



PRESCHOOL
Explore
the Bible®

1 & 2 PETER, JUDE

Leader Guide > Fall 2016

Jeff Iorg, General Editor



QUARTER OVERVIEW

Bible explorations for preschoolers during Fall 2016 center on the Books of 1 and 2 Peter. Bible-related activities, games, and conversations help teachers lead preschoolers to dig deep to discover and learn about this part of the Bible and what it has to say about Jesus.

THE GODLY LIFE

Girls and boys will learn in 1 Peter how they can live a godly life. A godly life is one that honors God, is holy, mature, and respectful of others.

1 & 2 PETER, JUDE

The letters of Peter and Jude encourage believers to remain strong in the Word. God's Word is valuable and kids will learn through this study how to live godly lives and show honor to God.

THE BIBLE

The Bible is God's revelation of Himself to people. The Bible is useful for many things and through this study, kids will learn to depend on the Bible, learn from the Bible, and use its teaching to stay firm when false teachers appear.

HONOR GOD

Kids will learn that God desires our honor. God is honored by people who rejoice in the hope of a future promise, talk about their faith, show love to others, remain faithful during persecution, are humble, and continue to grow in their relationships with God.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE PRESCHOOL LEADER GUIDE



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For free online training on how to lead a group, visit
ministrygrid.com/web/explorethebible.



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The Bible stories printed in this product are based on Scripture and are written in words and language preschoolers can understand.

We believe that the Bible has God for its author; salvation for its end; and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter and that all Scripture is totally true and trustworthy.

To review LifeWay's doctrinal guideline, please visit www.lifeway.com/doctrinalguideline.

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GET TO KNOW YOUR LEADER GUIDE

The weekly session plan is your tool for leading great Bible explorations.

TERMS TO KNOW

- **CORE PASSAGE**
THE FOCAL PASSAGE FOR ALL AGE GROUPS.
- **TEXT TRUTH**
THE MAIN POINT TO COMMUNICATE TO CHILDREN.
- **CONNECTION PASSAGE**
RELATED SCRIPTURE AND A STORY THAT CONNECT TO THE TEXT TRUTH AND CORE PASSAGE.
- **CHRIST IN CONTEXT**
THE MESSAGE OF JESUS IN A PARTICULAR BIBLE BOOK.

BACKGROUND STUDY FOR CORE PASSAGE



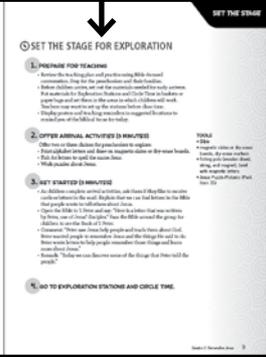
QUICK LOOK AT WHAT THE SESSION IS ABOUT



BIBLE INFORMATION FOR THE SESSION



EASY-TO-DO IDEAS GETTING PRESCHOOLERS READY TO LEARN

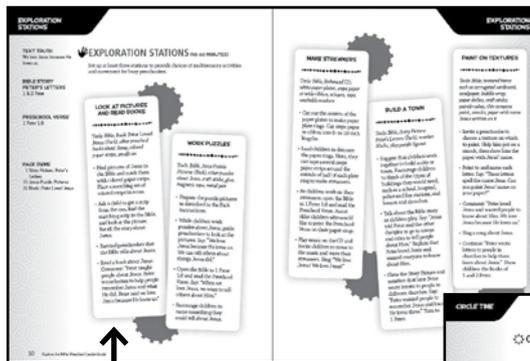


CHECK OUT LEADER TIPS!

- HOW CHILDREN LEARN?
- TIMESAVER TIPS
- ORGANIZATIONAL IDEAS
- PREP STEPS
- GENTLE REMINDERS

EXPLORE THE BIBLE LEADER GUIDE

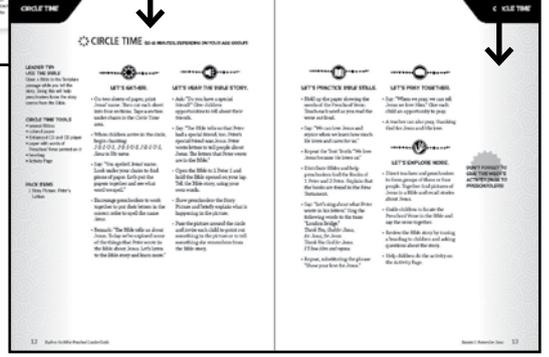
- **EMPHASIS ON ...**
- USING THE BIBLE
- DEVELOPING BIBLE SKILLS
- CONNECTING BIBLE CONTENT TO JESUS
- APPLYING BIBLE CONTENT TO CHILDREN'S LIVES
- MODELING BIBLE CONVERSATION AND PRAYER
- **THROUGH ...**
- LARGE GROUP EXPERIENCES
- SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES
- HANDS-ON EXPLORATIONS



STEP-BY-STEP PROCEDURES FOR GROUP TIME EXPERIENCES

DON'T FORGET THE PRESCHOOL ACTIVITY PAGE!

FUN BIBLE-RELATED ACTIVITIES FOCUS ON HANDS-ON BIBLE DISCOVERY AND EXPLORATION



SEE PAGE 111 FOR DESCRIPTIONS OF RELATED PRESCHOOL RESOURCES TO ENHANCE TEACHING

TEACHING TIPS

PREPARE FOR TEACHING

- 1 Review the teaching plan. Practice using Bible-related conversation. Pray for the children and their families.
- 2 Gather teaching tools and resources for Bible explorations. NOTE: Digital versions of items identified as “Enhanced CD” are available in the Music and Print Extras Bundle.
- 3 Arrive early to set out resources and prepare the environment. Arrange small-group activities (Exploration Stations) around the room so children can move and explore at their own pace.

FOCUS ON BIBLE EXPLORATION

- Use the Bible. Let preschoolers see, touch, and turn Bible pages.
- Talk about the Bible.
- Say Bible words and phrases during the entire session.
- Sing about the Bible and Bible truths.
- Encourage children to participate in Bible exploration activities according to their skills, abilities, and interests.

SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

• ARRIVAL-5 MINUTES

Greet children individually and welcome them to church. Interest each child in an arrival activity or resource.

• EXPLORATIONS-45-60 MINUTES

Engage preschoolers in small-group activities that help them explore the Bible and its truths. Provide at least three exploration stations to offer choices of multisensory activities and movement for busy preschoolers.

• CIRCLE TIME-2-5 MINUTES (YOUNGER CHILDREN) OR 10-15 MINUTES (OLDER CHILDREN)

Gather children for a large-group experience. Play games, sing, and introduce the Bible story. Hear and recall the Bible story. Practice Bible skills. Pray.

• NEXT HOUR-60 MINUTES

Continue activities from the first hour or try something different. Choose two or three new activities. (See Next Hour sessions on Enhanced CD.)

DON'T FORGET!

Label children's belongings.

Post an allergy sign to inform parents of food, animals, or nature items in use.

Keep the classroom door closed for the safety of children.

Focus on the children and your Bible-teaching goals.

AT-A-GLANCE

SESSION	SUGGESTED FOR THE WEEK OF	CORE PASSAGE	TEXT TRUTH
1	Sept. 4	1 Peter 1:3-9	We love Jesus because He loves us.
2	Sept. 11	1 Peter 1:13-25	Love one another.
3	Sept. 18	1 Peter 2:1-10	God wants people to love and serve Him.
4	Sept. 25	1 Peter 2:11-20	God wants us to do what is right.
5	Oct. 2	1 Peter 3:1-12	Be kind and loving to others.
6	Oct. 9	1 Peter 3:13-22	Be ready to tell about Jesus.
7	Oct. 16	1 Peter 4:1-11	Show God's love to others.
8	Oct. 23	1 Peter 4:12-19	God will help you be brave.
9	Oct. 30	1 Peter 5:1-11	Be ready to serve others.
10	Nov. 6	2 Peter 1:3-11	God helps us know how to act.
11	Nov. 13	2 Peter 1:12-21	God gave people the Bible to learn about Him.
12	Nov. 20	2 Peter 2:1-3; Jude 1:16-25	Everything written in the Bible is true.
13	Nov. 27	2 Peter 3:3-13,17-18	God wants everyone to know and love Jesus.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE: PRESCHOOL FALL 2016

	BIBLE STORY	PRESCHOOL VERSE
	Peter's Letters (based on 1 & 2 Peter)	1 Peter 1:8
	Paul's Story (based on Acts 21:26-40; 22:1-21; 23:1)	1 Peter 1:22
	God Chose People (based on Exodus 19:1-25)	1 Peter 2:10
	Joseph (based on Genesis 39:1-23)	1 Peter 2:12
	Boaz and Ruth (based on Ruth 2; 4:1-17)	1 Peter 3:8
	Paul Talked About the Good News (based on Acts 14:8-18; 17:2-3; 18:4,19; Philippians 1:7,16)	1 Peter 3:15
	Isaac Was Kind (based on Genesis 26:12-33)	1 Peter 4:9
	Paul and Silas (based on Acts 16:16-34)	John 16:33
	A Surprise for Jesus' Helpers (based on John 13:1-20)	Galatians 5:15
	Paul's Letters to Timothy (based on 1 & 2 Timothy)	2 Peter 1:3
	Apollos Taught People (based on Acts 18:24-28)	2 Peter 1:21
	A Question for Jesus (based on Mark 12:13-14,24,28-34)	Psalms 119:160
	A Woman Met Jesus (based on John 4:1-26)	2 Peter 3:9



Session

1



REMEMBER JESUS

1 Peter 1:3-9

When the apostle Peter composed this letter, he had been one of the great leaders of the early church for 30 years or more. In its infancy, the early church thrived in Jerusalem; Peter's role during this early stage is well documented in Acts 1–12. A bit later, the apostle Paul pushed Christianity into many provinces of the Roman Empire. Peter's responsibilities and travels during this stage are largely unknown.

Peter had traveled extensively beyond his home base in Israel. He had visited the five provinces he mentioned in his greeting (1 Peter 1:1), and he knew the people he was writing well enough to call them “dear friends” (4:12). Peter was well versed in the customary letter-writing format of the first century. The standard pattern is found in 1 Peter: salutation, body, and final greeting. Peter masterfully included a number of important themes in just a few short verses. Thus, his mind darted to many central Christian concepts: mercy, new birth, salvation, love, joy, faith, and hope. Peter commanded a broad understanding of God's work through the centuries: the prophets of old, Jesus' resurrection, the current situation of his readers, and the future of Jesus' return. Peter also managed to hold in tension a balance between the painful experiences of his readers and glorious confidence in the Lord.

The surrounding passages for this week's session include the formal salutation (1:1-2); teaching about the living hope believers have because of Jesus' resurrection (1:3-9); and a reminder that the prophets of old had foreseen the salvation that Peter's readers were now experiencing (1:10-12). But this week's focus is on what Peter taught about our living hope as Christians. This living hope is a confident trust—something much bigger than how we typically understand hope in contemporary society. The Book of 1 Peter urges believers to hold steadfast to that faith as they face persecution and know that by faith, they are saved.

SESSION FOCUS

CORE PASSAGE

1 Peter 1:3-9

PRESCHOOL VERSE

1 Peter 1:8

PRESCHOOL TEXT TRUTH

We love Jesus because He loves us.

PRESCHOOL CONNECTION STORY PASSAGE

1 & 2 Peter

CHRIST IN CONTEXT

Writing to the Jewish believers under persecution and opposition, Peter encouraged Christians to be confident in the hope they had because of Jesus. Jude warned Christians to believe only the truth about Jesus.

