

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Have students stand in a row.
2. While you are giving instructions, the extra helpers should write the students’ names on the posters. The posters should then be laid out on the floor or on tables. For ease of finding their posters, you may want to keep them in alphabetical order.
3. Tell students it is important that they listen and carefully **obey** your instructions, so they will be successful in their DT activity.
4. Display the sample posters and challenge the students to think about who they will need to obey this week (teachers, parents, God). To help them remember how important this is, we will make a reminder poster.
5. Have students hold out their hands and have helpers and leaders paint multi-colored stripes on students’ hands. (Tip: Each helper/leader should have one color of paint; they should go down the line and paint a stripe of their color on each student’s hands.) This would be a great picture!
6. Students must **obey** and hold their hands very still as they get their hands painted.
7. When hands are fully painted, they can walk to their poster and press their handprints in the center of their poster. If they have extra paint, they can make additional handprints on the large poster boards that say “I will **obey**!”
8. Then they should wash their hands.
9. If they have extra time, they can make fingerprint dots around the edge of their poster with ink pads.
10. At the end of DT, have students take their posters to the classroom (may need to lay them out, so they will dry in time to be taken home).
11. Encourage students to display their poster on their family’s refrigerator, so they will be reminded that they should always **obey**.

2nd Grade: Food Station

Supplies:

- S'more sundae ingredients (ice cream, graham crackers, mini marshmallows, and chocolate syrup)
- Bowls
- Spoons
- Napkins

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Tell students it is important that they listen to and carefully **obey** your instructions, so they will be successful in their DT activity. They must have self-control and **obey** every instruction!
2. Give students specific instructions on how to make this fun sundae. For example: Take a bowl of ice cream and crumble a graham cracker into it. Then squirt chocolate syrup on top. Next take ten marshmallows and sprinkle them on top of the chocolate.
3. If students do not like an item, do not give them the option of refusing the item. Inform them that total **obedience** means you do it even if you do not like it.
4. In between each instruction do something that will challenge students to **obey**, such as instructing them to stand up, or recite John 14:2, or name the five Wordless Book colors, etc. This should build suspense for students, while challenging them to **obey**. The students as a class will earn the next ingredient by being **obedient**.
5. After the sundaes are built, allow them to eat! At this time, they can take off toppings they'd rather not eat. If a student is allergic to an item, give them a fresh bowl of ice cream, or an ice pop if allergic to dairy. Do not give fresh bowls of ice cream to other students.

3rd Grade: Play-Doh Station

Supplies:

- Toothpicks (75 for each team of four students)
- Tracker Tickets

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Tell students it is important that they listen to and carefully **obey** your instructions, so they will be successful in their DT activity.
2. Divide students into teams of four.
3. Each team will be challenged to create the tallest tower using Play-Doh and toothpicks.
4. Teams must not talk, but they can use hand motions to communicate.
5. They must **obey** by not using any words! If they break this rule, they will get toothpicks removed from their team.
6. The team with the tallest tower at the end of eight minutes will win.
7. Declare a winner, then joyfully celebrate and award team members five Tracker Tickets each.

4th Grade: Water Station

Supplies:

- Two runner mats (one for each team; available at <http://www.ssw.com/item/run-mat-W10447/>) or use tarps to create homemade runner mats
- Finish line (use painter's tape or chalk)
- Tracker Tickets

Note: It is critical to have a lengthy distance to run to make this DT effective. Hallways work great!



Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Tell students it is important that they listen to and carefully **obey** your instructions, so they will be successful in their DT activity.
2. Divide students into two teams and assign an adult “coach” for each team.
3. Inform the coaches that they will need to boldly instruct students as they run the race.
4. Inform students to line up tallest to shortest and stand on their “runner mat.”
5. After students complete this task, thank them for **obeying**.
6. Inform students they must **obey** their coach’s instructions during the race, as their input is extremely valuable.
7. Challenge teams to race for a lengthy distance (100 yards or a challenging distance).
8. Reward the team that finished first with two Tracker Tickets per person.
9. If there is time, race again. This time, have students return to the start line by closing their eyes and listening to their coach. Stress the value of total **obedience** to the coach.
10. Reward the team that was most **obedient** to their coach with two Tracker Tickets each.

5th Grade: LEGO Station

Supplies:

- Tracker Tickets
- Optional: Award winners a special treat instead of Tracker Tickets

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Tell students it is important they listen to and carefully **obey** your instructions so they will be successful in their DT activity.
2. Have students divide into groups of two or three.
3. Challenge student groups to brainstorm and build a LEGO scene of a situation where it’s difficult to **obey** God (school, mall, movie theater, home, etc.).
4. Inform students that as they build, they must only use one hand. They must **obey** this rule. Students who do not obey will be disqualified.
5. Allow groups ten minutes to complete their scene.
6. Leaders should walk around and have students share briefly about their scene in the last two minutes.
7. Leaders will decide who made the best scene.
8. Award the winners of the LEGO scene contest three Tracker Tickets each.

Bible Lesson Introduction

Lead Teachers ~ Connecting the DT to the Lesson: Our Discover Time activity was a great reminder that listening and obeying are very important. We can obey many people, but the number one most important person to obey is God. Sometimes obeying God isn't easy, is it? Today we will learn more about how Peter and Jesus' other disciples obeyed God, even when it was really hard!

Pray: Ask a student to name a missionary or mission project we can pray for. (Refer back to previous Mission Lessons.) Have the student pray specifically for this.

Find It: Write the verse reference, Acts 5:17, on the board and have students open their Bibles to Acts 5:17. Ask the class if Acts is in the OT or the NT. Recite the books and occasionally pause. The first student who yells out the next book should get a Tracker Ticket. Continue until you recite all the books.

Timeline: Point out what lessons on our Bible timeline we have been studying. Ask students what makes this time period so unique and special. (It is the church age, and we have the power of the Holy Spirit.)

Introduction to the Bible Lesson:

Let's do a quick review to see if you remember what we've learned these past few weeks.

- What happened three days after Jesus died on the cross, taking the punishment for our sin? (He rose again)
- Who did Jesus tell His disciples to wait for in Jerusalem? (The Holy Spirit)
- When the Holy Spirit came to the disciples, what did He give them? (Power)
- What job did Jesus give to His disciples? (To be His witnesses – to tell everyone all over the world the Good News that Jesus could save them from their sin)

Peter and the other disciples obeyed God and became His witnesses. They told people the Good News about Jesus, and they did many miracles to show that Jesus really was God. Because of this, more and more people understood the truth and trusted in Jesus as their Savior and Lord. The first time Peter told the crowd the Good News about Jesus, 3,000 people were saved. After Peter and John healed the disabled beggar, Peter continued to tell more people about Jesus and 5,000 more people were saved. But Jesus' disciples didn't have it easy. In fact, they were persecuted. This means Jesus' followers were punished for telling people about Him. Listen to what happened to them.

Scripture Outline: Acts 5:17-42

The Sadducees put Jesus' disciples in jail

Read Acts 5:17-18

Recap: What did the Jewish religious leaders, called the Sadducees, do to Jesus' disciples? (Put them in jail) Why did they put the disciples in jail? (Because they were jealous of them) The Sadducees were jealous because many people listened to the disciples and believed in Jesus. These religious leaders didn't like this because it meant they were losing their power over the people. They wanted to stop the disciples, so they put them in jail!

Even though the disciples were in jail, who was with them? (God) Do you want to hear what God did? Listen.

The angel of the Lord frees the disciples

Read Acts 5:19-20

Recap: What did the angel of the Lord do? (He freed the disciples) What did the angel of the Lord tell the disciples to do? (Go to the temple courts and tell people the Good News about Jesus)

The disciples had been put in jail for telling people about Jesus. Do you think that being in jail was hard and scary for them? (Yes) Do you think they obeyed God or not? Let's find out.

The disciples obey God!

Read Acts 5:21a

Recap: Yes, the disciples obeyed God! Aren't you happy they did? Do you want to know what happened next?

The religious leaders find out that the disciples escaped

Paraphrase of Acts 5:21b-27:

That morning, the religious leaders found out that the disciples weren't in jail, but the jail was still tightly locked. They were very confused and wondered what would happen next. Then someone told them that the disciples were standing in the temple courts teaching people about Jesus.

Here's what the leaders said.

The leaders confront the disciples again

Read Acts 5:28

Recap: Let's get this straight. What did God tell the disciples to do? (Teach people about Jesus) What did the religious leaders order the disciples not to do? (Teach people about Jesus) What would the disciples do now? Listen.

The disciples obey God

Read Acts 5:29-32

Recap: What did the disciples say to the religious leaders? ("We must obey God rather than men!") Let's say that three times! The disciples even told these leaders the Good News about Jesus!

Now, please don't misunderstand what God teaches: God teaches us to obey those in authority over us. That means that we are supposed to obey our parents and other leaders, EXCEPT when they tell us to disobey God. For example, if your parents tell you to steal from the store, you should tell them, "No." Or if they tell you to pretend you are a different age than you really are, you should tell them "No."

What did the disciples say again? "We must obey God rather than men!"

The religious leaders punish the disciples

Paraphrase of Acts 5:33-40:

This made the religious leaders so mad they wanted to put the disciples to death! But one leader told the other leaders that if the disciples really were obeying God, they could not be stopped.

This kind of reminds me of our DT activity. Remember when you _____ (*insert DT activity: did the sand race; painted a poster; made a sundae; built a Play-Doh tower; ran the race with the runner mats; created LEGO scenes*). We did this activity, so you would understand how important it is to obey, even when it's hard. God tells us to obey Him 100% of the time. If you do obey God, He will help you. If you don't, life can get pretty messed up. When you look at Peter's life, you can see he understood the word "obey" and the importance of obeying God.

The one religious leader was right. The disciples were obeying God, and because of that, they could not be stopped. Instead of putting the disciples to death, the leaders had the disciples flogged, which means they were beaten badly. Then they let them go.

Listen to how the disciples felt after they were beaten and set free.

The disciples keep obeying God

Read Acts 5:41-42

Recap: Were the disciples happy or sad? (Happy) They rejoiced! This means that they felt joy. Why did the disciples rejoice? (Because they had suffered for obeying God) Did they keep obeying God by telling people the Good News about Jesus? (Yes)

Conclusion

The disciples obeyed God even when the religious leaders persecuted them. Because they obeyed, many more people believed in Jesus and were saved from their sins. (Acts 5:14; Acts 6:7)

Do Right and Feel Right

So, what about you? Will you obey God and tell others the Good News about Jesus, even when it's hard? What if someone makes fun of you? What if someone puts you in jail? What if someone beats you? Will you obey God and tell people about Jesus, or will you obey men and be quiet? With God's help, you can obey Him no matter how hard it gets. And what did the disciples feel when they obeyed God? (They felt joy!) We can also feel joy when we obey God!

Many of you have trusted in Jesus to save you from your sin and you boldly tell others about Jesus, just like Peter. But what if you haven't trusted in Jesus to save you from your sin? What if you don't understand what Peter was talking about in this lesson? We can help you understand right now. Then you can make the choice to trust in Jesus and know that God will protect you when you obey Him. *Share the Gospel through the Wordless Book and give an invitation for salvation.*

Give each student a piece of paper. Encourage them to write about a time when it's most difficult for them to obey God and do things His way (younger students can draw a picture instead). Then encourage them to write out a prayer under the picture that asks God for help to obey in that situation.

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

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

1. Where did the religious leaders put Jesus' disciples? (In jail)
2. How did the disciples get out of jail? (An angel of the Lord freed them)
3. What did the angel of the Lord tell the disciples to do? (Go to the temple courts and tell people about Jesus)
4. Did the disciples obey God? (Yes)
5. When the religious leaders ordered the disciples not to tell people about Jesus, what did the disciples say? ("We must obey God rather than men!")
6. How did the religious leaders punish the disciples? (They had the disciples flogged)
7. What did the disciples feel when they had suffered for Jesus? (Joy)
8. What did many people do as the disciples obeyed God? (More people trusted in Jesus to save them from their sin)
9. Are you willing to obey God, even if you have to suffer for it?