SESSION BRIEF

Peter had experienced the highs and lows of following Jesus. He had been as solid as the rock Jesus called him, yet as unstable as a house built on sand. Peter knew joy, happiness, peace; he knew pain, rejection, fear, doubt. Perhaps this see-saw journey contributed to Peter's desire to write his letters of encouragement to the early believers. He posed the question: How can we not love Jesus and endure when Jesus loved us so much that He died for us?

As you introduce the Book of 1 Peter to children, help them know we can be happy and thankful to God in all situations because we know Jesus loves us.

YOU CHOOSE!

Are your preschoolers ready to learn memory verses? Decide which wording of the Preschool Verse you want to use with your group.

From the Bible text:

You love [Jesus] and believe in Him. Rejoice.

1 Peter 1:8

Preschool Verse Paraphrase:

Love Jesus and rejoice.

1 Peter 1:8

TEXT TRUTH

We love Jesus because He loves us.

PRESCHOOL VERSE

1 Peter 1:8

CONNECT TO 1 & 2 PETER:**PETER'S LETTERS****1 & 2 Peter**

Peter had been a fisherman. But one day that changed. Jesus asked Peter to become one of His disciples. And that's when Peter began to learn from Jesus and see Him heal people and teach them about God. Peter heard Jesus tell people He loved them.

Peter loved Jesus and knew He was God's Son. After Jesus went back to heaven, Peter became a preacher. Jesus had told Peter and the other disciples to go to cities, towns, and villages everywhere to tell about Him; and that is what Peter did.

Peter wanted people to know about Jesus. He wanted people to remember Jesus and the things He said to do. Peter wanted people who loved Jesus to be happy and look forward to being with Jesus forever.

So Peter wrote letters to people in different churches. Peter wrote: "Thank God for sending Jesus. Show your love for Jesus. Love one another; do not be angry toward one another. Live good lives so that people who see you will know you love God and do what He says. You love Jesus, so be happy and joyful, even when other people want to hurt you."

Peter wrote letters to help church leaders, families, and even children. He said, "Remember the things you have been taught. Learn more about Jesus. God will make you strong."

SET THE STAGE FOR EXPLORATION

1. PREPARE FOR TEACHING

- Review the teaching plan and practice using Bible-focused conversation. Pray for the preschoolers and their families.
- Before children arrive, set out the materials needed for early arrivers. Put materials for Exploration Stations and Circle Time in baskets or paper bags and set them in the areas in which children will work. Teachers may want to set up the stations before class time.
- Display posters and teaching reminders in suggested locations to remind you of the biblical focus for today.

2. OFFER ARRIVAL ACTIVITIES (5 MINUTES)

Offer two or three choices for preschoolers to explore:

- Print alphabet letters and draw on magnetic slates or dry-erase boards.
- Fish for letters to spell the name *Jesus*.
- Work puzzles about Jesus.

3. GET STARTED (5 MINUTES)

- As children complete arrival activities, ask them if they like to receive cards or letters in the mail. Explain that we can find letters in the Bible that people wrote to tell others about Jesus.
- Open the Bible to 1 Peter and say: “Here is a letter that was written by Peter, one of Jesus’ disciples.” Pass the Bible around the group for children to see the Book of 1 Peter.
- Comment: “Peter saw Jesus help people and teach them about God. Peter wanted people to remember Jesus and the things He said to do. Peter wrote letters to help people remember those things and learn more about Jesus.”
- Remark: “Today we can discover some of the things that Peter told the people.”

4. GO TO EXPLORATION STATIONS AND CIRCLE TIME.

TOOLS

- Bible
- magnetic slates or dry-erase boards, dry-erase markers
- fishing pole (wooden dowel, string, and magnet), bowl with magnetic letters
- Jesus Puzzle Pictures (Pack Item 15)

TEXT TRUTH

We love Jesus because He loves us.

BIBLE STORY

PETER'S LETTERS

1 & 2 Peter

PRESCHOOL VERSE

1 Peter 1:8

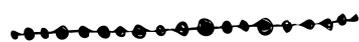
PACK ITEMS

- 1 Story Picture: Peter's Letters
- 15 Jesus Puzzle Pictures
- 16 Book: *Peter Loved Jesus*

EXPLORATION STATIONS (45-60 MINUTES)

Set up at least three stations to provide choices of multisensory activities and movement for busy preschoolers.

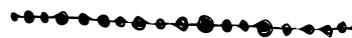
LOOK AT PICTURES AND READ BOOKS



Tools: Bible, Book: Peter Loved Jesus (Pack), other preschool books about Jesus, colored paper strips, small can

- Find pictures of Jesus in the Bible and mark them with colored paper strips. Place a matching set of colored strips in a can.
- Ask a child to get a strip from the can, find the matching strip in the Bible, and look at the picture. Recall the story about Jesus.
- Remind preschoolers that the Bible tells about Jesus.
- Read a book about Jesus. Comment: "Peter taught people about Jesus. Peter wrote letters to help people remember Jesus and what He did. Peter said we love Jesus because He loves us."

WORK PUZZLES



Tools: Bible, Jesus Puzzle Pictures (Pack), other puzzles about Jesus, craft sticks, glue, magnetic tape, metal pan

- Prepare the puzzle pictures as described in the Pack instructions.
- While children work puzzles about Jesus, guide preschoolers to look at the pictures. Say: "We love Jesus because He loves us. We can tell others about things Jesus did."
- Open the Bible to 1 Peter 1:8 and read the Preschool Verse. Say: "When we love Jesus, we want to tell others about Him."
- Encourage children to name something they could tell about Jesus.

MAKE STREAMERS

Tools: Bible, Enhanced CD, white paper plates, crepe paper or wide ribbon, scissors, tape, washable markers

- Cut out the centers of the paper plates to make paper plate rings. Cut crepe paper or ribbon into 8- to 10-inch lengths.
- Lead children to decorate the paper rings. Next, they can tape several crepe paper strips around the outside of half of each plate ring to make streamers.
- As children work on their streamers, open the Bible to 1 Peter 1:8 and read the Preschool Verse. Assist older children who would like to print the Preschool Verse on their paper rings.
- Play music on the CD and invite children to move to the music and wave their streamers. Sing: "We love Jesus! We love Jesus!"

BUILD A TOWN

Tools: Bible, Story Picture: Peter's Letters (Pack), wooden blocks, play people figures

- Suggest that children work together to build a city or town. Encourage children to think of the types of buildings they would need, such as a school, hospital, police and fire stations, and houses and churches.
- Talk about the Bible story as children play. Say: "Jesus told Peter and the other disciples to go to towns and cities to tell people about Him." Explain that Peter loved Jesus and wanted everyone to know about Him.
- Show the Story Picture and mention that later Peter wrote letters to people in different churches. Say: "Peter wanted people to remember Jesus and know He loves them." Turn to 1 Peter.

PAINT ON TEXTURES

Tools: Bible; textured items such as corrugated cardboard, sandpaper, bubble wrap, paper doilies, craft sticks; paintbrushes, thin tempera paint, smocks, paper with name Jesus written on it

- Invite a preschooler to choose a texture on which to paint. Help him put on a smock, then show him the paper with Jesus' name.
- Point to and name each letter. Say: "These letters spell the name *Jesus*. Can you paint Jesus' name on your paper?"
- Comment: "Peter loved Jesus and wanted people to know about Him. We love Jesus because He loves us."
- Sing a song about Jesus.
- Continue: "Peter wrote letters to people in churches to help them learn about Jesus." Show children the Books of 1 and 2 Peter.



CIRCLE TIME (10-15 MINUTES, DEPENDING ON YOUR AGE GROUP)

LEADER TIP! USE THE BIBLE

Open a Bible to the Scripture passage while you tell the story. Doing this will help preschoolers know the story comes from the Bible.

CIRCLE TIME TOOLS

- several Bibles
- colored paper
- Enhanced CD and CD player
- paper with words of Preschool Verse printed on it
- beanbag
- Activity Page

PACK ITEMS

- 1 Story Picture: Peter's Letters



LET'S GATHER.

- On two sheets of paper, print Jesus' name. Then cut each sheet into four sections. Tape a section under chairs in the Circle Time area.
- When children arrive in the circle, begin chanting:
*J-E-S-U-S, J-E-S-U-S, J-E-S-U-S,
Jesus is His name.*
- Say: "You spelled Jesus' name. Look under your chairs to find pieces of paper. Let's put the papers together and see what word we spell."
- Encourage preschoolers to work together to put their letters in the correct order to spell the name *Jesus*.
- Remark: "The Bible tells us about Jesus. Today we've explored some of the things that Peter wrote in the Bible about Jesus. Let's listen to the Bible story and learn more."



LET'S HEAR THE BIBLE STORY.

- Ask: "Do you have a special friend?" Give children opportunities to tell about their friends.
- Say: "The Bible tells us that Peter had a special friend, too. Peter's special friend was Jesus. Peter wrote letters to tell people about Jesus. The letters that Peter wrote are in the Bible."
- Open the Bible to 1 Peter 1 and hold the Bible opened on your lap. Tell the Bible story, using your own words.
- Show preschoolers the Story Picture and briefly explain what is happening in the picture.
- Pass the picture around the circle and invite each child to point out something in the picture or to tell something she remembers from the Bible story.



LET'S PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS.

- Hold up the paper showing the words of the Preschool Verse. Touch each word as you read the verse out loud.
- Say: "We can love Jesus and rejoice when we learn how much He loves and cares for us."
- Repeat the Text Truth: "We love Jesus because He loves us."
- Distribute Bibles and help preschoolers find the Books of 1 Peter and 2 Peter. Explain that the books are found in the New Testament.
- Say: "Let's sing about what Peter wrote in his letters." Sing the following words to the tune "London Bridge":
*Thank You, God for Jesus,
 for Jesus, for Jesus.
 Thank You God for Jesus.
 I'll love Him and rejoice.*
- Repeat, substituting the phrase "Show your love for Jesus."



LET'S PRAY TOGETHER.

- Say: "When we pray, we can tell Jesus we love Him." Give each child an opportunity to pray.
- A teacher can also pray, thanking God for Jesus and His love.



LET'S EXPLORE MORE.

- Direct teachers and preschoolers to form groups of three or four people. Together find pictures of Jesus in a Bible and recall stories about Jesus.
- Guide children to locate the Preschool Verse in the Bible and say the verse together.
- Review the Bible story by tossing a beanbag to children and asking questions about the story.
- Help children do the activity on the Activity Page.

**DON'T FORGET TO
 GIVE THIS WEEK'S
 ACTIVITY PAGE TO
 PRESCHOOLERS!**



Session 2



LOVE LIKE JESUS

1 Peter 1:13-25

The Book of 1 Peter likely was composed in the AD 60s. The reigning Roman emperor was Nero (ruled AD 54-68). In AD 64, the great and horrible fire that destroyed half the city of Rome occurred under Nero's reign as Caesar. From then until his death, Nero persecuted Christians in Rome. This opposition continued until Constantine stopped it centuries later. The believers to whom Peter wrote were enduring (or were about to endure) political and social change. Peter's case for holiness reminds us that just because things change or become difficult, believers should not abandon the quest for Christ-likeness.