Lesson 10 – May 11, 2025

Acts 12:1-18

Know Right:	Peter escapes from prison.
Think Right:	“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.” Joshua 1:9 (Top 12)
Do Right:	I will confidently pray to God.
Feel Right:	I can feel peaceful when I confidently pray to God.

GET READY!

We frequently remind our students that God always hears us when we pray. This truth is for us, too! God is always with us and always hears our prayers. As believers, we can find immense comfort in this. In moments where we face fear or discouragement, we can fix our hearts and minds on the Lord, remind ourselves of His presence, and confidently pray to Him.

Pray: As you prepare to serve, earnestly pray that God will do amazing things in the hearts and minds of your students. Ask God to reveal His truth as students study His Word. Before you teach, tell the students that you have been praying for them during the week.

Read: Acts 12:1-18

Know Right: Peter escapes from prison

As Jesus had warned, the persecution of His followers continued. After King Herod had John’s brother James executed, he threw Peter in jail (this was Peter’s third time to be imprisoned). The church of believers began to earnestly pray for Peter. In the midst of his imprisonment, guarded by four soldiers at a time, Peter was able to sleep soundly. When the angel of the Lord arrived to free him, he had to strike Peter in the side to wake him up! God delivered another miracle and showed all believers that we can confidently pray to God, and He hears and answers our prayers.

GET SET!

Lead Teacher's Notes:

- Please refer to the Children's Ministry Resource Bible: page 664 (Children Learn About Angels); page 774 (Lessons from Bible Young People - Rhoda); page 1397 (Lesson: God Delivers Peter from Prison).
- The Herod in this lesson is Herod Agrippa I, the grandson of Herod the Great, who had ordered Bethlehem's children to be murdered, and the nephew of Herod Antipas, who had John the Baptist beheaded. Also, it should be noted that, in His sovereignty, God allowed Herod to kill James, but He allowed Peter to live. (See Isaiah 57:1-2 and Romans 8:28)
- Make sure, as you read Scripture, you are reading with confidence and expression.

Creative Ideas for the Bible Lesson:

1. In big letters, write the word "confident" on the whiteboard. As you teach the lesson, have students tell you when they hear a situation that illustrates confidence or a person that talks with confidence.
2. Give each student an index card with the word "confidence" written on it. When students hear a situation that illustrates confidence, have them raise their card.
3. For each situation that illustrates confidence, give Tracker Tickets to the first student who stands up and is able to explain how the situation illustrated confidence.
4. Create "pipe cleaner" people for each character in the lesson (it's amazing how you can bend these simple art items to create people and scenes). Stick them in foam pieces as you teach.
5. Use two-liter bottles with balloon heads to create the characters of the lesson. Throughout the lesson refer to the people who had confidence.
6. Create a jail scene and a house scene with boxes.

GO!

Pre-Service Review Game and Worship

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

Discover Time: Confidence booster!

Goal: To teach students about what it means to be **confident**.

Definition of “confidence”: strong belief or trust (from the Children’s Ministry Resource Bible)

Kindergarten – 3rd Grade and 5th Grade: Large open space (4th Grade will go to the Mission Station)

Note: activity could be done as one large group or as two groups (K-2nd / 3rd and 5th)

Find a football, basketball, or soccer coach or an Army sergeant in your church to teach your students the above definition of “**confident**” while doing “warmups” with your students. Make sure students line up straight, do all the exercises with **confidence**, and give 100% effort. When counting the repetitive exercises, they should be loud, bold, and **confident**.

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

Bible Lesson Introduction

Lead Teachers ~ Connecting the DT to the Lesson: Today I saw many of you show confidence during DT. What does it mean to show confidence? (Having a strong belief or trust) Name people who are confident. (Army drill sergeants, presidents, leaders, football players, coaches, etc.) Should Christians be confident? Why or why not? Today we are going to learn about some people in the Bible who were confident.

Pray: *Encourage one of your students to lead your class in prayer. Remind them to stand up and speak clearly and confidently.*

Find it: *Ask the class if Acts is in the OT or the NT. Have the class recite the books of the New Testament. Write the verse reference, Acts 12:1, on the board and have students open their Bibles to the passage. Watch to see which students are confident in finding the location in the Bible.*

Optional: Give students sticky notes to put in their Bible, so they easily find and reread the lesson during the week.

Timeline: *Point out the period on the classroom Bible timeline. Remind students we are in the church age.*

Introduction to the Bible Lesson:

After Jesus died, rose again, and ascended to heaven, He sent the Holy Spirit to help Christians and give them the power to tell people the Good News that Jesus could save them from their sin. There was one problem. The Jewish religious leaders and the Romans didn't want the people to trust in Jesus and follow Him, so they persecuted Jesus' disciples. This means Jesus' followers were punished for telling people about Him.

Peter was put in jail because he obeyed God and told people the Good News about Jesus after he and John healed a disabled beggar. Then the religious leaders were jealous because the disciples performed many miracles that helped people believe in Jesus, so Peter was put in jail a second time. No matter what Peter went through, he still obeyed God. Now, we're going to learn about the third time Peter went to jail!

Scripture Outline: Acts 12:1-18

Herod has James put to death

Read Acts 12:1-2

Recap: Who was King Herod? (King Herod was the man that the Romans put in charge to rule over the area that included Jerusalem) King Herod had the disciple James, John's brother, killed with a sword. James was the first disciple that was put to death for following Jesus.

That's not all King Herod did. Listen.

Peter is arrested and the believers pray

Read Acts 12:3-5

Recap: King Herod not only had James killed, but he also had Peter thrown in jail. What did the people who believed in Jesus do? (They prayed for Peter) They didn't want Peter to be put to death, too!

Do you remember the three ways that God answers our prayer requests? (He may say, "Yes", He may say, "No", or He may say, "Wait") I wonder how God answered when the people prayed for Peter. We'll find out in a minute.

In our DT activity, we learned what confidence means. Let's say it again: confidence means you have a strong belief or trust in something. Do you think Peter was afraid? Or was he confident in God when King Herod put him in jail? What we're about to read will give us a clue.

Peter sleeps

Read Acts 12:6

Recap: Peter was sleeping! Even though he was between two soldiers and bound with two chains, while other guards watched over him, he was asleep. Does that sound like he was afraid, or does that sound like he was confident in God? (Peter was confident in God!) In fact, what we're about to read will tell you that Peter was soundly asleep.

The angel of the Lord rescues Peter

Read Acts 12:7

Recap: God sent the angel of the Lord to rescue Peter, but Peter was sleeping so soundly that the angel had to strike him on the side to wake him up. Peter must have been really confident in God. Let's find out what happened next.

Peter realizes that God rescued him from Herod

Read Acts 12:8-11

Recap: Peter was kind of in a daze at first, but when the angel left, he realized that God had rescued him from King Herod. Was this a miracle? (Yes) I bet that was a pretty cool thing for Peter. Let's find out what he did next.

Rhoda is confident in God

Read Acts 12:12-18

Recap: What had the people who believed in Jesus been doing for Peter? (Praying) Do you think they were confident that God would answer their prayers? How can we tell? Let's think about it. Who was the only person who believed that Peter was at the door? (Rhoda) What did the other people think? (It was his angel) So who was confident in God? (Rhoda, because she was the only one who believed it was Peter at the door)

Peter told the people who had been praying for him exactly what God had done to rescue him from the jail. Do you think the people were confident in God after hearing what Peter told them? (I hope so!)

Conclusion

Peter had learned to be confident in God. Rhoda, who was a servant girl, was confident in God. The other people who had been praying weren't praying confidently, were they? But what did God do? He showed them how powerful He is, and hopefully those people prayed confidently from then on.

Do Right and Feel Right

We all know from Joshua 1:9 that this confidence comes when we trust and call out to God. Who are you the most like when you pray? Are you confident in God like Peter and Rhoda were? Or are you not confident when you pray? Do you have trouble believing God could or would do what is prayed for? If you have trusted in Jesus to forgive your sin and made Him the leader of your life, then you can be confident that God hears and answers your prayers. Let's remember how God answers our prayers: yes, no, or wait. Even if God answers your prayers with 'no' or 'wait', will you still be confident in God? You should be. And what can you feel when you pray confidently to God? (You can feel peaceful knowing that God will hear and answer your prayers)

For those of you who do believe in Jesus, let's stop and close our eyes and think about something we should pray for. Maybe someone is sick, or you are dealing with a difficult situation at home or school. Maybe God has placed on your heart a country or missionary you should be praying for. Let's stop and you can confidently pray for that situation. *Allow thirty seconds of silent prayer and then you should close the prayer.*

But what if you haven't trusted in Jesus to save you from your sin, and this whole prayer thing is confusing to you? Let's make sure you understand what it means. *Share the Gospel through the Wordless Book and give an invitation for salvation.*

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

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

1. What did King Herod do to Jesus' disciple named James? (Had him put to death by the sword)
2. What did King Herod do to Peter? (Put him in jail)
3. What did the Christians do for Peter? (Prayed for him)
4. What showed that Peter was confident in God, while he was in jail? (He slept soundly)
5. How did God rescue Peter from jail? (He sent His angel to take him out)
6. What showed that Rhoda, the servant girl, was confident God could rescue Peter from jail? (She believed it was Peter at the door)
7. Did the other people pray confidently that God could rescue Peter from jail? How do you know? (No, they thought it was Peter's angel at the door)
8. What are the three ways God will answer our prayer requests? (Yes, no, wait)
9. What is the only way you can be confident God hears and answers your prayers? (Trust in Jesus to save you from your sin and make Him the leader of your life)
10. What is our Think Right verse that reminds us to be confident in God? ("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)

Lesson 11 – May 18, 2025

Review Day

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

GET READY!

As we prepare to review what we've learned this quarter, let's praise God for how He's been at work in our classrooms! What a privilege it is for us to be part of His work in these students' lives! Take some time to make a list, share with a friend, or simply think about the ways you have seen your students grow this year.

Pray: Pray that your students will always hunger to know and live out God's Word.

Read: Review the lessons from this quarter by reading the Quarter Overview.

Know Right: True wisdom comes from God's Word

As we come to a brief rest in this journey, we should take some time to consider all that we have learned. Jesus has taught us some incredible truths in Matthew and Acts – truths that we need to always remember and live by. Let's celebrate what Jesus has done this year and make the commitment to remember God's Word and use it.

GET SET!

Lead Teacher's Notes:

- Please remember that students may have missed one or more lessons this quarter. As you review previous lessons, please make sure to present a very brief summary of each one.
- This is a lot to cover, so it will need to be done in an overview style. This will require you to be very familiar with the lesson.

Creative Idea for the Review:

In advance, draw a large "timeline" of the lessons we've studied this quarter on a large whiteboard or a large sheet of roll paper. Draw stick figures and visual aids to represent the events and also how to apply what we've learned to our lives. The events should be in the order that they happened. As you teach the lesson, add details, color, and key words. *This idea is written into the lesson.*

GO!

Pre-Service Review Game and Worship

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

Discover Time: Spring rewind!

Goal: To have fun **reviewing** the lessons from the past quarter, the Top 12, and the Wordless Book.

Note: Due to the special review-based activities, Discover Time will be extended to 25 minutes and the Bible Lesson will be shortened to 20 minutes.

Kindergarten – 2nd Grade: Pick five of the stations listed below that are the most K-2nd friendly.

3rd – 5th Grade: Pick six of the stations listed below.

Location: Begin in a large open area and have stations set up throughout your children's ministry space

Supplies:

- Red punch cards numbered 1-5 for K-2nd students and blue punch cards numbered 1-6 for 3rd-5th students (one per student) (see appendix)
- Red station signs numbered 1-5 and blue station signs numbered 1-6 (see appendix)
- Review questions and/or challenge supplies for each station (ideas are listed below), older students should have more difficult questions and/or challenges
- Hole punches (at least one for each station)
- Leaders or assistants for each station (see details below)
- Bell
- Tracker Tickets

Setup instructions: Create five red stations for K-2nd grade students and six blue stations for 3rd-5th grade students. Stations should be creatively placed throughout your children's ministry space and decorated to match the topic of the station. Students will need to walk and discover five or six different stations in twenty minutes. Each station should have review questions and/or challenge supplies (ideas are listed below), along with at least one assigned leader (assigned in advance so they are well prepared), and at least one hole punch.

Optional: Invite parents to assist at stations or to help assist students for this fun review day.

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Immediately following worship, explain the rules. Inform students they have twenty minutes to attempt to go to all the stations, in any order, and complete the challenge at each station. Distribute punch cards to your students as they leave worship. When they finish all the stations or hear a bell to indicate that the time is up, they should report back to the worship area (K-2nd) or classrooms (3rd-5th), no matter how many stations have been punched on their cards.
2. Visitors and special needs students should be paired with strong, regular-attending students, so they can participate.
3. Shepherds will roam and assist students as they go to stations.
4. If a student correctly completes the challenge at the numbered station, the leader will punch the number on the student's card that matches that station. Students can go to stations in random order.
5. If a student does not answer the question correctly, or does not complete the challenge, the leader will let the student know that the answer was not correct and tell the student that they can move on to a different station and come back to their station later to try again.
6. When time is up, students will take their punch card back to class. They will be rewarded at the end of class with Tracker Tickets (one ticket per punch).

Station Descriptions

Wordless Book**Supplies:**

- Wordless Book-colored beads
- String or leather to make wristbands/bracelets
- Hole punch (at least one)
- Assistants to help tie wristbands and to punch cards
- Basket

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Have students find all five Wordless Book-colored beads and place them on a wristband.
2. Leaders should ask students to recite the meaning of the five colors or recite one verse that connects to any color.
3. Have students place the bracelets in a basket, so they can be sent to a missionary or on a mission trip, or allow students to take their bracelet home.
4. Students will receive a punch when they are finished.

Think Right – Top 12 Verses**Supplies:**

- 100 cards – each with a Top 12 reference (fewer cards can be used based on the size of the group; the goal is for it to be a challenge to search for a correct match; incorrect references can be included to increase the challenge) (see appendix)
- 100 cards – each with a Top 12 verse (fewer cards can be used based on the size of the group; the goal is for it to be a challenge to search for a correct match) (see appendix)
- Hole punch (at least one)
- Assistants to check verses and to punch cards

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Instruct students to search through the pile and match the reference and verse of any Top 12 verse.
2. Bring the match to the Leader. For older students, request that they bring you three “matched” verses/references.
3. Recycle matches.
4. Students will receive a punch when complete.

Do Right**Supplies:**

- Large roll paper
- Poster with the Do Right points from the spring Bible lessons (see appendix)
- Markers
- Hole punch (at least one)
- Assistants to listen to students explain the Do Right and to punch cards
- Optional: use chalk on the Chalk Wall instead of markers and roll paper

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Students will select a Do Right point from any lesson from the past quarter.
2. They will then need to draw an example of what they learned.
3. Once completed, the student will explain the Do Right to a leader and then receive a punch.

Know Right**Supplies:**

- Stools or chairs (each set of two chairs should be set up facing each other; leaders will sit in one and a student in the other; number of chairs depends on your church size)
- Lesson Review Questions from this quarter (see appendix)
- Blue line for students to stand behind while waiting
- Hole punch (at least one)
- Assistants to ask questions and to punch cards

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Leaders will sit in chairs. Students will sit in a chair opposite from the leader and try to answer a question that the leader asks.
2. Questions should be factual questions from any lesson this past quarter. For example: How many days did Jesus spend on the earth after He came back to life? (Forty) -OR- What did the religious leaders do to Peter and John? (Put them in jail)
3. Students will receive a punch after answering one question correctly.

Feel Right**Supplies:**

- Frosted cookies (one per student)
- Frosting in pastry tubes (or in zippered bags with a small corner cut off)
- Hole punch (at least one)
- Assistants to punch cards

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Students will make a face on a cookie showing how they feel when they grow closer to God.
2. When they complete the project, students will receive a punch and may eat the cookie.

Missions

Supplies:

- Several giant encouragement cards for missionaries
- Colorful markers
- Hole punch (at least one)
- Assistants to punch cards

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Students will each sign their name or write an encouraging note to a missionary on a large card.
2. Students will receive a punch when complete.

Where in the world?

Supplies:

- Large world map
- Hole punch (at least one)
- Assistants to punch cards

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. On a map, students should find the location where Jesus was born. Depending on the size of your map, they should find Bethlehem, but if Bethlehem isn't shown, have them find Israel.
2. Once the location is found, students will receive a punch.

Lesson Introduction

Lead Teachers ~ Connecting the DT to the Lesson: During DT, did you have fun going to the stations to review the quarter, the Wordless Book, and the Top 12 verses? Did you make it to all of the stations? Today, in class, we are going to do a short review of the lessons we've studied this quarter in the books of Matthew and Acts.

Pray: *Encourage a student to open the class in prayer. If your students seem hesitant, offer an idea such as, "Who will pray and thank God for His Word, and ask Him to help us remember what we've learned?"*

Review Lesson Outline

Briefly explain the big picture of what we've learned from Matthew and Acts from the past quarter in short story form. Select a few key verses to read from your Bible, so students remember that this is a biblical account of history. It is not just a story; it is true!

Refer to the Syllabus and the Quarter Overview to assist you in highlighting key points.

- Lesson 1: Jesus walks on water.
 - Draw picture of Jesus walking on the water with a boat; key word: trust
- Lesson 2: Jesus teaches about being humble, like children
 - Draw picture of Jesus and children; key word: humble
- Lesson 3: Jesus enters Jerusalem.
 - Draw picture of a donkey; key word: worship

- Lesson 4: Jesus rises from the dead. (Also highlight that Jesus died for our sin)
 - Draw picture of a cross and an empty tomb; key word: believe
- Lesson 5: Jesus returns to heaven. (Also highlight that Jesus walked on this earth, talked, and ate with others before returning to heaven)
 - Draw picture of Jesus walking with friends and an arrow pointing up to a cloud; key words: Jesus is alive!
- Lesson 6: The Holy Spirit comes upon the disciples. (Also highlight that the church age began)
 - Draw picture of disciples praying together; key words: Depend on the Holy Spirit.
- ~~Lesson 7: Peter tells others about Jesus. (This lesson is not being used during this sequence.)~~
 - ~~Draw picture of Peter with speech bubble; key words: Tell others!~~
- ~~Lesson 8: Peter stands firm for Jesus. (This lesson is not being used during this sequence.)~~
 - ~~Draw picture of shoes; key words: Stand firm!~~
- Lesson 9: The disciples face persecution.
 - Draw picture of the disciples in jail; key word: obey
- Lesson 10: Peter escapes from prison
 - Draw picture of an angel and Peter behind prison bars; key words: Confidently pray!

The New Testament tells us that we need to believe and accept the free gift of salvation that God is offering us. This means that we repent and believe that Jesus died on the cross for our sin, that He came back to life, and we ask Jesus to forgive our sin and be the leader of our lives.

When we believe and accept God's gift, He washes all our sins away and we become perfect in His eyes because of Jesus. The New Testament teaches us how to live after we've been forgiven of our sin.

We've learned a lot this past quarter! What are some ways you can use the things you've learned? How are you going to be more like Jesus? *Allow students to share specific examples.*

Do Right and Feel Right

God's Word will stand forever, and in it we will find the truth about His plan for all people throughout history as well as His will for our lives. When we study the Bible and depend on His Holy Spirit to help us, we can feel wise.

Take a few moments to hand out Tracker Tickets to students for each punch on their card.

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

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

1. What is one reason that Jesus came to live as a man on earth? (To save us from our sin, to show us what God is like, to show us how to live like Him)
2. Where is Jesus right now? (In heaven)
3. Who did Jesus give us to help us be like Him? (The Holy Spirit)
4. What was your favorite Bible lesson this past quarter and why?
5. What is your favorite Bible verse?

On Track Map – May 25, 2025

Topical Lesson: Prayer

Know Right:	God wants us to trust Him when we pray.
Think Right:	“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.” Proverbs 3:5-6 (Top 12)
Do Right:	I will trust God when I pray.
Feel Right:	I can feel peaceful when I pray.

GET READY!

Our loving and compassionate God wants us to share with Him the desires of our heart, as well as what is weighing on our heart. He is a perfect, all-knowing God who knows what is best. That is why, when we pray, we need to remember to ask God to make the desires of our heart align with His and then find peace in the assurance that His plan is better than we could ever imagine.

Pray: Pray that your students will grow to have a heart like God, have faith in His plan, and trust Him when they pray.

Read: Luke 1:46-50 and Matthew 26:36-39

Know Right: God wants us to trust Him when we pray

GET SET!

Lead Teacher's Notes:

- The Discover Time activity will be referred to in the “Conclusion” and “Do Right and Feel Right” portions of the lesson. You will need to bring the large cup full of “worries” from Discover Time to your classroom for the lesson.
- Definition of glorify: to praise and worship God with our thoughts, words, and actions.

Creative Ideas for the Bible Lesson:

1. Prior to class, write out Luke 1:46-47 and Matthew 26:37 on a whiteboard or poster board and cover them until they are read during the lesson. When you discuss those verses, circle the words “glorifies” in Luke 1:46 and “rejoices” in verse 47 and “sorrowful” and “troubled” in Matthew 26:37.
2. Create three outlines of people on roll paper and hang them on the walls in your classroom. As you describe Mary and Jesus, use colorful markers to add in words describing how they feel as they pray. Leave the third outline empty and ask students how they would feel in similar situations.

GO!

Pre-Service Review Game and Worship

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

Discover Time: Trusting God when we pray

Goal: For students to create a reminder to **trust** God when they pray.

Location: Art Station or Large open space

Supplies:

- Large cup (one per class)
- ¼ sheet of white paper (one per student)
- Pencils
- Smooth rocks (one per student); Optional: paint with bright colors in advance so markers show up.
- A poster board or whiteboard with the reference “PROVERBS 3:5-6” and “TRUST” written on it (for students to copy)
- Fine tip permanent markers in multiple colors

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Pass out papers and pencils to all students.
2. Say: Did you know that God hears every prayer we pray, no matter how small? You can tell Him anything, including what you are worried about. I want you to think of one thing that you might be worried or scared about right now. It could be something going on with your family, your friends, at school, on your sports team or even at church. When you think of it, quickly write it down or draw it out on the piece of paper in front of you. You only have three minutes.
3. Have students bring their worries, now on the paper, up to you and put them in the large cup. Note: the cup of worries will be used in the lesson.
4. Say: We are going to learn more about these worries and this cup in class. For now, you will make a stone that will help you remember Proverbs 3:5-6. Let’s say that verse together now. *Say the verse together.*
5. Have the students write “TRUST” and the reference “Proverbs 3:5-6” on their rock with markers. They can also draw bonus decorations on their rocks as time permits.
6. While the students work on their rocks, repeat the verse a few times.

Bible Lesson Introduction

Lead Teachers ~ Connecting the DT to the Lesson: Do you remember those worries you wrote down on your piece of paper in our Discover Time activity? We are going to be learning about two people who were going through some difficult times, too. We are also going to see how we can use those rocks to help us every day. Who's ready to find out how?