Peter uses two illustrations that reflect cultural practices that might be unfamiliar to modern readers. The first illustration is found in the KJV phrase "gird up the loins of your mind" (1 Peter 1:13; also translated by HCSB, ESV, and NIV as a call to prepare the mind for action). This referred to the ancient practice of a man gathering up the long skirt of his outer robe by pulling it up between his legs and tying it around his waist with his belt, preparing him for running or other strenuous activity. Peter's illustration vividly portrays intentional preparation for exertion, both physical and mental, as Peter is referring to one's mind.

The second illustration is the phrase "you were redeemed" (1:18). This reflects the first-century business practice of purchasing freedom for a human slave or a hostage by the payment of a monetary price. Modern readers have not likely experienced redemption in this sense. We are more likely to use "redeemed" as an equivalent to "saved." The term "redeemed" suggests that a price has been paid to remove our debt and redeem our freedom. In reflection of this sacrifice by the Messiah, Peter encouraged his readers to endure the current trials with hope. Likewise, in the midst of trials today, believers can have hope in our redemption by a risen Savior.

SESSION FOCUS

CORE PASSAGE

1 Peter 1:13-25

PRESCHOOL VERSE

1 Peter 1:22

PRESCHOOL TEXT TRUTH

Love one another.

PRESCHOOL CONNECTION STORY PASSAGE

Acts 21:26-40; 22:1-21; 23:1

CHRIST IN CONTEXT

Writing to the Jewish believers under persecution and opposition, Peter encouraged Christians to be confident in the hope they had because of Jesus. Jude warned Christians to believe only the truth about Jesus.

SESSION BRIEF

Peter urges Christians to love one another as Jesus loved us. Our actions and words should reveal our changed lives in Jesus.

Paul is a wonderful example of the difference Jesus makes. Paul told his critics he was a changed man because of Jesus. What a radical change occurred in Paul's heart after Jesus confronted him! Paul's transformation from persecutor to preacher showed the extreme difference a life built on Christ makes. Paul became an unstoppable force as he declared how Jesus had saved and changed him.

This week help children learn that we are to love one another as Jesus loves us.

YOU CHOOSE!

Are your preschoolers ready to learn memory verses? Decide which wording of the Preschool Verse you want to use with your group.

From the Bible text:

Love one another from a pure heart. 1 Peter 1:22

Preschool Verse Paraphrase:

Love one another. 1 Peter 1:22

TEXT TRUTH

Love one another.

PRESCHOOL VERSE

1 Peter 1:22

CONNECT TO 1 PETER:**PAUL'S STORY**

Acts 21:26-40; 22:1-21; 23:1

Paul was busy all the time telling people about Jesus. This made some people angry. They did not like Jesus. Many times when Paul talked about Jesus, he got in trouble.

One day, Paul went to the temple (church). Some people saw him and grabbed him. "Look," they shouted. "This is the man who teaches everyone everywhere to be against our law."

People in the city were angry. They rushed together and ran toward Paul. They grabbed him and took him to the temple. They wanted to hurt Paul, but some soldiers stopped them.

Paul said, "May I say something?"

The soldier leader said yes.

Paul stood on the steps and waited for the people to get quiet. Then Paul began to tell the people about the things he had done. He told about the days when he hurt people because they loved Jesus. Then Paul told how he stopped hurting people and began to love them because he began to love Jesus, too.

"God has chosen me to tell you and others about His Son, Jesus," Paul said.

The people listened to Paul, but they still did not like what he said. They wanted to stop Paul from talking about Jesus.

But even though the people were angry, Paul kept on teaching about Jesus.

SET THE STAGE FOR EXPLORATION

1. PREPARE FOR TEACHING

- Review the teaching plan and practice using Bible-focused conversation. Pray for the preschoolers and their families.
- Before children arrive, set out the materials needed for early arrivers. Put materials for Exploration Stations and Circle Time in baskets or paper bags and set them in the areas in which children will work. Teachers may want to set up the stations before class time.
- Display posters and teaching reminders in suggested locations to remind you of the biblical focus for today.

2. OFFER ARRIVAL ACTIVITIES (5 MINUTES)

Offer two or three choices for preschoolers to explore:

- Make and decorate a Bible marker.
- Cut out pictures of people being kind and glue pictures to paper plates. Cut plates apart to make puzzles.
- Twist chenille stems to form letters and spell the word *love*.

3. GET STARTED (5 MINUTES)

- After children have had an opportunity to participate in early arrival activities, invite them to work together to complete one or more paper plate puzzles.
- As children work the puzzles, comment that Jesus loved and cared for people.
- Open the Bible to 1 Peter 1:22 and show preschoolers the Preschool Verse. Say: “One of the things Peter wrote was to tell people to love one another.”
- Mention that the Bible also tells about a man named Paul who told people about Jesus and His love.
- Invite children to visit the Exploration Stations to learn more about Paul’s story and discover ways they can show love to others.

4. GO TO EXPLORATION STATIONS AND CIRCLE TIME.

TOOLS

- Bible
- Preschool Verse printed on light-colored paper strips, crayons, colorful stickers
- family-type magazines, paper plates, glue, scissors
- chenille stems

TEXT TRUTH

Love one another.

BIBLE STORY PAUL'S STORY

Acts 21:26-40; 22:1-21; 23:1

PRESCHOOL VERSE

1 Peter 1:22

PACK ITEMS

2 Story Picture: Paul's Story
17 Memory Match Game
18 Bible Story Dominoes

EXPLORATION STATIONS (45-60 MINUTES)

Set up at least three stations to provide choices of multisensory activities and movement for busy preschoolers.

PLAY CHARADES AND MEMORY GAME

Tools: Bible, Memory Match Game (Pack)

- Guide a child to think of different things he can do to show love to a friend, such as share a snack or give a gift. Invite the child to pretend to do the activity for friends to guess.
- Explain: "We show love when we help others and are kind."
- Lay the Memory Match Game cards facedown on the table. Lead a child to turn over two cards to see if they match. Lead preschoolers to take turns finding matching cards.
- Talk about the pictures and point out ways the children in the pictures are showing love. Say the Text Truth: "Love one another."

CREATE PEOPLE PICTURES

Tools: Bible, Template Shapes (Enhanced CD), foam sheets, scissors, glue, heavyweight paper

- Copy and cut out the Template Shapes, trace them onto foam sheets, and cut out a small supply of each shape.
- Invite preschoolers to glue squares, triangles, and other shapes to heavyweight paper to make people pictures.
- Print the Preschool Verse on the pictures. Say: "Children can show love to their friends, parents, and other family members."
- Help children name ways to show love to others.

BUILD CHURCHES

Tools: Bible; wooden blocks; items to use as foundations (carpet squares, cardboard, blanket, tray)

- Invite preschoolers to examine the items and choose one to use as a foundation on which to build a church building.
- Children can work together in small groups or individually to construct church buildings.
- As preschoolers work, point out kind and helpful things they do. Remind children of the Preschool Verse. Say: "You show love when you are kind and helpful."
- Recall what happened when Paul went to church and talked about Jesus. Say: "After Paul came to know and love Jesus, he loved others even when they were unkind to him."

GUESS ITEMS

Tools: Bible; Story Picture: Paul's Story (Pack); variety of items that can be used to tell about Jesus (Bible, pictures, cell phone, card, CD, keyboard, magazine); pillowcase

- Place the items on a table and cover them with the pillowcase. Explain that the items can be used to tell other people about Jesus.
- Invite a child to move his hands over the pillowcase and feel the various items. Challenge him to identify an item. Comment on how the item could be used to tell about Jesus.
- Show the Story Picture and tell how Paul kept on teaching about Jesus. Say: "Paul loved other people even when they were angry with him." Explain that Paul loved Jesus and he wanted others to know Jesus' love, too.

PLAY DOMINOES

Tools: Bible, Bible Story Dominoes (Pack), alphabet blocks, index cards, marker, Activity Page

- Print on the cards the names of people and places mentioned in the Bible story. As children build with the blocks, point out letters on the blocks that are printed on the cards. Some children may use the blocks to build the names.
- Separate the Bible Story Dominoes and lead preschoolers to match pictures on the dominoes. Talk about the pictures on the dominoes and connect them to the Bible story.
- Help children recall the Bible story as they play. Show them the picture on the Activity Page. Ask a child to point to Paul.
- Comment that Paul loved Jesus and other people, too. Lead children to say the Preschool Verse.

CIRCLE TIME (10-15 MINUTES, DEPENDING ON YOUR AGE GROUP)

LEADER TIP! USE THE BIBLE

Open a Bible to the Scripture passage while you tell the story. Doing this will help preschoolers know the story comes from the Bible.

CIRCLE TIME TOOLS

- Bibles
- Activity Page

PACK ITEMS

2 Story Picture: Paul's Story



LET'S GATHER.

- Invite preschoolers to play a “Do This/Do That” game. Demonstrate a simple action such as clap, wave, or point, and say either “Do this” or “Do that.” If you say “Do this,” children should copy your action. If you say “Do that,” children should not do the action.
- Occasionally, include more than one action such as “Do this and do this.” You could also combine a “Do this and do that.”
- After a few actions, remark: “You had to both watch and listen to play this game.”
- Encourage preschoolers to listen as you tell the Bible story.



LET'S HEAR THE BIBLE STORY.

- Open the Bible to Acts 21 and keep it opened on your lap as you tell the Bible story in your own words.
- After telling the story, ask a child to hold the Story Picture where everyone can see.
- Name people or items in the picture for preschoolers to find. Briefly recall what role each person or item played in the Bible story.
- Remind children that Paul loved the people even though they wanted to hurt him.
- Say the Text Truth: “Love one another.”



LET'S PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS.

- Distribute Bibles to preschoolers. Ask teachers to help children find 1 Peter 1:22 in the Bible.
- Point to the page in your Bible and read the verse to the children. Ask preschoolers to repeat the Preschool Verse.
- Comment that Peter wrote these words to remind us of what we are to do. Say: "Love one another. Paul loved other people, and that is what the Bible tells us to do."
- Help children find Acts 21, 22, and 23. Explain that these chapters in the Book of Acts tell about Paul and how he kept on telling people about Jesus.
- Say: "Paul told the people that God had chosen him to tell others about God's Son, Jesus."



LET'S PRAY TOGETHER.

- Invite children to name people for whom the group can pray.
- Remind preschoolers that we can pray for people who, like Paul, teach about Jesus.
- Pray for the people preschoolers name, and for preachers, teachers, missionaries, and others who teach people about Jesus.



LET'S EXPLORE MORE.

- Show children the picture on the Activity Page and help preschoolers recall the Bible story.
- Guide children to find partners and tell each other something about Jesus (for example, Jesus loves us, we read about Jesus in the Bible, Jesus is God's Son).
- Lead preschoolers to say the Preschool Verse together.

**DON'T FORGET TO
GIVE THIS WEEK'S
ACTIVITY PAGE TO
PRESCHOOLERS!**



Session 3



LOVE AND SERVE GOD

1 Peter 2:1-10

Peter told his readers that they were redeemed from the empty way of life they inherited from their fathers (1 Peter 1:18). The implication is that these believers had come to Jesus as Gentiles. The gospel had rescued them from paganism. As they had read the Scriptures about God’s work among the Israelites during the time of the old covenant, surely the people questioned how Gentiles fit into God’s family, or if they could call themselves God’s chosen people. The Gentile believers also may have been asking whether they were truly an integral part of what God had accomplished with the coming of the (Jewish) Messiah.