Pray: *Encourage one of your students to lead your class in prayer.*

Find It: We are going to be reading from two books of the Bible: Matthew and Luke. Which Testament are they in? (New Testament) Let's open our Bibles to Luke 1:46.

Timeline: Who on our Bible timeline trusted God when they were having a bad day? *Have students review the full timeline and quickly list people.* There has never been a time in history, following the time when Adam and Eve sinned, when life didn't have problems. Today we are going to learn about what to do when life is difficult.

Introduction to the Bible Lesson:

Have you ever had a difficult day? Maybe someone said something hurtful to you, you received a bad grade on a test, someone physically hurt you, your parents told you were going to move to a different state, or you were not selected for a team at school and now you feel totally embarrassed. What should you do during difficult times? Let's look at a couple of people who went to God and trusted Him when they were having a difficult time.

Scripture Outline: Luke 1:46-50 and Matthew 26:36-39

Mary trusts God's plan

The first person is Mary, Jesus' mother. God sent an angel to tell her that she would become the mother of Jesus, the Savior of the world. This was huge. Mary wasn't married, and she didn't fully understand all the details of how this happened, but she stopped to pray to tell Him how she felt about this. Let's read her prayer and find out what her reaction was.

Read Luke 1:46-50

Recap: *Circle the words "glorifies" in verse 46 and "rejoices" in verse 47. What emotion do you think matches what Mary was feeling when she said these two words? Use the Feel Right poster if needed. Happy, excited, and joyful were all emotions she was probably feeling. This was a pretty great response to the news Mary was just given.*

Mary trusted that God had a plan that was bigger than just her. She knew that Jesus would grow up to save everyone from their sin. She trusted God's plan, even though it meant going through some tough times. She was even joyful and happy about it!

Do you tell God how you feel when you walk into a difficult situation that might not be part of your plan? For example: Maybe you tried out for a soccer team and after tryouts you were put on a team that was not with your friends. Would you look at it as a bad thing or would you trust that God put you on that team for a reason? Possibly your assignment from God is to tell others about Jesus or show the love of God to a new friend.

After viewing the situation from God's viewpoint, would you stop and thank God, or would you get caught up in your frustration or disappointment? Mary did what was right; she glorified God.

Okay, let's jump to about 33 years after Mary gave birth to Jesus. He is now grown up, and it's really close to the time when He will be arrested and put on the cross to die. Turn in your Bibles to Matthew 26:36.

Jesus' deep sorrow

Read Matthew 26:36-38

Recap: Circle the words "sorrowful" and "troubled" in verse 37. Does anyone know what "sorrowful" means? (It means to feel miserable, heartbroken, and sad) Let me read again how sad Jesus was. "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death." Wow! Jesus was so full of sorrow, He felt like He might die. Jesus knew what He was about to go through because He is God Himself. He knew the plan and what it would take for people's sin to be forgiven. Jesus' prayer isn't done yet. Let's see what He asks God.

Jesus' request

Read Matthew 26:39a (*up to "may this cup be taken from me."*)

Recap: Jesus wasn't talking about an actual cup here. What He meant was the pain and death He was about to go through. He told God that He wished He wouldn't have to die and go through so much pain. He wanted God to come up with another plan. When we pray, we ask God for things all the time, don't we? God hears our requests, and He heard what Jesus asked, too. But look what Jesus says right after that.

Jesus trusts God and His plan

Read Matthew 26:39b

Recap: Wait, Jesus is saying that if God decides He should die, then He is okay with that. Wow, that is an amazing thing to say. Jesus showed that He trusted God's plan, even if it meant He had to die. He trusted that God always has the best plan.

Growing through faith

Trusting God and His plan is another way of saying “having faith.” When we pray, we need to remember that God knows everything that goes on in our lives. He knows our past, present, and future. He loves us more than anyone else does... even more than our parents. Because He is perfect and loves us so much, He knows what is best for us. When you pray, you can ask God for what you want, just like Jesus did, but you also can trust that God knows how to answer your prayer requests the best way. Do you remember the verse we wrote on the rocks? (Proverbs 3:5-6) Let’s say it together.

Conclusion

Remember this cup with all our worries in it? *Hold up the cup from the Discover Time activity.* When Jesus was in Gethsemane, He prayed and asked God to take the cup from Him. He was asking God to take away the pain He was about to face (*write “Jesus” on the cup*). Jesus brought His request to God the Father, and He trusted God’s plan. Just like Jesus, we can always bring our pain and problems to God, while remembering that we can trust His plan. Jesus doesn’t want us to be so worried about the problems in our life that we are sad and scared all the time. Instead, He wants us to trust that He is in control. Right now, I want you to close your eyes and think of that worry that you put in the cup. I am going to give you some time to pray and trust God with your worry. Go ahead and pray. *Allow students to pray for 30 seconds to one minute.*

Let’s make a list of other things that we often ask God for in prayer. Then we are going to think of other ways that God might include us in His plan.

Examples:

Want—People to stop bullying a classmate at school.

God’s possible plan—Be the one who stands up for the one being bullied.

Want—Not to move to a different city.

God’s possible plan—Become new friends with someone who needs to hear about Jesus.

Want—A family member to not be sick anymore.

God’s possible plan—You help them and show God’s love to them.

Do Right and Feel Right

When you pray and say, “not as I will, but as you will,” you are showing that you are trusting God and His plan. Let’s think about our rocks again and say Proverbs 3:5-6 together: “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.” *Hold up the green page of the Wordless Book.* Every time you trust God, you are growing in your faith and growing to be more like Him. You can keep your rock in your backpack, by your bed, in the car, or anywhere that will help you remember to trust God when you pray. When you truly trust God, you will begin to feel the peace that only comes through God in your life.

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

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

1. How did Mary respond to the news that she would have a baby? (She glorified God)
2. How did Jesus feel about what He was about to go through? (Sorrowful, sad, miserable)
3. What were the two things Jesus prayed in Gethsemane? (1. He asked God to take away the burden of pain and dying; 2. “not as I will, but as you will,” in other words, He trusted God’s plan)
4. Can you recite Proverbs 3:5-6?
5. Do you trust God when you pray? Give specific examples.

Lesson Review Questions

Year 2 – Quarter 3

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

Lesson 1

1. Why did Jesus stay alone when He sent the disciples away in the boat? (He stayed to talk to God, His Father)
2. What happened to the disciples when they were crossing the lake? (The wind blew and made the boat struggle in the waves)
3. How did Jesus get to His disciples in the boat? (He walked to them on the water)
4. How did Jesus prove to Peter He was who He said He was? (He allowed Peter to walk on the water towards Him)
5. Why did Peter start to sink? (He looked at the wind and became scared instead of trusting in Jesus)
6. What are some problems in your life? Will you trust in Jesus to help you get through them?
7. What specifically will you do when you face problems? (Pray, use Scripture, and then trust)

Lesson 2

1. What did Jesus' disciples ask Him? (Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?)
2. What is the kingdom of heaven? (It's all the people who believe in Jesus to save them from their sin)
3. Who is the King of heaven? (Jesus)
4. How do people get into the kingdom of heaven? (They have to be humble and trust in Jesus to save them from their sin)
5. What does it mean to be humble? (I see myself as God sees me; I see that I am totally dependent on Him for everything because He is the One in control, just like children depend on their parents for everything)
6. Can children go to heaven? How? (Yes, by being humble and trusting in Jesus to take away their sin and making Him the leader of their lives)
7. Is it important to Jesus that children enter the kingdom of heaven? (Yes)
8. Who is in control when you belong to God's kingdom? (God)
9. Have you become humble and trusted in Jesus to take away your sin and let Him be the leader of your life?

Topical Lesson: Jesus understands us

1. What emotions did Jesus experience? (Anger, sadness, loneliness, tiredness, etc.)
2. Did Jesus ever sin? (No)
3. How did Jesus respond to temptation? (He remembered God's Word and did not sin)
4. Why did Jesus feel angry? (Because of the people's sinful attitudes)
5. What happened when Jesus asked His three closest friends to keep Him company while He prayed? (They fell asleep – three times!)
6. When Jesus was arrested, did the disciples stay with Him? (No, they all abandoned Him and ran away)
7. Who is the only One who can fully understand us and help us? (Jesus)

Topical Lesson: Jesus is our true friend

1. Was Jesus there at the beginning of the world? (Yes)
2. When Jesus saves us from our sin, whose family do we join? (God's family)
3. Who wants to be our true friend? (Jesus)
4. As our true friend, what does Jesus do? (He knows us, walks with us, talks with us, never lets us down, etc.)
5. What is one way you can enjoy being friends with Jesus this week? (Reading the Bible, enjoying His creation, praying, etc.)

Lesson 3

1. What did Jesus tell His disciples would happen to Him in Jerusalem?
For younger students: (He would die on the cross and rise to life on the third day)
For older students: *Accept any of these answers until all are given.* (He would be betrayed to the chief priests and the teachers of the law, condemned to death, turned over to the Gentiles, mocked, flogged, crucified, then raised to life on the third day)
2. How did Jesus know what would happen to Him? (He knew because He is God)
3. Why did Jesus ride a donkey into Jerusalem? (Because He is the King)
4. Why did the people in Jerusalem worship Jesus when He rode in on the donkey? (They thought He would save them from the Romans)
5. What did Jesus come to save people from? (Their sin)
6. What is worship? (To focus on God alone and tell Him how much He is worth through my words, actions, and thoughts)
7. Why should we worship Jesus as our King? (He died for our sin and rose again, and He is the King and Lord of all)
8. How long should we worship Jesus? (Forever)
9. What are some ways we can worship Jesus? (Singing and other arts, praying, studying and thinking about His Word, serving others, doing a good job when we are working, obeying Him, etc.)
10. What verse reminds us about worshiping Jesus? ("Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker..." Psalm 95:6)

Lesson 4

1. What is a savior? (A person who rescues someone or something from danger. Jesus is our Savior because He can save us from the punishment of our sin.)
2. Name something that happened to Jesus in Jerusalem just like He said. (*For younger students:* He would die on the cross and rise to life on the third day. *For advanced students:* He would be betrayed to the chief priests and the teachers of the law, condemned to death, turned over to the Gentiles, mocked, flogged, crucified, then raised to life on the third day.)
3. Did Jesus ever do anything wrong - sin? (No)
4. Did Jesus have to die on the cross or did He choose to die on the cross? (He chose to die on the cross)
5. Why did Jesus choose to die on the cross? (Because He is our Savior, He loves us and wants to save us from our sin)
6. When you choose to trust in Jesus as your Savior, what happens to your sins? (They are forgiven – paid in full by Jesus)
7. What two different choices did the robbers make when they were crucified with Jesus? (One chose to trust in Jesus as Savior, the other chose not to trust in Him)
8. What happens when you choose not to trust in Jesus as your Savior? (You are separated from God and are punished for your sins forever)
9. What is our Think Right verse that helps us remember why we celebrate Easter? ("Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved – you and your household." Acts 16:31)

Lesson 5

1. How many days did Jesus spend on the earth after He came back to life? (Forty)
2. How many people, all at the same time, saw Jesus alive after He died on the cross and rose again? (Over 500)
3. What was one thing that Jesus did with His disciples that only living people do? (He ate with them)
4. How did the disciples act before they saw that Jesus was alive? (Terrified)
5. How did the disciples act after they saw that Jesus was alive? (Brave and courageous)
6. Who was it that Jesus told the disciples to wait for? (The Holy Spirit)
7. What job did Jesus give the disciples? (To be His witnesses)
8. What does it mean to be a witness for Jesus? (A witness for Jesus is someone who shows or tells others the truth about God in their lives and how He can save them from their sin)
9. Where did Jesus go after He told the disciples what their job was? (Heaven)
10. What did the angel say that Jesus would do? (Come back to earth again)

Topical Lesson: He rocked, it rolled!

No review questions.

Lesson 6

1. What was the day called when the power of the Holy Spirit came? (Pentecost)
2. What did the Holy Spirit sound like when He came? (A violent wind)
3. What did the Holy Spirit look like when He came? (Tongues of fire)
4. What could the disciples do when the Holy Spirit came to live inside of them? (Speak in different languages)
5. What did the Holy Spirit give Peter the power to do? (Tell people about Jesus)
6. Who is the Holy Spirit? (He is the Person of God who comes to live inside of people who trust in Jesus)
7. What is one way the Holy Spirit helps us? (He gives us power to do what is right)
8. When you sin, what does the Holy Spirit give you the power to do? (See your sin, be sorry for it, and change it, so you don't keep on sinning in the same way)
9. Can you say our Think Right verse that reminds us that the Holy Spirit gives us power? ("But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you . . ." Acts 1:8a)

Lesson 7 *(not being used during this sequence)*

Lesson 8 *(not being used during this sequence)*

Lesson 9

1. Where did the religious leaders put Jesus' disciples? (In jail)
2. How did the disciples get out of jail? (An angel of the Lord freed them)
3. What did the angel of the Lord tell the disciples to do? (Go to the temple courts and tell people about Jesus)
4. Did the disciples obey God? (Yes)
5. When the religious leaders ordered the disciples not to tell people about Jesus, what did the disciples say? ("We must obey God rather than men!")
6. How did the religious leaders punish the disciples? (They had the disciples flogged)
7. What did the disciples feel when they had suffered for Jesus? (Joy)
8. What did many people do as the disciples obeyed God? (More people trusted in Jesus to save them from their sin)
9. Are you willing to obey God, even if you have to suffer for it?

Lesson 10

1. What did King Herod do to Jesus' disciple named James? (Had him put to death by the sword)
2. What did King Herod do to Peter? (Put him in jail)
3. What did the Christians do for Peter? (Prayed for him)
4. What showed that Peter was confident in God, while he was in jail? (He slept soundly)
5. How did God rescue Peter from jail? (He sent His angel to take him out)
6. What showed that Rhoda, the servant girl, was confident God could rescue Peter from jail? (She believed it was Peter at the door)
7. Did the other people pray confidently that God could rescue Peter from jail? How do you know? (No, they thought it was Peter's angel at the door)
8. What are the three ways God will answer our prayer requests? (Yes, no, wait)
9. What is the only way you can be confident God hears and answers your prayers? (Trust in Jesus to save you from your sin and make Him the leader of your life)
10. What is our Think Right verse that reminds us to be confident in God? ("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)

Lesson 11

1. What is one reason that Jesus came to live as a man on earth? (To save us from our sin, to show us what God is like, to show us how to live like Him)
2. Where is Jesus right now? (In heaven)
3. Who did Jesus give us to help us be like Him? (The Holy Spirit)
4. What was your favorite Bible lesson this past quarter and why?
5. What is your favorite Bible verse?

Topical Lesson: Prayer

1. How did Mary respond to the news that she would have a baby? (She glorified God)
2. How did Jesus feel about what He was about to go through? (Sorrowful, sad, miserable)
3. What were the two things Jesus prayed in Gethsemane? (1. He asked God to take away the burden of pain and dying; 2. "not as I will, but as you will," in other words, He trusted God's plan)
4. Can you recite Proverbs 3:5-6?
5. Do you trust God when you pray? Give specific examples.

On Track Map Questions

Q3 – Spring

Missions

Purpose: To challenge students to think globally and to review the Mission Lessons from this past school year.

Sample questions:

- What country or people group have you prayed for this week?
- Why are missionaries important?
- What are some challenges of being a missionary?
- What are three ways we can help with missions? (Pray, give, go)
- After watching the news this week, what country should we pray for this week? (End your time with prayer for this country)

OT vs NT – People specific

Purpose: To teach students where to find specific people in the Bible – the Old Testament or the New Testament.

Samples:

- Moses: OT
- Peter: NT
- Mary, mother of Jesus: NT
- Noah: OT
- Adam and Eve: OT
- Jesus' birth: NT
- Abraham: OT
- Miracles Jesus did: NT

Sample questions:

- Name a person in the Old Testament who was a role model of how to stand firm? (Daniel, Joseph, Noah, Ruth, Esther, etc.)
- Name a person in the New Testament who was a role model on how to stand firm? (John the Baptist, Stephen, Paul, Joseph, Mary, etc.)

Top 12 – Know and Use

Purpose: To lock in the full Top 12 verses and references and understand how to apply them.

Sample questions:

1. What verse talks about loving your neighbor? (Mark 12:30-31 – “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.” The second is this: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” There is no commandment greater than these.)
2. What verse challenges us to stand firm? (1 Corinthians 15:58 – Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.)
3. What verse makes it clear that you can’t get to heaven by your own good works? (Ephesians 2:8-9 – For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast.)
4. What verse tells us that heaven is a real place? (John 14:2 – In my Father’s house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you.)
5. What verse tells us that God loves us? (John 3:16 – For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.)
6. What verse tells us that all people sin? (Romans 3:23 – For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.)
7. What verse explains why Jesus had to shed His blood so that we could be forgiven for our sins? (Hebrews 9:22b – ...and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.)
8. What verse tells us why we should go to church? (2 Peter 3:18a – But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.)
9. What verse tells us that Jesus is the only way to heaven? (John 14:6 – Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”)
10. What verse tells us why we should trust in God? (Proverbs 3:5-6 – Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.)
11. What verse should I recite when I’m afraid? (Joshua 1:9 – 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.)
12. What verse explains how a person can be saved? (Acts 16:31 – Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household.)

Pre-Service Review Game

Year 2 – Quarter 3

Goal: To review previous lessons from this quarter and On Track Map topics.

Option 1: Power Grab

Note: Due to the complexity of this game, it is designed for 3rd-5th grade students. This is super fun once students understand the game. Worship Leaders must be well prepared with true/false questions to keep the game moving quickly.

Big Idea: Students race to grab pillows representing the correct answer and points. The team with the most points wins!

Supplies:

- Two long parallel lines with several yards between them (each team will kneel or sit behind one of the lines)
- Two pillows with strong pillowcases – one with “TRUE” written on it and one with “FALSE” written on it (place in the center of the area, face down between the two lines)
- Five pillows with strong pillowcases (each one should have one of the following numbers written on it: 10, 20, 30, 40, 50; place in the center of the area, face down between the two lines)
 - Note: After each round, make sure the pillows are face down and mixed up.
- Approximately six carpet squares, more or less depending on the number of students in your group (place three behind each line)
- Whiteboard and marker (to keep track of points)



Instructions:

1. Students will be divided into two teams as they enter the worship area.
2. Each team will have three students kneel or sit on their team's carpet squares.
3. The leader will ask a True or False question.
4. Students cannot cross their lines until the question is asked and the leader says, “Go!”
5. Once the leader says, “Go!”, students kneeling or sitting on the carpet squares should crawl in and grab the pillow with the correct answer and as many pillows as they can with points written on them. They can either keep the pillows and crawl with them back across their team line or toss the pillows across their team line to other team members.
6. The team with the pillow that represents the correct answer will receive the number of points on the other pillows they were able to get across their team line.
7. The team that has the wrong answer or no answer across their line will receive 0 points. But, even when a team doesn't grab the correct answer pillow, they should try to grab as many point pillows as possible to decrease the number of points the winning team gets.
8. Team members sitting behind their team line, who are not on a carpet square, cannot cross the line or their team will lose points.

Optional ideas: Use foam footballs or ball-pit balls rather than pillows; add in additional points; and/or have more or less carpet squares on each line.

Tips:

1. How do students rotate on their team carpet squares?
 - Option 1: Have them line up behind a carpet square.
 - Option 2: Have them rotate in line (everyone slide to the left; the farthest left person would go back to the opposite end of the line).
2. What should the other students be doing while sitting on the lines waiting for their turn?
 - Be ready to catch a flying pillow that might be coming their way.
 - Cheer for their team.

Option 2: Beanbag toss

Big Idea: Students will answer questions as they play a beanbag toss game. The team with the most points at the end wins.

Supplies:

- 20 beanbags (10 of each color)
- A target to toss the beanbags into, such as a bucket or a beanbag toss game
- Whiteboard and marker (to keep track of points)
- Tape for marking the throwing line

Instructions:

1. Divide students into two teams.
2. Allow teams to answer questions. When a student answers a question correctly, they should be given a beanbag in their team's color.
3. After five minutes or when all beanbags are given out, all those with beanbags stand behind a designated line and toss their beanbag into the target at the same time.
4. Add up the points and write them on the team scoreboard.
5. Repeat as time permits.

End-of-Class Review Games

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

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

Sink or Swim

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

Waterfall

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

The Big Race

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

Dice Roll

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

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

Tic-Tac-Toe

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

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

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

Trash Can Basketball

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

Spin and Win

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

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



All In

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

Score Big

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

Cup Stacking (supplies: two sets of cups)

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

Push-Ups

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

Cup of Goodness (Limited prep needed in advance)

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

Four Corners

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

The Hot Seat

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

Just Give Points

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

Beach Ball

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

Around the World

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

Swatter

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

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

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


Mission Lesson

Year 2 – Quarter 3

Mexico

Goal: To introduce students to the cultures in Mexico and give them an opportunity to pray for the churches and church leaders there.

Supplies:

- PowerPoint (see appendix)
 - Canva Pro template link: [Mexico Mission Lesson PPT](#)
 - Mexican Christian music; here are a few options:
 - E Alfarero: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nylgLCGsgGQ>
 - Dame más sabiduría: <https://youtu.be/0iCeNwC-ih8?si=oxCAfEjwHJkain6N>
 - Eran cien ovejas: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OA06OVJclvI>
 - Te vengo a decir: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V8U_R2Xyzbw
 - Mariachi en el Cielo: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dby46xAxIJc>
 - Popular Mexican treats for students to sample, such as:
 - Mexican candy (popular flavors include chili pepper, mango, lime, and tamarind)
 - Coca-Cola
 - Takis (spicy rolled corn chips)
 - Pork rinds (“chicharrones”)
 - World map
 - Wooden figure or life-sized poster to represent Juan Carlos, wearing a cowboy hat (you can search “vaquero” online to find more ideas)
 - Props to go with Juan Carlos (soccer ball and marbles)
 - Bible
 - Flashlight
 - Strands of red, white, and green yarn that each student can braid together to make a bracelet
 - Prayer Cards (see appendix)
- 
- A photograph of a wooden figure, likely a life-sized poster or prop, made of light-colored wood. The figure is wearing a cowboy hat and is positioned on the right side of the page.



Mission Station Set Up: Decorate your mission station with bright colors, piñatas, and streamers to create a fun, vibrant party atmosphere. Make sure you have the ability to turn the lights on and off as part of the object lesson.

Ways to “Turbo Charge” your Mission Lesson:

- Use a flashlight with a dimmer switch so the light can grow brighter and brighter as you teach on how kids are learning about God, reading His Word, and telling others about the Good News.
- Rather than just turning the lights off to illustrate the darkness of sin, divide the room with a curtain. Have the class begin on the side decorated like a joyful party, and then open the curtain and move the class into the other side (with no decorations, just darkness) when talking about life in Northern Mexico.
- Instead of turning on a flashlight, create a display with a box covering a large spotlight – when you lift the box, the whole room should become bright.

Lesson:

Have upbeat mariachi music playing as students enter.

Welcome to the country of Mexico! *Hand out treats as students sit down.* Mexico is the third largest country in Latin America. *Show Mexico on the world map.* There are three main regions in Mexico – the dry mountains in the north, the rainforest in the south, and the big city in the middle. *Show pictures on the PowerPoint.*

There are people representing many different cultures living in these areas. In the dry northern part of the country, many rural people work as cowboys, herding cattle for a living. In the South, people from indigenous tribes have their own language and culture. These are native people groups that have lived in Mexico since before Europeans arrived. In the big cities, many people live much like city-dwellers do around the world, taking buses or cars to work in offices, restaurants, and stores. Immigrants from other parts of the world have made their homes throughout Mexico – some staying for a little while before they make their way north to the United States, and some coming to love Mexico and settling there permanently.