Peter used the illustration of a building to show that believers and Christ are all part of the same structure. Peter used Old Testament passages to support his claim. In 1 Peter 2:6, Peter took a prophecy from Isaiah 28:16 about a coming One who was a “stone” figure, one upon whom everyone could believe and never be disappointed. What mattered was trust in the stone (Christ) rather than the ethnicity of those coming to the stone (Christ). Utilizing the “stone” concept in 1 Peter 2:7, Peter reflected on Psalm 118:22 and showed that the stone rejected by human builders would become the honored cornerstone. The reference to Christ’s crucifixion and resurrection is clear. Using the stone concept, Peter acknowledged Isaiah 8:14 in 1 Peter 2:8. He noted that God’s stone results in many people stumbling and falling. Many—Jew or Gentile—will respond wrongly. Furthermore, phrases from Exodus and Isaiah are taken from their original reference to the Israelites and applied directly to Peter’s Christian readers as the references are quoted in 1 Peter 2:9.

With the use of Old Testament references in his letter to Gentile readers, Peter acknowledged any apprehension by the Gentiles concerning their inclusion in the “building” of God’s people. Peter firmly established that his readers are a part of God’s plan of salvation, and today, all followers—Jew and Gentile believers—with a foundation rooted in the authority of Christ, can be assured in their inheritance as children of God.

SESSION FOCUS

CORE PASSAGE

1 Peter 2:1-10

PRESCHOOL VERSE

1 Peter 2:10

PRESCHOOL TEXT TRUTH

God wants people to love and serve Him.

PRESCHOOL CONNECTION STORY PASSAGE

Exodus 19:1-25

CHRIST IN CONTEXT

Writing to the Jewish believers under persecution and opposition, Peter encouraged Christians to be confident in the hope they had because of Jesus. Jude warned Christians to believe only the truth about Jesus.

SESSION BRIEF

“Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people,” Peter told Christians. He has called you out of darkness into His wonderful light. Peter urged Christians to remember their former sinful life and praise Holy God for delivering them.

Centuries before Peter’s time, God called out a people, a chosen nation, to be His people. The people were to obey God and love and serve Him. Moses told the people to be holy as God is holy, and do all that God commanded.

Help children learn that God has always wanted His people to love and serve Him. Christians are God’s people. God expects them to serve Him.

YOU CHOOSE!

Are your preschoolers ready to learn memory verses? Decide which wording of the Preschool Verse you want to use with your group.

From the Bible text:
You are God’s people.
1 Peter 2:10

Preschool Verse Paraphrase:
You are God’s people.
1 Peter 2:10

TEXT TRUTH

God wants people to love and serve Him.

PRESCHOOL VERSE

1 Peter 2:10

CONNECT TO 1 PETER:**GOD CHOSE PEOPLE****Exodus 19:1-25**

Moses and the Israelites had left Egypt and traveled to Sinai. They stopped and camped in front of the mountain.

Moses walked to the top of the mountain to talk to God.

God said: "Tell the people to listen to Me and obey Me. I have chosen the Israelites from all the people everywhere to be My people." God said the people were to love Him and serve Him.

So Moses went back to the people and told them what God said. The people said, "We will do all that God has said."

Then Moses talked to God again. God told Moses He would tell him everything to say to the people. God said the people should get ready to hear what God would say to Moses. God gave special instructions for Moses and the people.

After three days, the people heard thunder and a loud trumpet sound. They saw a thick cloud on the mountain. They were frightened.

Moses led the people to stand at the bottom of the mountain while he listened to God.

Moses climbed the mountain. God told him the things he and the people must do because God had chosen them to be His people. If the people listened and obeyed God, He would always keep His promises to them.

SET THE STAGE FOR EXPLORATION

1. PREPARE FOR TEACHING

- Review the teaching plan and practice using Bible-focused conversation. Pray for the preschoolers and their families.
- Before children arrive, set out the materials needed for early arrivers. Put materials for Exploration Stations and Circle Time in baskets or paper bags and set them in the areas in which children will work. Teachers may want to set up the stations before class time.
- Display posters and teaching reminders in suggested locations to remind you of the biblical focus for today.

2. OFFER ARRIVAL ACTIVITIES (5 MINUTES)

- Offer two or three choices for preschoolers to explore:
- Match blocks to block shapes drawn on poster board.
 - Read books in a tent.
 - Walk on masking tape roads.

3. GET STARTED (5 MINUTES)

- When all children have had the opportunity to participate in one or more arrival activities, invite them to play the game “Simon Says.”
- Remind preschoolers to listen carefully and do only the actions that are preceded with the phrase “Simon says.” Give simple instructions for preschoolers to follow such as shake hands with a friend, clap three times, and march in place.
- Remark: “You listened well. We will learn from today’s Bible story that God wanted the people to listen to Him and obey Him. Let’s learn more about how God wants His people to love and serve Him.”

4. GO TO EXPLORATION STATIONS AND CIRCLE TIME.

TOOLS

- Bible
- wooden blocks
- poster board, washable marker
- blanket or sheet to make a tent, assorted preschool books
- masking tape

TEXT TRUTH

God wants people to love and serve Him.

BIBLE STORY

GOD CHOSE PEOPLE

Exodus 19:1-25

PRESCHOOL VERSE

1 Peter 2:10

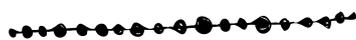
PACK ITEMS

3 Story Picture: God Chose People

EXPLORATION STATIONS (45-60 MINUTES)

Set up at least three stations to provide choices of multisensory activities and movement for busy preschoolers.

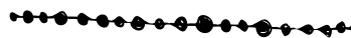
MAKE A TORN-PAPER LANDSCAPE



Tools: Bible, assorted colors of construction paper, glue

- Guide children to tear paper into small pieces. Tell the children they can glue paper pieces to a sheet of paper to make a landscape picture showing hills, mountains, rivers, and grass.
- Talk about the Bible story. Mention that Moses and the Israelites traveled from Egypt to Sinai and camped in front of a mountain.
- Remark: "God chose the Israelites to be His people. God wanted the people to love and serve Him."
- Comment: "God wants us to love and serve Him, too." Open the Bible to 1 Peter 2:10 and say the Preschool Verse with preschoolers.

BUILD A CAMPSITE



Tools: Bible, Story Picture: God Chose People (Pack), blocks, heavyweight paper squares, orange or red crepe paper

- Guide children to fold paper squares in half to make tent shapes to stand alone or near block structures. Children could use additional blocks and crepe paper to make campfires.
- Show the Story Picture to preschoolers. Mention that Moses and the people camped in front of a mountain. Observe: "The people said they would do what God told them to do."
- Say: "God wants us to do what He says, too."

IDENTIFY SOUNDS

Tools: Bible; small opaque plastic containers with lids; sound-making items such as rice, beans, salt, and pasta noodles; Activity Page

- Pour a small amount of each item into the containers. Make two containers for each item.
- Invite children to shake the containers and listen to the sounds. Lead children to identify what makes the sounds. Guide children to find containers that make similar sounds.
- Talk about the Bible story. Say: "The people needed to listen to what God said. God wanted the people to love and serve Him."
- Show children the picture on the Activity Page.
- Say: "The Bible helps us know what God wants us to do."

MAKE CLOUD DOUGH

Tools: Bible; Cloud Dough Recipe (Enhanced CD); 8 cups flour, 1 cup oil, measuring cups, large bowl, paper plates, cookie cutters, cups, spoons

- Invite preschoolers to measure and pour ingredients into the bowl. Mix the flour and oil with your hands until it holds together when squeezed.
- Give each child some dough on a plate. Distribute the cookie cutters.
- Point out ways you see preschoolers working together and helping one another. Say: "God wants people to be kind and love one another."
- Mention that the Bible says we are God's people. Turn to 1 Peter 2:10 and read the Preschool Verse.

MAKE CHURCH HELPER BOOK

Tools: Bible, photo album, photos of church helpers and preschoolers (or magazine pictures of people shown helping), paper, washable markers, crayons

- Take and print photos of children in your class along with church helpers (music director, pastor, secretary, custodian, teachers).
- Invite 2 or 3 children to tour the church and discover people who love and serve God. Point out ways people work and help.
- After the tour, invite children to arrange the helper photos in the album. Help children print the names of the helpers on the photos or pictures.
- Comment that God wants people to love and serve Him.
- Read the Preschool Verse, then print it in the front of the photo album.

CIRCLE TIME (10-15 MINUTES, DEPENDING ON YOUR AGE GROUP)

LEADER TIP! USE THE BIBLE

Open a Bible to the Scripture passage while you tell the story. Doing this will help preschoolers know the story comes from the Bible.

CIRCLE TIME TOOLS

- Bible
- Enhanced CD
- beanbag
- slips of paper with statements about what the Bible teaches us to do (*read the Bible, pray to God, love one another, help others, be kind, obey God, tell others about God*)
- Activity Page

PACK ITEMS

3 Story Picture: God Chose People



LET'S GATHER.

- As children arrive for Circle Time, play music on the CD and encourage preschoolers to sing along.
- Give children a beanbag to pass as the music plays. Stop the music and ask the child holding the beanbag to name a way we can love and serve God.
- Continue, giving other preschoolers opportunities to respond.
- Remark: "One way we show love to God is by reading the Bible and doing what He says."
- Say: "Listen as I tell a story from the Bible. The story is from the Book of Exodus."



LET'S HEAR THE BIBLE STORY.

- Turn to Exodus 19 and tell the Bible story in your words.
- After telling the story, make true/false statements about the Bible story. Lead preschoolers to stand if the statement is true and to sit if it is false.
- Make statements such as the following:
God wanted the people to listen and obey.
The people would not listen to Moses.
God chose the Israelites to be His people.
The people had a party.
- Show preschoolers the Story Picture and say: "God said He would keep His promises if the people listened and obeyed."
- Remark: "God wants us to be His people today, too. He wants people to love and serve Him."



LET'S PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS.

- Underline 1 Peter 2:10 in a Bible and pass the Bible around the circle.
- Say: "The words of this verse in the Book of 1 Peter help us know that God wants His people to love and serve Him."
- Lead preschoolers to repeat the Preschool Verse.
- Comment: "The Bible helps us know ways we can love and serve God. Let's review."
- Place the paper strips in a Bible. Play music as children pass the Bible.
- Stop the music. Tell the child holding the Bible to get a paper slip. Whisper the words to her, then tell her to repeat them for the group to hear.



LET'S PRAY TOGETHER.

- Remind preschoolers that whenever we pray, we are showing love and serving God.
- Ask volunteers to pray.
- Pray briefly, thanking God that we can love and serve Him.



LET'S EXPLORE MORE.

- In groups of two or three children and a teacher, look at the Activity Page. Help children complete the activity.
- Invite preschoolers in each group to pretend to do something God's people do (pray, read the Bible, sing, help or serve in some way). Other children can guess the action.
- Say the Text Truth and guide children to repeat the Preschool Verse.

**DON'T FORGET TO
GIVE THIS WEEK'S
ACTIVITY PAGE TO
PRESCHOOLERS!**



Session

4



DO WHAT IS RIGHT

1 Peter 2:11-20

Within the context of 1 Peter 2:11-25, the apostle's flow of thinking is relatively straightforward: live with integrity and good works in your larger society, remembering that you are temporary residents (2:11-12); submit to governmental authorities, because this is one of the ways God stops those who oppose you (2:13-17); submit to those in authority over you in your work, even if they are unfair, because this pleases God (2:18-20); and remember that Christ suffered unjustly in His crucifixion, not only to heal you spiritually but also to be your example in suffering (2:21-25).

For Peter's first readers, both the political arrangement and the employee-employer structure were vastly different from that which modern readers have experienced. The government included the Roman imperial system, with an emperor (Nero) and no rights for citizens to vote. Furthermore, in the first century, slavery was legal. There was little or no opportunity to express grievances or gain a fair hearing. Yet the principles Peter outlined are applicable: respect for those over us in the workplace is always right, while at the same time we should not allow others to abuse us or lead us astray from God's commands. When we seek to apply Peter's teaching, we are to be aware that obeying God's words always takes precedent over human laws when the two collide, even though our general stance is to submit (2:13). But we must also be aware that today many Christian brothers and sisters live under governments that repress Christianity. Believers face pressures of which we can be only dimly aware. For those believers, we can pray fervently for their protection and steadfast obedience to Scripture and the Holy Spirit.

In this passage Peter's main concern is clear: we can demonstrate godly character toward government authorities and toward those over us at work by assuming a role of submission to authority and steadfast adherence to God's Word.

SESSION FOCUS

CORE PASSAGE

1 Peter 2:11-20

PRESCHOOL VERSE

1 Peter 2:12

PRESCHOOL TEXT TRUTH

God wants us to do what is right.

PRESCHOOL CONNECTION STORY PASSAGE

Genesis 39:1-23

CHRIST IN CONTEXT

Writing to the Jewish believers under persecution and opposition, Peter encouraged Christians to be confident in the hope they had because of Jesus. Jude warned Christians to believe only the truth about Jesus.

SESSION BRIEF

“I can just tell,” “It’s written all over him,” “It’s obvious,” “Actions speak louder than words.” Have you ever used these expressions to describe a person? What we do often communicates more about us than what we say we do or even what we say!

Peter urged Christians to live honorably, obey leaders, praise those who do good, be kind, show God’s love, do what is right.

Joseph’s run-in with Potiphar’s wife is an example of strength under pressure and choosing to honor God even in difficult circumstances.

Help children know God wants us to do what is right.

YOU CHOOSE!

Are your preschoolers ready to learn memory verses? Decide which wording of the Preschool Verse you want to use with your group.

From the Bible text:
Conduct yourselves honorably.
1 Peter 2:12

Preschool Verse Paraphrase:
Do what is right.
1 Peter 2:12

TEXT TRUTH

God wants us to do what is right.

PRESCHOOL VERSE

1 Peter 2:12

CONNECT TO 1 PETER:**JOSEPH****Genesis 39:1-23**

Joseph lived in Egypt. He lived with Potiphar, an important captain for the king.

Joseph began to work in Potiphar's house. He had many important things to do. God helped Joseph do everything well. Joseph listened to God and obeyed what God told him to do. God helped Joseph make the right choices. God helped Joseph take good care of everything Potiphar owned.

Potiphar watched Joseph at his work. Potiphar knew God was the one who helped Joseph. And Potiphar liked Joseph. He told Joseph to work with him. Potiphar told Joseph to be in charge of everything and everyone in his house.

From then on, Joseph worked hard to do all that Potiphar asked. Joseph even did more! Potiphar did not worry about anything because he knew Joseph was taking care of it. And Potiphar was pleased! He knew God blessed (protected) his house because of Joseph.

But one day Potiphar's wife told Joseph to do something he shouldn't do. Joseph knew God did not want him to do such a thing, and he said no! Joseph chose to do what was right. This got Joseph in trouble, and he had to go to jail.

Even while Joseph was in jail, he still loved God and obeyed Him. The people in the jail could see Joseph loved and obeyed God.

This pleased God. And God continued to watch over Joseph and take care of him.

SET THE STAGE FOR EXPLORATION

1. PREPARE FOR TEACHING

- Review the teaching plan and practice using Bible-focused conversation. Pray for the preschoolers and their families.
- Before children arrive, set out the materials needed for early arrivers. Put materials for Exploration Stations and Circle Time in baskets or paper bags and set them in the areas in which children will work. Teachers may want to set up the stations before class time.
- Display posters and teaching reminders in suggested locations to remind you of the biblical focus for today.

2. OFFER ARRIVAL ACTIVITIES (5 MINUTES)

Offer two or three choices for preschoolers to explore:

- Link paper strips to make chains.
- Create with play dough.
- Complete a floor puzzle.

3. GET STARTED (5 MINUTES)

- As children complete arrival activities, encourage them to clean up work areas. Provide a container with damp sponges, small disposable gloves, and tongs for picking up paper scraps or other small items.
- Thank preschoolers for working together to clean. Mention that Joseph worked and helped take care of Potiphar's house. Say: "Joseph was in charge of everything and everyone in Potiphar's house."
- Continue: "Joseph had a very important job to do, but he always wanted to do what was right."
- Encourage preschoolers to move to the Exploration Stations to learn more about Joseph and what God wants us to do.

4. GO TO EXPLORATION STATIONS AND CIRCLE TIME.

TOOLS

- Bible
- 1-by-6-inch paper strips, clear tape
- fresh play dough and assorted play dough tools
- *Holy Land Map Floor Puzzle* (LifeWay, 005159905)

TEXT TRUTH

God wants us to do what is right.

BIBLE STORY

JOSEPH

Genesis 39:1-23

PRESCHOOL VERSE

1 Peter 2:12

PACK ITEMS

- 4 Story Picture: Joseph
- 19 Picture: Bible-times Houses
- 20 Do What Is Right Cards
- 21 Book: *Always Last*

EXPLORATION STATIONS (45-60 MINUTES)

Set up at least three stations to provide choices of multisensory activities and movement for busy preschoolers.

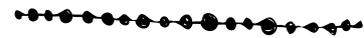
MAKE NECKLACES



Tools: Bible, Template Shapes (Enhanced CD), plastic notebook dividers, washable markers, yarn, hole punch

- Trace a variety of shapes onto the notebook dividers and cut them out. Cut lengths of yarn that can slide easily over children's heads.
- Invite a child to choose five shapes, punch a hole in the top of each shape, then thread the shapes on yarn to make a necklace. Tie the ends of the yarn securely, being sure to have a loose fit on the child's neck.
- Open the Bible to 1 Peter 2:12 and read the Preschool Verse. Tell the children the verse is from the Book of 1 Peter.
- Remind children that God wants people to do what is right.

PLAY A GAME



Tools: Bible, Do What Is Right Cards (Pack), Enhanced CD, small gift bag

- Put the game cards in the gift bag.
- Invite a few preschoolers to pass the bag around the group as you play music on the CD.
- Stop the music. Direct the child holding the bag to get a game card. Read the action on the card and ask the preschooler if the action is a right action (thumbs up) or a wrong action (thumbs down).
- Say the Text Truth: "God wants us to do what is right." Comment that Joseph chose to do what was right.

BUILD HOUSES

Tools: Bible, Picture: Bible-times Houses (Pack), wooden blocks, flat cardboard pieces, cardboard tubes, Activity Page

- Display the Bible-times Houses poster and point out one that might have been similar to Potiphar’s house. Explain that Potiphar was wealthy and had a very important job working for the king.
- Invite a child to build a Bible-times house or a present-day house.
- Talk about the Bible story. Show children the picture on the Activity Page. Say: “Joseph worked hard to do everything Potiphar asked him to do. Joseph did even more than Potiphar asked.”
- Say: “Joseph always did what was right. What are some right things you can do at home?” Affirm children’s ideas.

PAINT WITH GADGETS

Tools: Bible; metal pan; sponge; tempera paint; heavyweight paper; household items (plastic cup, fork, spoon, kitchen tools, mesh bath pouf, comb, keys); Story Picture: Joseph (Pack)

- Place the sponge in the pan and pour paint over it.
- Guide a child to dip an item in the paint pan or press it against the sponge, then press the item on the paper to make a print.
- Refer to the Bible story as the child paints. Say: “Joseph was responsible for everything in Potiphar’s house. Joseph worked hard and did what was right.”
- Direct the preschooler to point to Joseph in the Story Picture.
- Encourage children to think about people in their homes and things they do. Turn to 1 Peter 2:12 and say the Preschool Verse.

READ AND TALK

Tools: Bible, Book: Always Last (Pack), other books about making choices, items from Exploration Stations

- Lead a few children to sit in a circle on the floor. Place the items in the middle of the circle.
- Ask each child which item he would choose to play with. Say: “Choices like this are easy, but sometimes we have to make hard choices.”
- Ask: “What if your friend chose the same item? What would you do? What if a friend makes fun of you because of your choice?”
- Listen to children’s responses and respond.
- Open the Bible to 1 Peter 2:12 and read the Preschool Verse. Say: “The Bible tells us to do what is right.”
- Read the book *Always Last*.
- Pray, asking God to help us make right choices.

CIRCLE TIME (10-15 MINUTES, DEPENDING ON YOUR AGE GROUP)

LEADER TIP! USE THE BIBLE

Open a Bible to the Scripture passage while you tell the story. Doing this will help preschoolers know the story comes from the Bible.

CIRCLE TIME TOOLS

- several Bibles
- Activity Page

PACK ITEMS

4 Story Picture: Joseph



LET'S GATHER.

- As children come to the circle, invite them to play a game. Tell children to comb their hair, wash their face, and brush their eyes. If a child pretends to brush his eyes, he has to say: "Silly me! That isn't right!"
- Continue with simple instructions about getting dressed, preparing something to eat, or helping with chores. Include several silly actions.
- Remark: "Today you have been thinking about making choices and doing what is right. God wants us to do what is right."
- Encourage children to listen to the Bible story and learn how Joseph did what was right.



LET'S HEAR THE BIBLE STORY.

- Open the Bible to Genesis 39 and tell the story in your own words.
- Ask a child to hold the Story Picture for boys and girls to see.
- Ask questions to help children think about the Bible story:
 - How did Joseph know the right things to do?*
 - Why did Joseph have to go to jail when he did what was right?*
 - How could Joseph do what was right while he was in jail?*
- Remark: "Even while in jail, Joseph loved and obeyed God." Explain that God continued to watch over and take care of Joseph.



LET'S PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS.

- Share Bibles with the children. Help preschoolers find Genesis 39. Tell them the Bible story is from this book in the Old Testament.
- Help children find Joseph's name somewhere in the chapter.
- Guide children to turn to the New Testament and find 1 Peter 2:12. Point to the verse. Say: "This verse helps us know that God wants us to do what is right."
- Lead preschoolers to repeat the Preschool Verse.
- Say: "Joseph did what was right and we can, too. The Bible can help us know the things that God wants us to do."



LET'S PRAY TOGETHER.

- Say: "The Bible tells us to pray for others. Who are some people for whom you would like to pray?"
- Invite preschoolers to share their prayer concerns.
- Ask a teacher to pray for the people named. Ask God to help us do what is right.



LET'S EXPLORE MORE.

- Sing the Preschool Verse (tune "The Farmer in the Dell":
We can do what is right; we can do what is right; we can do what the Bible says; we can do what is right.)
- Form small groups and help children complete the activity on the Activity Page.

**DON'T FORGET TO
GIVE THIS WEEK'S
ACTIVITY PAGE TO
PRESCHOOLERS!**



Session 5



FAMILY LOVE

1 Peter 3:1-12

Peter's teachings in 1 Peter 3 add important general insights about living in good relationships with others—believers or non-believers (1 Peter 3:8-12). Peter's first admonition is concerning unity. Peter does not discriminate here between social class, political leaning, or family relationship. Peter calls for all to live together, united in love for believers, exhibiting compassion and sympathy for the hurting, and to display humility in their actions.

Peter continues to encourage believers by reminding them that God's Word does not delight in the repayment of evil with evil. Peter goes so far as to say not only should you not repay someone evil who has been evil towards you, but you should in return bless that person. Peter goes on to quote from Psalm 34:12-16 to remind his readers that God is all-seeing and all-knowing, and He is aware of all of our actions.