I'd like you to meet my friend, Juan Carlos. *Pull out the wooden figure.* Juan Carlos comes from a family of northern cowboys, and lives in the state of Coahuila, just south of the U.S. state of Texas. He likes to watch and play soccer, eat spicy candy, and play marbles with his cousins. But it's not always fun and games for Juan Carlos and his family. *Turn off the lights.*

Life in northern Mexico can sometimes be pretty scary. Some people sell dangerous things, rob people, or do other bad things. Sometimes people get sick or hurt, and sometimes they even die. People can feel pretty hopeless when they witness these terrible things and don't see a way for life to get better.

Because of the danger and uncertainty, many people in Juan Carlos' neighborhood hope for a chance to move to the United States, thinking that they will find a better life there. In fact, people from all over the world come to Mexico hoping that they will be able to move across the border into the United States. Some people are able to cross over and make new homes in the U.S., but the reality is that many, many people end up never being able to leave Mexico.

Many people all over the world are looking for hope – not just the people in Mexico who want to move to the U.S. They often try to find hope in their homes, families, jobs, or money. But where is the only place we can find true hope? (In Jesus) *Hold up the Bible and turn on a flashlight.*

Guess what? Juan Carlos and his cousins go to church, just like you! *Hold up the Bible.* Did you know that there are churches in Mexico that use the Discovery Land program? In Latin America, Discovery Land is called Descúbrela. Kids in the Descúbrela program are learning the same Bible lessons you learn, and they are learning that Jesus is the only One who can give us real hope for the future.

Today we are going to pray for the churches and church leaders in Mexico – especially northern Mexico. We want them to be able to share the Good News of Jesus with kids like Juan Carlos and with all of the other people living in northern Mexico who are looking for hope.

Hand out red, green, and white yarn and explain that these three colors are the colors on the Mexican flag. Teach students how to make a simple bracelet by braiding the three strands of yarn together. As they braid, talk about the following prayer requests.

Let's pray that:

1. Christians will **boldly** share the Gospel. *(Red strand)*
2. Church leaders and the Christians in the churches will be excited to reach their local community for Jesus. *(White strand)*
3. Christians will find their contentment and hope in Jesus, not in where they live, what they own, what others think of them, or how much money they have. *(Green strand)*

Take a few minutes to pray for these three requests in small groups, then hand out prayer cards and encourage students to wear the bracelets all week to help them remember to pray for the people they've learned about in Mexico.

Bulletin Boards

Year 2– Quarter 3

Option 1:

Create a giant “GO!” on your bulletin board with Matthew 28:19-20 written below it. Challenge students to write names of kids that they should go out and witness to this quarter. Each week have students stop and pray for the kids on the bulletin board.

Option 2:

Design a fun game on your bulletin board similar to “Chutes and Ladders”. Add in bonus Tracker Tickets squares throughout the grid of squares. Divide the class into multiple teams, ask review questions, and allow students to advance their team token. Allow this game to run for multiple weeks if possible.

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Worship: K-2nd

Year 2 – Quarter 3

Song, Artist, Album, Time

“Shine” by North Point Kids, *Shine!*, 3:06

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

“Psalm 33 (We Are Trusting)” by Rob Biagi, *Get Out There!*, 3:36

“Your Everlasting Love” by Jeff Moody, *No Greater Love*, 3:25

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

“How Great Is Our God” by Singin’ Praise Kids, *Your Love is Deep*, 3:25

“Happy Day” by Fee, *We Shine*, 3:36

“Don’t Ever Stop” by Passion, *Passion: Take it All*, 5:14 (optional: fade out at 4:02)

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

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

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

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

“Lord I Lift Your Name on High” by Go Fish, *Superstar*, 3:18

Worship Schedule: K-2nd Grade

Lesson	Date	Song 1	Song 2	Song 3
01	March 2	Shine	We Will Live	Psalms 33 (We Are Trusting)
02	March 9	Your Everlasting Love	Never Be Shaken	How Great Is Our God
	March 16	Happy Day	Don't Ever Stop	Unchanging
	March 23	King of Majesty	Never Be Shaken	How Great is Our God
03	March 30	Always With Us	Happy Day	Tell the World
04	April 6	Don't Ever Stop	Lord I Lift Your Name on High	Tell the World
05	April 13	We Will Live	Happy Day	Unchanging
	April 20	<i>Topical Lesson: He rocked, it rolled! (Worship Leader's choice)</i>		
06	April 27	King of Majesty	Don't Ever Stop	Unchanging
07		<i>Note: This lesson is not being used during this sequence.</i>		
08		<i>Note: This lesson is not being used during this sequence.</i>		
09	May 4	Always With Us	King of Majesty	Tell the World
10	May 11	Your Everlasting Love	We Will Live	Psalms 33 (We Are Trusting)
11	May 18	Never Be Shaken	Shine	How Great Is Our God
	May 25	<i>Topical Lesson: Prayer (Worship Leader's choice)</i>		

Worship Plan: K-2nd Grade

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

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

Lesson 1

Transition 1: When you put a glow stick near the light, it lights up brighter. In the same way, when we are surrounding ourselves with things that remind us of Jesus' great love for us, we should shine brighter for Him, too!!

Song 1: "Shine"

Transition 2: The more we trust Jesus, the more of a difference it makes in how we live. So, the real question is, do you want to live for Jesus!?!

Song 2: "We Will Live"

Transition 3: That was awesome! That's how I want to live, trusting in Jesus. As we kneel down to worship, take a moment and thank God. Thank God for loving us, providing for us, and for always being with us. I am just so thankful that I can 100% trust in God. Friends, let's raise our hands and our voices and rejoice in our awesome God!

Song 3: "Psalm 33 (We Are Trusting)"

Lesson 2

Transition 1: Being humble means to know our weaknesses, and to know we are not perfect or all-powerful. God IS perfect and all-powerful, so before we go and do anything, we should stop and remember the amazing love that He has for us and that He used that power to save us from our sins!!

Song 1: "Everlasting Love"

Transition 2: If you have prayed and asked Jesus to forgive your sins and be the leader of your life, God no longer sees your sin. (*Hold up dark page of the Wordless Book*) God only sees His perfect Son, Jesus! (*Hold up clean page*) Now we can live our lives knowing that if we follow Him and His Words, we will never be shaken!

Song 2: "Never Be Shaken"

Transition 3: *Read 1 Peter 5:6.* When I am humble and remember that God is mighty, He will lift me up to shine for Him. Our God is so great!

Song 3: "How Great Is Our God"

Topical Lesson: Jesus understands us

Transition 1: God saw every sin we've ever committed and decided to offer us salvation for free. Jesus took all of our sins and nailed them to the cross. They are gone forever!! That sounds like the happiest day of all to me!! What about you guys? Are you happy that Jesus takes sins away? Let's sing about that!!

Song 1: "Happy Day"

Transition 2: Who do you go to for a cavity? What about if your hair is too long? We know who to go to when we have a need. If Jesus is perfect, and He is, do you think we can trust Him to guide us? Let's go to Jesus when we need someone who understands us because He is the expert!! Let's never stop going to Him!

Song 2: "Don't Ever Stop"

Transition 3: Does Jesus ever change? (No!) Do you think He's nice one day and mean the next? (No!) The Bible tells us that He never changes, so we can trust that. That means that He is faithful, and we can depend on Him. Let's sing about our unchanging Lord!

Song 3: "Unchanging"

Topical Lesson: Jesus is our true friend

Transition 1: Would you like to have a King for a friend? If you did have a King for a friend, would that make you feel more safe and secure? You bet because your friend is powerful and can do great things!! Jesus is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords! Jesus is the King of Majesty, which means when we surrender our lives to God, the King of Majesty becomes our friend!!

Song 1: “King of Majesty”

Transition 2: Remember how we just said that we would feel more safe and secure in the King’s presence? That’s because even if we are weak and scared, He is strong and mighty. In His presence, we can never be shaken!

Song 2: “Never Be Shaken”

Transition 3: Jesus IS God. Let’s take a moment and sing about how great our God is!

Song 3: “How Great is Our God”

Lesson 3

Transition 1: It’s time to worship our God and King! Remember, worship is more than just singing songs. It is being totally focused on God. So, let’s get focused! What are some words that describe God? (Loving, eternal, powerful, etc.) Another word that describes God is everlasting. God has always been and will always be! And because He is 100% present all the time, He is always with us!

Song 1: “Always With Us”

Transition 2: As I think about God and focus on Him, I am filled with joy. The God who created the universe knows me by name and loves me. WOW, doesn’t that just make you happy? Let’s take all that focus and joy and worship God!

Song 2: “Happy Day”

Transition 3: Friends, have a seat. What has Jesus done for you this week? Hmm, maybe the better question is, what have you done to serve Jesus this week? Putting God first is a huge part of worship! God gets the greatest joy when sinners admit that they have sinned and ask Him for forgiveness. Let’s worship God this week by telling the world about Him and His plan to save lost sinners!

Song 3: “Tell the World”

Lesson 4

Transition 1: When I ask, “What did Jesus do for us?”, how do you answer? (He died for us) But is that the WHOLE story?! No...Jesus died **and** rose from the dead. He is ALIVE! Does that sound like a weak God? NO!! Let’s never stop living for Him!

Song 1: “Don’t Ever Stop”

Transition 2: Are you SO glad that Jesus is in your life?! Are you SO glad He came to save us?! YES! Jesus wants to hear you lift His name on high!!

Song 2: “Lord I Lift Your Name on High”

Transition 3: Jesus, You are amazing! You gave EVERYTHING to save us, even your whole life! We love You, Jesus. Let’s take a moment and just sing about that.

Song 3: “We Love You Lord”

Lesson 5

Transition 1: *Show red page of the Wordless Book.* Friends, do you see this red page? It reminds us that Jesus died for our sin AND then on the third day He came back to life. Jesus is ALIVE! We have a God who hears us, loves us, knows us, and gave everything for us! I just want to praise Him every single day of my life!

Song 1: “We Will Live”

Transition 2: We do not worship a pretend god, a made-up god, or a dead god. We worship the one and only TRUE GOD who is living and rules FOREVER! Oh, happy day!

Song 2: “Happy Day”

Transition 3: Jesus, You are amazing! You don’t change your mind or your heart, we praise you because you do not change!

Song 3: “Unchanging”

Topical Lesson: He rocked, it rolled!

Music and transitions: Worship Leader's choice

Lesson 6

Transition 1: When you choose to accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior, He will fill you with the Holy Spirit. But what does that mean? Jesus fills you with power and that power will always be with you! What kind of power does He give? Power to forgive others, power to be kind when you want to be mean, power to say NO to sin.... How amazing is that? Only the King of all Kings could be so amazing!

Song 1: “King of Majesty”

Transition 2: Jesus, thank You for the power of the Holy Spirit! That power helps us Know and DO what is true, what is right, what is pure (do hand motions). Jesus, we don’t ever want to stop following You!

Song 2: “Don’t Ever Stop”

Transition 3: God loves each of us so much. Think of all He has done for you. Lord, we lift up our hands in worship to You and You alone.

Song 3: “Unchanging”

Lesson 7 (not being used during this sequence)

Lesson 8 (not being used during this sequence)

Lesson 9

Transition 1: It isn’t enough to just know what God is teaching us—we need to DO it! We obey God by following His instructions, which He gives us here. *Hold up Bible.* The Bible also tells us that He is always with us, so we can always count on His help to do what is right!

Song 1: “Always With Us”

Transition 2: God is holy and perfect and chooses to love us with His amazing love! We show our love for God by obeying Him. Let’s sing to our amazing, holy God!

Song 2: “King of Majesty”

Transition 3: We just sang *about* God, but does everyone know about His amazing plan of salvation? God is so generous and giving that He allows us to be a part of His plan. He asks us to take His message into the whole world!

Song 3: “Tell the World”

Lesson 10

Transition 1: What does it look like to confidently pray to God? Prayer should be the first thing we do, not the last. We should ask God to help us trust in His plan, even when it doesn't make sense to us.

Confidently praying to God is choosing to STOP and speak to God before we do anything else! Because of His great love for us, we know that He will always hear us as we pray to Him. Let's sing about and remember that love!

Song 1: "Everlasting Love"

Transition 2: Prayer is POWERFUL! Which example shows I know how powerful prayer is? (*call up a student or use a worship assistant*)

Option 1: "Oh, that sounds hard! I'll pray for you." *Walk away.*

Option 2: "Oh, that sounds hard. Let me pray for you right now." *Say a quick prayer with them.*

Which one? YES, Option 2! When we pray for others, we are the hands and feet of Jesus for other people!

Song 2: "We Will Live"

Transition 3: Have a seat. As we confidently trust in God, our hearts rejoice with praise for who He is and all He has done.

Song 3: "Psalm 33" (We Are Trusting)

Lesson 11

Transition 1: *Read 2 Peter 3:18a.* One way we grow in our faith is by learning about and remembering what God has done for us. So, let's remember to always stop and take time to talk to God and to study His Word. *Hold up the Bible.* The Bible tells us that if God's Word is our steady spot, we will never be shaken!

Song 1: "Never Be Shaken"

Transition 2: As I grow and see God at work in my life, I want to follow Him more and more - not just some of the time, but I want to always shine for Him!

Song 2: "Shine"

Transition 3: Take a seat. Shout out some things about God that you have learned this spring. (God sent us Jesus, our Savior; He is powerful, mighty, and with us wherever we go, etc.) How great is our God?

Song 3: "How Great Is Our God"

Topical Lesson: Prayer

Music and transitions: Worship Leader's choice

Worship: 3rd-5th

Year 2 – Quarter 3

Song, Artist, Album, Time

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

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

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

“Take You at Your Word (Live)” by Cody Carnes & Benjamin William Hastings, *God Is Good! (Live)*, 5:16

“Good God Almighty” by Crowder, *Milk & Honey*, 3:11

“There’s Nothing That Our God Can’t Do” by Kristian Stanfill and Passion, *Roar*, 4:14

“The Lord’s Prayer” by Matt Mahr, *The Stories I tell Myself*, 3:23 (NEW SONG)

“We Are (The Light of the World)” by Uncle Charlie, *Shine On*, 4:06

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

“Forever Reign” by Amber Sky Records, *Living Inside Out*, 4:01

“God Is Alive” by Fee, *Hope Rising*, 3:57

“My God” by Go Fish, *Gotta Move*, 3:35

Worship Schedule: 3rd-5th Grade

Lesson	Date	Song 1	Song 2	Song 3
01	March 2	WaveWalker	Let it be Known	No Other Name
02	March 9	Take You at Your Word	Good God Almighty	There's Nothing That Our God Can't Do
	March 16	The Lord's Prayer	Let it be Known	We Are
	March 23	Bulletproof	Take You at Your Word	Forever Reign
03	March 30	God is Alive	WaveWalker	No Other Name
04	April 6	My God	Good God Almighty	We Are
05	April 13	God is Alive	Bulletproof	Forever Reign
	April 20	<i>Topical Lesson: (Easter) He rocked, it rolled! (Worship Leader's choice)</i>		
06	April 27	WaveWalker	The Lord's Prayer	There's Nothing That Our God Can't Do
07		<i>Note: This lesson is not being used during this sequence.</i>		
08		<i>Note: This lesson is not being used during this sequence.</i>		
09	May 4	Take You at Your Word	Good God Almighty	We Are
10	May 11	The Lord's Prayer	God is Alive	No Other Name
11	May 18	Good God Almighty	My God	There's Nothing That Our God Can't Do
	May 25	<i>Topical Lesson: Prayer (Worship Leader's choice)</i>		

Worship Plan: 3rd-5th Grade

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

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

Lesson 1

Transition 1: When God saves a sinner, He puts His Holy Spirit inside of them to live. Scripture tells us this is a Spirit of power - literally, the word for power that's used is where we get the word "dynamite." If you are 4 feet tall and I am 6 feet tall, who gets more Holy Spirit power? (Neither!) God says that if you are living a Spirit-filled life through obedience to His Word and are seeking His awesome face, then you are a wave walker – capable of doing DYNAMITE things with the power of HIS Spirit for HIS kingdom!!

Song 1: "WaveWalker"

Transition 2: God has promised His Spirit to anyone who believes. That Holy Spirit gives us power to live a life the way God would want and a life that is blessed beyond measure. That promise of a Spirit-filled life is available to anyone, and it's FREE! The sinner needs to believe and repent. First thing: Admit you are a sinner. 2nd thing: Believe that Jesus is the Savior. 3rd thing: Repent. We need to let the whole world know that this is the way to be saved from your sin and from being separated from God forever.

Song 2: "Let it be Known"

Transition 3: Many people will look for help and answers about life in the wrong places -- they'll look to famous people, or false gods, or the government. But the one true God that we learn about in the Bible is the only One who can provide the true help and answers we need. There is no other name that will save us!

Song 3: "No Other Name"

Lesson 2

Transition 1: *Show a picture of a car and ask students:* If you were to put yourself in the car with Jesus, where would each of you be sitting? It's easy to say that Jesus gets the driver's seat, but, in reality, we are usually trying to tell HIM which way He should go and how things should be done. If we really understand that He is perfect and cannot make any wrong turns or mistakes, then we should give Him the driver's seat and take Him at His Word!!

Song 1: "Take You at Your Word"

Transition 2: We live in a time where people everywhere think the world revolves around them and everyone is trying to get praise for themselves. But, if we are truly following Jesus, then He should get the lead, and He should get the praise. Remember, Jesus IS God, so all praise and glory and honor should go to God!! Let's remember that as we sing "Good God Almighty"! This song has a call back function to it, so when I say, "Is He good?", you guys have to yell it back to me as loud as you can! Same with, "Is He God" and then we will all shout together, "He is good God Almighty!!"

Song 2: "Good God Almighty"

Transition 3: Once we follow Jesus and understand that His way is always better than ours, we will also see that His opinion of us is more important than anyone else's, too. Who He says we are is one of the most important truths to understand!! He can take lies and turn them into truth. There's literally nothing He can't do!

Song 3: "There's Nothing that Our God Can't Do"

Topical Lesson: Jesus understands us

Transition 1: If you have a cavity that needs to be filled, who would you go to? (A dentist) Right! How about a broken arm? (A doctor) Right! Your house is on fire? (A fireman) Right! Seems like you know the right person to go to for your needs, but we all need to remember that there's no one that knows us better than God. He's the One who made us, so He understands us the best. When we have problems, we need to go to Him first. When we talk to God, that's called "prayer". Let's sing a prayer that God taught His very own disciples!

Song 1: "The Lord's Prayer" (NEW SONG)

Transition 2: Do you think you are the only ones who have problems and need help? No way!! Everyone can use God's wisdom. Seeing as God created every single person, and He made them exactly the way He wanted, then it would make sense that He's the One everyone should go to when they need understanding and wisdom. We need to let the whole world know that God understands them and is available to not only be their Savior, but then be their guide as well!!

Song 2: "Let it be Known"

Transition 3: Why should we let the whole world know about Jesus? Because Jesus tells us that we are a light that should not be hidden. We should shine, so everyone sees us!

Song 3: "We Are"

Topical Lesson: Jesus is our true friend

Transition 1: Have you ever had a friend that has not been loyal to you? Maybe they aren't even your friend anymore? When you admit that you have sinned against God and ask Jesus to forgive you through His own blood, your relationship with God changes. Jesus becomes a true friend to you. He won't ever leave you, and He will always be loyal to you. In this way, your relationship with God and Jesus becomes Bulletproof the moment you give your life to Him!

Song 1: "Bulletproof"

Transition 2: Let's pretend that you got basketball lessons from Michael Jordan. During the lesson, he tells you to stand like a duck and throw the ball with one hand while jumping up from the duck position. You don't really understand what He's doing or why, but based on who He is, you do it!! In the same way, God gives us instructions in His Word, the Bible, and sometimes we may not understand what He's telling us to do, but based on who He is we should just do it! We need to take Him at His Word.

Song 2: "Take You at Your Word"

Transition 3: One of the reasons you would listen to Michael Jordan is based on what you have seen him do. When you watch him play, you know he is a GREAT player. While we are studying God this quarter, we are learning all about what He has done as well. Once we realize what God has done, we will not hold back anything from Him, and we will listen to everything He says!

Song 3: "There's Nothing That Our God Can't Do"

Lesson 3

Transition 1: For someone to be a King, they need to have a kingdom of people to rule over, AND, of course, they need to be alive! When Jesus died for us, He made it possible for us to be part of His kingdom, because He took our sin – and now He can rule over us. This isn't a bad kind of 'ruling over you' – it's God who wants what is best for us all the time. And remember, a King needs to be alive to rule. Jesus rose from the dead, He has a kingdom to rule over, AND He is alive!!

Song 1: "God is Alive"

Transition 2: Jesus isn't any normal King either! He is the kind of King that can raise people from the dead, calm a hurricane with a word, cure all disease in a whole city, feed 20,000 people with just a few fish and a tiny bit of bread, AND give His followers the power to walk on water! But...like Peter, if we take our eyes off Him and start focusing on what is happening around us in the world, we can sink! Let's be wave walkers!

Song 2: "WaveWalker"

Transition 3: What's the most amazing thing this King can do? Save the entire world in one act. In order to do that, He lived the life we should have lived, and He died the death that we should have died. He took the guilt and punishment for our sins upon Himself. There is no other person that could ever have done that because there is no one else who is perfect. That means that there is no other name by which we must be saved – only by the name of Jesus!!

Song 3: "No Other Name"

Lesson 4

Transition 1: Do you know what makes Christianity different from any other world religion? We are the only religion who knows and understands that when Jesus rose from the dead, He not only conquered sin and death, but it means that He is all-powerful because He is living! No other religion claims that their 'god' is living and active. We know that Jesus is alive, because He continues to change lives every day - and only the one true God can change people's hearts! We need to humbly and excitedly proclaim that this is my God!

Song 1: "My God"

Transition 2: We are definitely not done praising God!! Jesus IS God, which means that when Jesus rose from the dead, God had the power, in Himself, to raise HIMSELF from the dead!! The Bible tells us that God is the source of all power, which makes sense because the kind of power He used to raise HIMSELF from the dead is almighty power indeed!!

Song 2: "Good God Almighty"

Transition 3: Jesus is called the "light of the world". When He starts to transform us into His image, we should become little lights in this world. The world is in need of light – Jesus' light! Let's rise to our calling and be lights in this world of darkness!

Song 3: "We Are"

Lesson 5

Transition 1: The Bible tells us that Jesus went to heaven, and He is now seated at the right hand of the Father. He is completely equal to God the Father. That means that He is all-powerful. The fact that He is seated means that the work is done. Much like your dad or mom might do after a long day of work; they come home, put their things down, and sit down because their work for the day is done. Jesus' saving work on the cross is done, but He is alive, powerful, and continues to work in our lives daily!