The story of love displayed in the relationship between Boaz and Ruth gives a clear example of Peter's teachings. Ruth showed love and compassion to her mother-in-law by going out to gather grain that was needed for her family to survive. Ruth's love and compassion for her mother-in-law was so obvious that it caught the attention of Boaz, who later showed the same compassion and love to Ruth. Ruth and Boaz exemplified the relationship that Peter described.

In 1 Peter 3, believers can examine how to apply the teachings to their own relationships within and outside of the body of Christ and seek peace in love.

SESSION FOCUS

CORE PASSAGE

1 Peter 3:1-12

PRESCHOOL VERSE

1 Peter 3:8

PRESCHOOL TEXT TRUTH

Be kind and loving to others.

PRESCHOOL CONNECTION STORY PASSAGE

Ruth 2; 4:1-17

CHRIST IN CONTEXT

Writing to the Jewish believers under persecution and opposition, Peter encouraged Christians to be confident in the hope they had because of Jesus. Jude warned Christians to believe only the truth about Jesus.

SESSION BRIEF

“In the same way,” “all of you,” “just as”— Peter used these phrases to help the early Christians know that God’s requirements apply to all of us. We are to be like-minded in loving and serving one another. Peter’s reference to family relationships portrays God’s love to us through Jesus.

Preschoolers naturally relate to stories about families and their relationships and family roles. The story of Boaz and Ruth can help preschoolers begin to learn about grace and compassion toward one another.

YOU CHOOSE!

Are your preschoolers ready to learn memory verses? Decide which wording of the Preschool Verse you want to use with your group.

From the Bible text:

All of you should love believers and be compassionate.

1 Peter 3:8

Preschool Verse Paraphrase:

All of you should love others and care for them. 1 Peter 3:8

TEXT TRUTH

Be kind and loving to others.

PRESCHOOL VERSE

1 Peter 3:8

LEADER TIP!

A new word for preschoolers might be *compassion* or *compassionate*. Help children learn that compassion is deep, sincere kindness and care.

CONNECT TO 1 PETER:**BOAZ AND RUTH****Ruth 2; 4:1-17**

Ruth and her mother-in-law, Naomi, moved to Bethlehem. They had no food. They had no work. Ruth told Naomi, "I'll go to the fields and gather grain."

Early in the morning, Ruth began to work. She and other women walked behind the harvesters (workers). The harvesters' sharp tools swept across the rich, ripe grain, and the stiff stalks fell to the ground. Other workers swooped up the stalks.

While the harvesters worked, Ruth gathered the stalks of grain that the workers left behind. She worked a long time.

Boaz, the owner of the field, came by to greet all of his workers. Boaz noticed a woman he did not know. Boaz asked a young man, "Who is the woman following the harvesters?"

The man explained that Ruth was Naomi's daughter-in-law. The man said that Ruth and Naomi had just moved to Bethlehem. The young man told Boaz, "The woman is a very hard worker. She has taken only one short break."

Boaz spoke to Ruth. He said, "I know Naomi, your mother-in-law. I know you have been very kind to her. You may continue to work here and pick up the grain that the workers leave in my field."

"Oh, thank you, sir, for your kindness," Ruth said.

At the end of the day, Ruth took the grain home to Naomi. Ruth told Naomi about meeting Boaz and how kind he was. Naomi told Ruth that Boaz was someone in her family.

Boaz continued to show kindness to Ruth and take care of her and Naomi. Later Boaz and Ruth married and had a baby to add to their family.

SET THE STAGE FOR EXPLORATION

1. PREPARE FOR TEACHING

- Review the teaching plan and practice using Bible-focused conversation. Pray for the preschoolers and their families.
- Before children arrive, set out the materials needed for early arrivers. Put materials for Exploration Stations and Circle Time in baskets or paper bags and set them in the areas in which children will work. Teachers may want to set up the stations before class time.
- Display posters and teaching reminders in suggested locations to remind you of the biblical focus for today.

2. OFFER ARRIVAL ACTIVITIES (5 MINUTES)

Offer two or three choices for preschoolers to explore:

- Draw pictures of families.
- Look in a book or on a computer for pictures of different kinds of grain.
- Spell Bible story names using letter tiles or magnetic letters.

3. GET STARTED (5 MINUTES)

- After preschoolers have had time to do one or more arrival activities, lead them to tell about their families. Ask: “Who has a brother or a sister? What is your favorite thing to do with your family?”
- Invite preschoolers who drew pictures of their families to show their pictures.
- Comment: “Family members love and care for each other. Ruth and Naomi were a family. Naomi was Ruth’s mother-in-law. Ruth loved Naomi and cared for her.”
- Invite preschoolers to go to Exploration Stations to discover more about the Bible story and about being kind and loving.

4. GO TO EXPLORATION STATIONS AND CIRCLE TIME.

TOOLS

- Bible
- paper, crayons and markers
- grain pictures in books or on computer
- letter tiles or magnetic letters to spell *Ruth*, *Boaz*, *Naomi*

TEXT TRUTH

Be kind and loving to others.

BIBLE STORY

BOAZ AND RUTH

Ruth 2; 4:1-17

PRESCHOOL VERSE

1 Peter 3:8

PACK ITEMS

- 5 Story Picture: Boaz and Ruth
- 22 Grain Cards
- 23 Book: *Love Is Something You Do*
- 24 Grains Food Puzzle

LEADER TIP!

Always inform families of foods and other nature items in use.

EXPLORATION STATIONS (45-60 MINUTES)

Set up at least three stations to provide choices of multisensory activities and movement for busy preschoolers.

DISCOVER CARING ITEMS

Tools: Bible; assorted items such as plastic bowl and cup, water bottle, washcloth, adhesive bandage, mittens, small stuffed toy; gift bag

- Place the items in the bag. Lead preschoolers to take turns removing items from the bag and telling how each could be used to help or care for someone. Give ideas as needed.
- Display items as they are removed from the bag. Ask a preschooler to choose the best item to help someone who is cold, someone who gets hurt on the playground, someone who is hungry, and so on.
- Say the Preschool Verse and comment: "These are words that Peter wrote. We find them in the Book of 1 Peter." Lead children to say the verse with you.

PAINT & DISCOVER

Tools: Bible, manila paper, white crayon, thinned tempera paint, paintbrushes

- Use a white crayon to print the Preschool Verse on sheets of manila paper.
- Invite a child to brush paint over her paper to reveal some words.
- Say: "Look! Those words are from the Bible." Read the verse. Encourage the child to repeat the verse after you.
- Open the Bible to 1 Peter 3:8 and show where the verse is found in the Bible.
- Remind children that we show love when we help others and are kind to them.

**READ BOOKS & TASTE
BREAD**

Tools: Bible; Story Picture: Boaz and Ruth (Pack); Allergy Sign (Enhanced CD); Book: Love Is Something You Do (Pack), other books about families; breads such as wheat, oat, rye, and multi-grain

- Cut the breads into small cubes and invite preschoolers to sample them. Explain that bread is made from different kinds of grain.
- Show children the Story Picture and talk about Ruth gathering barley. Remark: "Ruth and Naomi had no food. But Ruth worked to gather grain to make bread for her family. Boaz showed compassion (kindness) to Ruth."
- Read the book *Love Is Something You Do*. Ask children how they can show love at home, school, and church.

WORK PUZZLES

Tools: Bible, Grains Food Puzzle (Pack), other food puzzles, magnetic tape, magnetic board or metal pan

- Cut apart the Grains Food Puzzle and place a strip of magnetic tape on the back of each piece. Mix up the pieces and place them on the board.
- Invite preschoolers to work the puzzle on the magnetic board or choose another food puzzle.
- Comment that we get a lot of foods from different kinds of grain.
- Talk about the Bible story. Remark: "Boaz was kind to Ruth. He told Ruth that she could continue to work and pick up grain in his field."
- Remind preschoolers of the Text Truth from 1 Peter: "Be kind and loving to others."

EXAMINE GRAINS

Tools: Bible, Grain Cards (Pack), assorted grains or grain products (bread, crackers, cereals), magnifying glass, Allergy Sign (Enhanced CD)

- Encourage preschoolers to examine the assorted grains or grain products. Mention that grains are used to make breads, cereals, and other food products.
- Invite children to look at the Grain Cards and find the matching pictures. Point out the barley grain card. Say: "Ruth gathered barley to make bread."
- Continue to talk about the Bible story as preschoolers examine the grains and match the cards.
- Remark: "Boaz showed kindness to Ruth and Naomi."
- Open the Bible to 1 Peter 3:8 and say the Preschool Verse.

CIRCLE TIME (10-15 MINUTES, DEPENDING ON YOUR AGE GROUP)

LEADER TIP! USE THE BIBLE

Open a Bible to the Scripture passage while you tell the story. Doing this will help preschoolers know the story comes from the Bible.

CIRCLE TIME TOOLS

- Bible
- several helping or care items (gather from Exploration Stations)
- towel
- long strip of paper with words of Preschool Verse printed on it, tape
- letter tiles to spell words of Preschool Verse, basket
- Activity Page

PACK ITEMS

5 Story Picture: Boaz and Ruth



LET'S GATHER.

- Display several items that can be used to help or care for someone. Ask children to look at the items carefully.
- Cover the items with a towel. Remove one item from the group. (Use the towel to get the item.) Ask the children to identify the missing item.
- When the item is named, recall how the item could be used to show love and care for others. Repeat with other items.
- Say: "Now let's listen to the Bible story and learn about Bible people who showed love to others."



LET'S HEAR THE BIBLE STORY.

- Pass the Story Picture around the circle and name items for preschoolers to locate in the picture. Name Bible people in the picture.
- Turn in the Bible to Ruth 2 and hold the Bible in your lap. Tell the Bible story in your own words.
- After the story, make statements that one or more of the Bible people could have said. For example, you could say:
 - "We have no food or work."
 - "I can gather grain that the workers leave behind."
 - "She is Naomi's daughter-in-law and she is a hard worker."
 - "You have been kind to Naomi."
 - "Continue to work in my field."
- Lead preschoolers to identify each Bible person. Remark that each person was kind and loving.
- Comment: "We can be kind and loving to others, too."



LET'S PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS.

- Print the Preschool Verse on a long strip of paper and tape it to the floor. Place nearby a small basket with letter tiles that correspond to the letters found in the verse.
- Guide preschoolers to place letter tiles on the correct letters on the strip.
- Read the Preschool Verse and encourage preschoolers to say the verse with you.
- Show children where the verse is found in the Bible. Say: "This verse that Peter wrote helps us know we should be kind and loving to others."
- Turn to the Book of Ruth and show preschoolers where the Bible story is found.



LET'S PRAY TOGETHER.

- Remind preschoolers that we can ask God to help us be kind and loving to others.
- Give children who would like to pray an opportunity to do so.
- Close in prayer, thanking God for the Bible that helps us know how we should treat others.



LET'S EXPLORE MORE.

- Ask teachers to help small groups of preschoolers look at the picture on the Activity Page and recall the Bible story.
- Guide children to complete the activity on the Activity Page.
- Say the Preschool Verse and encourage preschoolers to repeat it after you.

**DON'T FORGET TO
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ACTIVITY PAGE TO
PRESCHOOLERS!**



Session 6



TELL THE GOOD NEWS

1 Peter 3:13-22

In addition to the recurring themes of hope, suffering, and holiness, Peter also utilizes the Scriptures of his day—the Old Testament—to provide a biblical foundation for his teaching. Peter emphasizes the same concepts, although in an unexpected way—he turned to the life and times of Noah from the Book of Genesis (Genesis 6–9). There are two significant points about Peter’s inclusion of Noah in 1 Peter 2.

First, Noah boldly proclaimed God’s truth (2 Peter 2:5). We actually know very little about Noah’s preaching, but we know that during his very long task of building the ark, he was a witness to God’s revelation (Hebrews 11:7). But, no one outside Noah’s family was persuaded by his message—no one else was found righteous in God’s eyes. What a striking illustration of faithful proclamation of God’s truth!

Second, the ark and the waters of the flood were critical for Noah and his family. The ark represents salvation from drowning, and the waters of the flood were an important part of that salvation because they buoyed Noah above the destruction. Peter came to think of Christ as the “ark of salvation,” with water baptism as a sign of that salvation, symbolizing cleansing from sin.

First Peter encourages readers (then and today) to hold fast to this salvation in the midst of persecution or trouble—to pursue holiness in the midst of suffering and always be ready to tell about the “ark of salvation”—Jesus Christ.

SESSION FOCUS

CORE PASSAGE

1 Peter 3:13-22

PRESCHOOL VERSE

1 Peter 3:15

PRESCHOOL TEXT TRUTH

Be ready to tell about Jesus.

PRESCHOOL CONNECTION STORY PASSAGE

Acts 14:8-18; 17:2-3; 18:4,19; Philippians 1:7,16

CHRIST IN CONTEXT

Writing to the Jewish believers under persecution and opposition, Peter encouraged Christians to be confident in the hope they had because of Jesus. Jude warned Christians to believe only the truth about Jesus.

SESSION BRIEF

Better to be known for doing good than evil—even if doing good hurts! Peter reminded Christians to always be ready to tell others about Jesus. Sometimes we may be misunderstood, rejected, and criticized. But we must remain true and let our lives be fervent witnesses of the hope God has given us through Jesus.

This week we return to Paul and tell his story of bold declaration. Like Paul and Peter, we should be ready and eager to spread the joy and hope we feel because of Jesus.

YOU CHOOSE!

Are your preschoolers ready to learn memory verses? Decide which wording of the Preschool Verse you want to use with your group.

From the Bible text:
Always be ready to give a reason for [your] hope.
1 Peter 3:15

Preschool Verse Paraphrase:
Always be ready to tell about Jesus. 1 Peter 3:15

TEXT TRUTH

Be ready to tell about Jesus.

PRESCHOOL VERSE

1 Peter 3:15

CONNECT TO 1 PETER:

PAUL TALKED ABOUT THE GOOD NEWS

Acts 14:8-18; 17:2-3; 18:4,19; Philippians 1:7,16

Paul and his friend Barnabas were in the town of Lystra. They were there to tell people about Jesus.

One day a man who could not walk was sitting nearby and heard Paul teaching. Paul saw the man and knew the man believed the things Paul taught about Jesus. Paul told the man, "Stand up on your feet!" The man jumped up and started to walk around.

The people saw what Paul had done and they were amazed. They said Paul was a god. They said Barnabas and other men with Paul were gods.

But this upset Paul and Barnabas. They shouted, "Men! Why are you doing this? We are men, not gods. We are here to tell you the good news about Jesus. You should turn away from these things."

Paul wanted people to worship God, not him. Paul went to other towns to the synagogues (churches) to talk to the people and help them understand what Scriptures (the Bible) told about Jesus. "Jesus is the one God sent," Paul told the people. Paul tried to get people to understand what they should do.

Paul told his friends he knew God wanted him to tell the good news about Jesus. "You are all my partners," Paul said.

SET THE STAGE FOR EXPLORATION

1. PREPARE FOR TEACHING

- Review the teaching plan and practice using Bible-focused conversation. Pray for the preschoolers and their families.
- Before children arrive, set out the materials needed for early arrivers. Put materials for Exploration Stations and Circle Time in baskets or paper bags and set them in the areas in which children will work. Teachers may want to set up the stations before class time.
- Display posters and teaching reminders in suggested locations to remind you of the biblical focus for today.

2. OFFER ARRIVAL ACTIVITIES (5 MINUTES)

Offer two or three choices for preschoolers to explore:

- Make a collage using pictures of Jesus.
- Work puzzles about church.
- Trace block shapes and make designs.

3. GET STARTED (5 MINUTES)

- When children have arrived and had an opportunity to enjoy arrival activities, invite them to join you on a treasure hunt. Say: “We’re going to look for items we could use to tell someone about Jesus.”
- Lead preschoolers around the room, encouraging them to point out items and tell how they could be used to tell about Jesus.
- Remark: “We can use a lot of things to help us tell about Jesus. The Bible tells us we should always be ready to tell about Jesus.”
- Mention today’s Bible story and that Paul and Barnabas traveled from town to town to tell about Jesus. Encourage children to visit the Exploration Stations to learn more.

4. GO TO EXPLORATION STATIONS AND CIRCLE TIME.

TOOLS

- Bible
- paper, assorted pictures of Jesus, glue
- puzzles *Going to Church* (LifeWay, 005159906), *My Friends* (LifeWay, 005266977), *Synagogue* (LifeWay, 005196439)
- wooden blocks, white paper, colored pencils

TEXT TRUTH

Be ready to tell about Jesus.

BIBLE STORY

PAUL TALKED ABOUT THE GOOD NEWS

Acts 14:8-18; 17:2-3; 18:4,19;
Philippians 1:7,16

PRESCHOOL VERSE

1 Peter 3:15

PACK ITEMS

- 6 Story Picture: Paul Talked About the Good News
- 19 Picture: Bible-times Houses
- 25 Road Mat
- 26 Game Spinner
- 27 Tell About Jesus Game Cards
- 32 Poster: What My Feet Can Do

EXPLORATION STATIONS (45-60 MINUTES)

Set up at least three stations to provide choices of multisensory activities and movement for busy preschoolers.

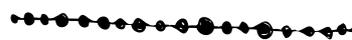
MAKE A JESUS DOORHANGER



Tools: Bible, heavyweight paper, pictures of Jesus (cut from outdated literature), glue, hole punch, yarn, scissors, markers

- Cut the paper into long strips, about 3 inches wide. Write the Preschool Verse on one side of each strip.
- Guide the child to choose pictures to glue on the strip. Then he can punch a hole in one end and tie a length of yarn.
- While the child is busy, remind him that Paul told people about Jesus. Tell the Bible story.
- Comment: "We can tell others about things Jesus said and did."

CONNECT DOTS



Tools: Bible, jumbo craft sticks or tongue depressors, hook and loop fasteners, washable marker

- Print words of the Preschool Verse and Scripture reference on individual sticks. Make two sets.
- Attach fasteners to both ends of the sticks, placing the same kind of dot on one side, and the other kind on the other side.
- Show preschoolers how the dots stick together. Lead children to connect dots to form squares, triangles, and other shapes. Challenge children to connect the Bible verse words correctly.

BUILD A BIBLE-TIMES VILLAGE

Tools: Bible, Road Mat (Pack), Picture: Bible-times Houses (Pack), wooden blocks, cardboard, tablet, Bible dictionary or atlas

- Tape the Road Mat to the floor with the sandy dirt road picture facing up. Prop the Bible-times Houses picture nearby.
- Show children images of Bible-times villages or pictures. Invite preschoolers to build a Bible-times village on the road mat. They might build houses and a synagogue.
- Refer to the Bible story as children build. Say: "Paul wanted to help people understand what the Bible told about Jesus." Comment that we can tell about Jesus, too.
- Remind children of the Text Truth.

PLAY A GAME

Tools: Bible, Game Spinner (Pack), Tell About Jesus Game Cards (Pack), Enhanced CD

- Invite preschoolers to play out ways they could tell others about Jesus (read Bible, sing a song, write a letter). Encourage other children to guess what their friends are doing.
- Prepare the spinner as described in the Leader Pack instructions. Place the game cards on the table, color side up.
- Invite a child to turn the spinner, find a card with the matching color, and tell a way someone could tell about Jesus.
- Play the CD and listen for songs about Jesus.
- Say: "Peter reminded people to always be ready to tell about Jesus."

TRACE FEET

Tools: Bible, paper, Story Picture: Paul Talked About the Good News (Pack), Poster: What My Feet Can Do (Pack), pencils, crayons, ruler, paper clips, checkers or game tokens

- Tell each child to stand on a sheet of paper. Trace around both feet. Do this for each child.
- Help children measure their feet using the ruler, paper clips, or other item. Write the measurements on the papers.
- Show the Story Picture and talk about the man who could not walk. Say: "The man heard and believed what Paul told about Jesus. He jumped up and started to walk around."
- Encourage children to look at the poster and do the actions shown. Remind children that our feet can take us to places to tell about Jesus. Help children print the Preschool Verse on their foot pictures.

CIRCLE TIME (10-15 MINUTES, DEPENDING ON YOUR AGE GROUP)

LEADER TIP! USE THE BIBLE

Open a Bible to the Scripture passage while you tell the story. Doing this will help preschoolers know the story comes from the Bible.

CIRCLE TIME TOOLS

- Bible
- Enhanced CD
- ribbon marker
- index cards with words of Preschool Verse printed on them (one word per card)
- large piece of cardboard, clip clothespins
- Activity Page

PACK ITEMS

6 Story Picture: Paul Talked About the Good News



LET'S GATHER.

- Play music as children gather for Circle Time. Guide children to walk around the room and freeze in place when the music stops. When you start the music again, tell children another way to move such as tiptoe, hop, skip, and jump.
- Comment: "Paul and Barnabas traveled to different towns to tell people about Jesus. Sometimes they rode in boats and sometimes they walked."
- Continue: "Paul wanted to talk to people and help them know about Jesus."
- Encourage children to listen to the Bible story and hear what happened in Lystra.



LET'S HEAR THE BIBLE STORY.

- Invite a preschooler to open the Bible to the marker at Acts 14. Explain that this is where today's story is found in the Bible. Keep the Bible opened as you tell the story using your own words.
- Ask questions to help children think about the story:
Why did Paul and Barnabas go to Lystra?
Who did Paul help?
What did the people do after the man stood up on his feet?
What did Paul say to the people?
- Show the Story Picture and invite children to point to people and items in the picture.
- Remind preschoolers that Paul wanted to tell people the good news about Jesus.



LET'S PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS.

- Comment: "Paul told his friends that he knew God wanted him to tell everyone the good news about Jesus." Explain that Paul told his friends that they were his partners.
- Remark: "The Bible is the story of Jesus. Every book in the Bible helps us know about Jesus."
- Assist a preschooler in turning to 1 Peter 3:15. Point to the page and repeat the Preschool Verse.
- Distribute the word cards and clothespins. Lead preschoolers to sequence the words of the Preschool Verse and clip them to the cardboard. Say the verse again.



LET'S PRAY TOGETHER.

- Pray, thanking God for sending Jesus. Ask God to help us always be ready to tell others about Jesus.



LET'S EXPLORE MORE.

- Form small groups of a teacher and two or three preschoolers. Help children complete the activity on the Activity Page.
- Invite preschoolers to review what they might tell others about Jesus.
- Give children another opportunity to say the Preschool Verse.