Song 1: "God is Alive"

Transition 2: *Have two other people ready to help with this 'skit'. Come in and remind Person 1 that they owe you \$10. Person 2 pays the \$10 to you on behalf of Person 1. Ask the kids: Can I still collect from Person 1 even though Person 2 paid what was owed? No way! The fine is paid – or redeemed!! When Jesus died on the cross for us, we were redeemed as well. Our fine was that we would have to pay for our sin with our lives. Jesus died for us – taking our fine, so to speak. If you've admitted that you are a sinner and that you deserve that penalty, but you accept His payment of that penalty for you, then He redeems you! That means that we never have to pay that penalty/fine. In that way, we become "bulletproof"!*

Song 2: "Bulletproof"

Transition 3: Now that Jesus has conquered death, He can no longer die for us again either. The penalty is paid – no more death for Him or believers. That means that He is free to reign forever!!

Song 3: "Forever Reign"

Topical Lesson: He rocked, it rolled!

Music and transitions: Worship Leader's choice

Lesson 6

Transition 1: When Jesus was getting ready to leave this earth to join His Father in heaven, He told His disciples that it was *better* that He go and send another Helper to be with us. That probably didn't make any sense to them. They could see and touch and talk to Jesus. He would be leaving them and the Helper that He sent wouldn't be able to be seen in a physical sense. They were probably thinking, "How can that be better!?" But the Holy Spirit comes to live inside believers and help them. With the power of the Holy Spirit, we can become wave walkers and do seemingly impossible things!!

Song 1: "WaveWalker"

Transition 2: *Have two people on stage that are drastically different sizes – maybe a young person and an adult. Ask the kids: If both of these people are believers, then the Bible tells us that God gave them the Holy Spirit to live inside of them and give them power. Who do you think got the most Holy Spirit? Let them answer. When God promises to give us the Holy Spirit, He doesn't say that the taller people get more Holy Spirit than the shorter people, or that the older people get more than the younger people. He says that we all get the same power! That's His promise to us. We have been given a Spirit of power, love, and self-discipline. (The verse is 2 Timothy 1:7, in case you want to put it on the screen or on a poster board) Let's celebrate and remember this promise as we sing about who God is!*

Song 2: "The Lord's Prayer"

Transition 3: The other promise that God gives us is a promise that He will set us free from our sin and its penalty, and that He will make us into His children – heirs to His very kingdom and all its beauty!! Jesus' death on the cross is powerful enough to save ANYONE who asks. There's literally nothing that our God can't do!

Song 3: "There's Nothing That Our God Can't Do"

Lesson 7 (not being used during this sequence)

Lesson 8 (not being used during this sequence)

Lesson 9

Transition 1: Not only does God provide a way for us to get to heaven to be with Him, but He then provides a way to make us more alive than ever! 2 Corinthians 5:17 says that when you accept Jesus' free gift of salvation (admitting that you are a sinner and letting Him take the punishment that you should get) the old is gone and the new has come. That means that you begin to live for Him – that is what it means to be truly alive! God cannot lie, so this is a truth we can believe!! We need to take Him at His Word!

Song 1: "Take You at Your Word"

Transition 2: Part of being alive through His power, is that you will have the power to do many things that you never could do before. You have the power to put others first, to think of their needs before yours, to forgive them for things that they do that hurt you, and you will have the power to walk away from sin! You will have the power to obey what God says! Where do we get this kind of power? From the source of all power – ALMIGHTY power!! Let's sing about our Almighty God – who is always GOOD!!

Song 2: "Good God Almighty"

Transition 3: When God starts making you alive like that, the world will stand up and take notice. They will notice something different about you and chances are, they will like what they see. Someone who thinks about others, freely forgives, and serves others with a sincere heart – that is someone that will be a light for the Lord. We are the light of the world – and this world definitely needs light!

Song 3: "We Are"

Lesson 10

Transition 1: If you could write an email to the President of the United States, do you think he would get it? If you did have his correct email, do you think that he would personally read what you emailed him? Probably not. He gets too many, so he has a group of people whose job it is to read his emails and respond for him. God isn't like that. God can hear from everyone at the exact same time. God promises that when we pray, He is never too busy to hear from us and will not have someone else answer or put our prayer on a pile because there are too many for Him. Those are promises that we can count on! Let's remember that as we sing the prayer God taught His very own disciples!

Song 1: "The Lord's Prayer"

Transition 2: Now... if you wanted to see something in our country change, would you send an email to Abraham Lincoln? *Allow for responses.* NO! Why not? Because he isn't alive, so he can't even read your email, and he sure can't answer it or do anything you've asked him to do. But God has always been alive and always will be alive. That's what His being infinite means – it means He was not created, but always was and always will be. That also means that He will always be able to hear from you and answer you, if you are His child. Let's celebrate that God is alive!

Song 2: "God is Alive"

Transition 3: The President is powerful, but He cannot save you from your sin. Abraham Lincoln was amazing, but he is no longer alive, so he hasn't got any power anymore. There is only one name under heaven that can save us sinners from our sin and allow us to spend an eternity (that means FOREVER) with God in heaven. That name is JESUS.

Song 3: "No Other Name"

Lesson 11

Transition 1: If you were going into a fight, would you rather have a squirt gun or a tank with one of those super shooter things on the top??? The TANK for sure!! God created the entire universe without sweat, and He never picked up a shovel – He just said it. His Word is so powerful that it can create something out of nothing!! His powerful Word is something God says we should hide in our hearts, so we don't sin against Him! Why? Because those words are the words of our good and Almighty God. His words have power, like the TANK, and are not only able to influence our own lives, but they can even influence the culture around us! Want to be on the winning side? Remember the words of our Almighty God and hide them in your heart!

Song 1: "Good God Almighty"

Transition 2: Another thing the Bible tells us is that God is three in One! Who can name the three? (God the Father, God the Son (Jesus), and God the Holy Spirit) Does that mean that God is made up of $\frac{1}{3}$ God, $\frac{1}{3}$ Jesus and $\frac{1}{3}$ Holy Spirit? Nope!! He's 100% of those three all the time. How can that be? Doesn't $1 + 1 + 1 = 3$? Well, yes it does, but what is forever + forever + forever? Forever! Each of those three – God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit – is like a forever so it's like $1 + 1 + 1 = 1$. Let's sing the song, "My God" and be reminded about who our God is!

Song 2: "My God"

Transition 3: This amazing God not only tells us in the Bible who He is, but He also tells us who we are. Let's remember that the Son, Jesus, came to set us free. God says that we are free from the penalty and the power of sin and someday we will even be free from the presence of sin, too!! There's nothing that this mighty and powerful God can't do!

Song 3: "There's Nothing that Our God Can't Do"

Topical Lesson: Prayer

Music and transitions: Worship Leader's choice

Elementary Printable Resources

Year 2 — Quarter 3

PROVERBS 3:5-6

Lesson 1 Box
Proverbs 3:5-6 box signs

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

Lesson 1 Play-Doh
Proverbs 3:5-6 poster

"Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand..."
1 Peter 5:6a

Lesson 2 Art
1 Peter 5:6 activity sheet

Who is Jesus? Who is Jesus? Who is Jesus?

Savior	Mighty God	Unchanging
Holy	King of Kings	Humble
Love	All-Powerful	Strong
Lord of Lords	Prince of Peace	Emmanuel
Wonderful Counselor	Eternal	Messiah

Topical Lesson: Jesus Understands Us
Option 1 Memory Cards

Savior **Who is Jesus? Master**
Holy Mighty Emmanuel The Word
Redeemer Light of the World Advocate
Love Humble All-Powerful King of Kings
Good Shepherd Strong Prince of Peace
Alpha and Omega Lord of Lords The Way, The Truth, & The Life
Lamb of God Son of God Creator Unchanging

Topical Lesson: Jesus Understands Us
Options 1 & 2 Poster

Jesus is my true friend!

Topical Lesson: Jesus Understands Us
Opt 2 "Jesus is my true friend" poster

Jesus is my King!

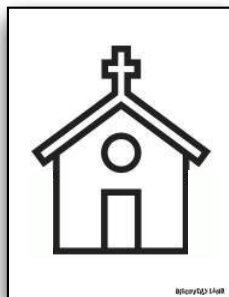
Lesson 3 Art
Jesus is my king pennant

Light Immanuel KING Creator
Prince of Peace Helper KING Leader
Lord TEACHER Savior Messiah
Friend Mighty God Just
Counselor Rock Holy Shepherd

Lesson 3 Chalk, Play-Doh, LEGO - names of Jesus poster



Lesson 4 Sand & Food
Carnival signs

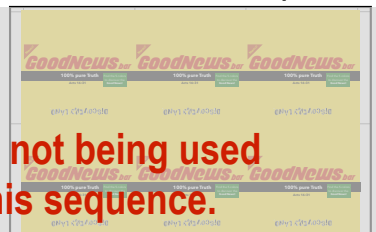


Lesson 5 Food
Church outline

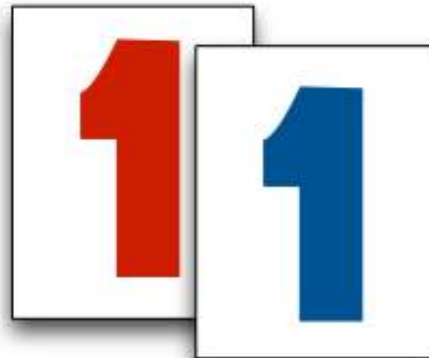
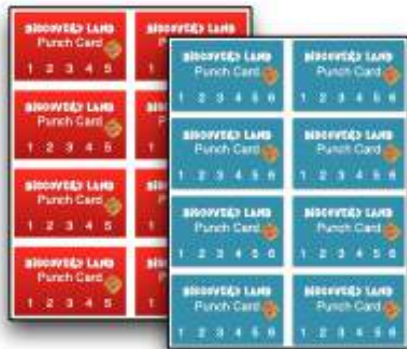
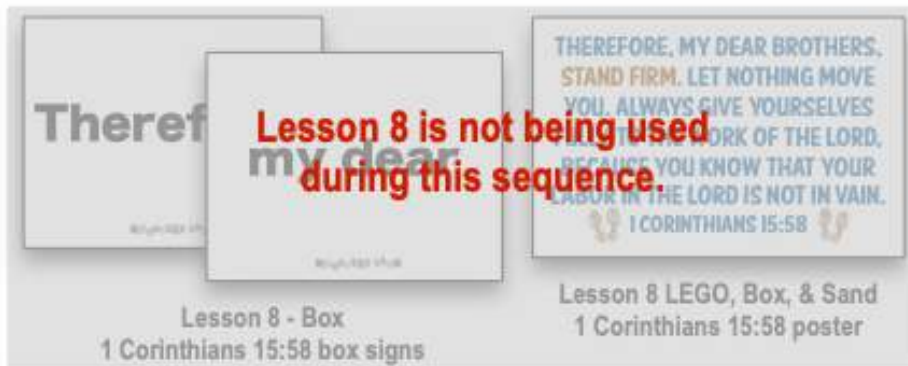
Wordless Book Chart
Gold = God's love/heaven
Dark = Sin
Red = Jesus' blood
White = Clean
Green =

Lesson 7 Art
Wordless Book chart

Lesson 7 is not being used during this sequence.



Lesson 7 - Wordless Book
candy bar wrapper (11x17)



The Wordless Book - Presenting the Gospel to Children



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

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

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

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

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

Using the Wordless Book:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Additional Tips:

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

Coaching Kids For Salvation

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

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

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

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

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

Ask: What did Jesus do for your sin?
Show child **Hebrews 9:26** in your Bible.
Have child put their name in the sentence, "Jesus died for _____'s sin."

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

DISCOVERY LAND

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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


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

Adapted from CEF salvation training.


DISCOVERY LAND

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

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



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



I BELIEVE!

"Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved." (see your Wordless Book) **Acts 16:31**

Name _____ Date _____

I BELIEVE!

Guide _____ Date _____

Label: Please turn in this packet to your director or staff person.

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

Acknowledgements and Permissions

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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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