**DON'T FORGET TO
GIVE THIS WEEK'S
ACTIVITY PAGE TO
PRESCHOOLERS!**



Session

7



SHOWING GOD'S LOVE

1 Peter 4:1-11

Although Peter did not refer specifically to “the kingdom” or “kingdom of God,” he had heard Jesus teach at length on this topic. Therefore, it is no surprise that in this letter, Peter reflected “kingdom thinking.” Consider the following:

The kingdom of God—God’s rule or reign because of the Messiah’s arrival—began in earnest with His own miracle-working ministry (Matthew 12:28). At the same time, our Lord knew that a future kingdom had not yet come in its final glorious form. The magnificent consummation of the kingdom awaits the King’s return, when He will be the Judge, and the righteous will inherit the kingdom prepared for them (Matthew 25:34).

In other words, Jesus taught that there’s an “already” and a “not yet” perspective that His followers are to adopt regarding the kingdom of God. That’s really the essence of what Peter was saying in this week’s passage. Believers have already begun to experience the reality of the kingdom; therefore, Christians need to live out the rest of our earthly days as kingdom citizens, following Christ in holiness and relating to the world around us wisely. On the other hand, Jesus’ followers await patiently for the coming of the Lord when final judgment arrives and every creature in the universe acknowledges the One who is deserving of all power and glory forever and ever (1 Peter 4:11).

When believers understand the overwhelming anticipation of the coming kingdom of God and the manifestation of His glory on earth (the “not yet”), it makes a difference in the way they live out the “here and now.” Believers are called to love and serve others in the “here and now,” exhibiting the love of their Savior and the hope of an even greater joy to come.

SESSION FOCUS

CORE PASSAGE

1 Peter 4:1-11

PRESCHOOL VERSE

1 Peter 4:9

PRESCHOOL TEXT TRUTH

Show God's love to others.

PRESCHOOL CONNECTION STORY PASSAGE

Genesis 26:12-33

CHRIST IN CONTEXT

Writing to the Jewish believers under persecution and opposition, Peter encouraged Christians to be confident in the hope they had because of Jesus. Jude warned Christians to believe only the truth about Jesus.

SESSION BRIEF

“Be hospitable to one another without complaining,” Peter advised the Christians. When we help others in Jesus’ name, God is glorified. And when we are tested, misunderstood, mistreated, and disregarded, in humility we can rise above our own discomfort and treat others better than they treat us. Peter urged the people to be loving, kind, thoughtful, and helpful.

Isaac exemplified God’s grace and love as he extended grace to his jealous and greedy neighbors. Through Isaac’s story, teachers can help children learn that it is God’s desire that we show His kind of love to others.

YOU CHOOSE!

Are your preschoolers ready to learn memory verses? Decide which wording of the Preschool Verse you want to use with your group.

From the Bible text:

Be hospitable to one another.
1 Peter 4:9

Preschool Verse Paraphrase:

Be kind to one another.
1 Peter 4:9

TEXT TRUTH

Show God's love to others.

PRESCHOOL VERSE

1 Peter 4:9

CONNECT TO 1 PETER:**ISAAC WAS KIND****Genesis 26:12-33**

Isaac was a farmer. He had many animals and helpers to take care of the animals. Isaac got richer and richer.

The people living in the land where Isaac lived were jealous. They decided to close up all the wells that Isaac's father had dug long ago. The people filled the wells with dirt so no one could get water for people or animals. The angry people said, "Leave us. You are too powerful."

So Isaac packed up his home, his animals, his family, and all that he had. He moved to another place and opened different wells to get water to drink.

But people in the new place fussed, too. "This is our water," they said.

So Isaac moved again. And he opened more wells.

This time, the people near the wells did not grumble or complain. Finally, Isaac would have water for his family and animals.

One, two, three. Isaac moved three times. Every time Isaac moved, he did not grumble. He was kind, even though other people were not kind to him.

Isaac thanked God for helping him.

The people saw how Isaac had acted. They said: "We see that God takes care of you. Let us be kind to one another from now on. We can see that God is with you."

So Isaac prepared a special meal and the people ate together and promised to be kind.

SET THE STAGE FOR EXPLORATION

1. PREPARE FOR TEACHING

- Review the teaching plan and practice using Bible-focused conversation. Pray for the preschoolers and their families.
- Before children arrive, set out the materials needed for early arrivers. Put materials for Exploration Stations and Circle Time in baskets or paper bags and set them in the areas in which children will work. Teachers may want to set up the stations before class time.
- Display posters and teaching reminders in suggested locations to remind you of the biblical focus for today.

2. OFFER ARRIVAL ACTIVITIES (5 MINUTES)

Offer two or three choices for preschoolers to explore:

- Draw with washable markers on damp paper.
- Match words of Preschool Verse. Locate verse in a Bible.
- Build with plastic interlocking blocks.

3. GET STARTED (5 MINUTES)

- After children have participated in one or more arrival activities, direct them to sit in a circle and pass a beanbag while music plays. When the music stops, ask the child holding the beanbag to name one reason why we need water (drinking, cleaning, helping plants grow). Print on the paper the things preschoolers name.
- Read the list and talk about how important water is for everyone. Say: “Today, we will hear about a man named Isaac. He was a farmer who had many animals. He needed a lot of water, but he faced some problems.” Show preschoolers the picture of the Bible times well.
- Encourage children to visit Exploration Stations to learn more about Isaac, his difficulties, and how he acted.

4. GO TO EXPLORATION STATIONS AND CIRCLE TIME.

TOOLS

- Bible
- drawing paper, washable markers, plastic spray bottle with water
- two sets of cards with words of Preschool Verse and reference printed on them
- plastic interlocking blocks
- Picture: Bible-times Well (Pack Item 28)
- Enhanced CD
- beanbag
- large sheet of paper, marker

TEXT TRUTH

Show God's love to others.

BIBLE STORY

ISAAC WAS KIND

Genesis 26:12-33

PRESCHOOL VERSE

1 Peter 4:9

PACK ITEMS

7 Story Picture: Isaac Was Kind

23 Book: *Love Is Something You Do*

28 Picture: Bible-times Well

29 Puzzle Pairs

LEADER TIP!

Construct a Well activity: Tell the children that the rock and sand are like the earth's soil and the tube is like a well. Explain that the water is absorbed (soaked) into the soil, then pressure forces the water into the well.

EXPLORATION STATIONS (45-60 MINUTES)

Set up at least three stations to provide choices of multisensory activities and movement for busy preschoolers.

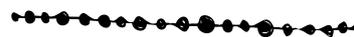
WORK PUZZLES



Tools: Bible; Puzzle Pairs (Pack); wooden puzzles showing children helping, working, being kind

- Cut apart the Puzzle Pairs and mix all the pieces together. Put these on the table with wooden puzzles.
- Invite a child to choose a puzzle to work.
- As children work, talk about the pictures on the puzzles. Point out ways children are showing kindness to others.
- Talk about the Bible story, mentioning that Isaac was kind even when others treated him unkindly.
- Open the Bible to 1 Peter 4:9 and read the Preschool Verse. Remark: "Peter wanted people to always be kind as Jesus was kind."

PLAN A PRETEND MEAL



Tools: Bible; Place Setting (Enhanced CD), food picture cutouts, scissors, glue

- Print a copy of the Place Setting for each child.
- Suggest: "Let's pretend we are planning a special meal. We can glue food pictures on our plates."
- Ask children to tell about special meals their families have planned.
- Comment: "Sometimes we may prepare a special meal to thank someone."
- Refer to the meal Isaac prepared for his neighbors even when they were unkind to him.

CONSTRUCT A WELL

Tools: Bible, Picture: Bible-times Well (Pack), metal can, short cardboard tube, small rocks or gravel, large spoon, sand, water, black marker, ruler

- Show preschoolers the picture. Talk about the wells Isaac's servants dug.
- Guide children to construct a water well. Draw a line inside the can 2 inches from the bottom. Draw another line at 3½ inches depth. Position the tube in the center of the can.
- Guide children to spoon gravel into the can up to the first line. Next, they pour sand over the gravel, up to the second line.
- Children then pour water over the sand and gravel. It will move up into the tube.
- Recall: "Though the people were unkind, Isaac did not grumble. He was kind."

PLAY WITH FARM ANIMALS

Tools: Bible, Story Picture: Isaac Was Kind (Pack), farm animal figures, toy farm trucks, wooden blocks

- Stand the animal figures with the blocks and trucks. Children may enjoy building fences for the animals or transporting animals in the trucks.
- Show preschoolers the Story Picture. Mention that Isaac was a farmer with many animals and helpers.
- Say: "The people who lived near Isaac were jealous of him and wanted him to leave. Each time the people stopped up his wells, Isaac moved to another place."
- Remark: "Isaac was kind. We read in the Book of 1 Peter to be kind to one another."
- Help a child find 1 Peter 4:9 in the Bible.

DESIGN A CARD

Tools: Bible, construction paper, cookie cutters, small foam flowers and shapes, paper doilies, markers, crayons; Book: Love Is Something You Do (Pack)

- Invite children to design greeting cards to cheer up someone they know.
- Tell a child to fold a sheet of paper in half. Print a brief message inside the card, such as *Jesus loves you, and I love you, too!*
- Invite the child to trace cookie cutter shapes on doilies to cut out and glue to his card. He can decorate his card with foam stickers or draw pictures.
- Ask the child to tell the name of the person for whom he is making a card. Remark: "You are being kind to Aunt Shannon."
- Repeat the Text Truth: "Show God's love to others." Then read the book to the child.

CIRCLE TIME (10-15 MINUTES, DEPENDING ON YOUR AGE GROUP)

LEADER TIP! USE THE BIBLE

Open a Bible to the Scripture passage while you tell the story. Doing this will help preschoolers know the story comes from the Bible.

CIRCLE TIME TOOLS

- Bible
- paper strips, paper cups, marker
- Activity Page

PACK ITEMS

- 7 Story Picture: Isaac Was Kind
- 23 Book: *Love Is Something You Do*



LET'S GATHER.

- After children arrive in the circle, lead them to sing the Text Truth together. Use the tune “Mary Had a Little Lamb.”
Show God's love to others, others, others;
Show God's love to others;
We always should be kind.
- Read the book to the children. Remind children that things we do, such as listen and help, are ways we can show God's love.
- Remark: “In today's Bible story, we learn that Isaac showed God's love by being kind even when others were not kind to him.”
- Invite children to listen to hear ways that Isaac showed God's love.



LET'S HEAR THE BIBLE STORY.

- Open the Bible to Genesis 16 and lay it in your lap. Tell the Bible story in your own words.
- Ask preschoolers: “How did Isaac show God's love?” Listen to children's responses, then remind the children of Isaac's kindness.
- Pass the Story Picture around the circle and invite each child to mention something she remembers about the story.
- Comment: “We can show God's love to others, too.”



LET'S PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS.

- Print the Bible book names *Genesis* and *1 Peter* on separate strips of paper. Turn paper cups upside down and print one letter on each cup to spell out each Book name. Scramble the cups and place them on the floor.
- Guide preschoolers to look at the letters on each strip, then put the cups in order to spell the Bible book names. Say the Bible book names as they are correctly spelled.
- Organize the children into two groups and give each group a Bible. Invite one group to find *Genesis* and the other group to find *1 Peter*. Say: "These are the Bible books where our Bible story and Preschool Verse are located."



LET'S PRAY TOGETHER.

- Remind children that we can ask God to help us be kind and loving to others.
- Ask children for prayer requests. Pray for requests.
- Pray that God will help each person show kindness at all times.



LET'S EXPLORE MORE.

- In small groups, encourage preschoolers to look at the Story Picture on the Activity Page and recall the Bible story.
- Guide children to complete the activity on the page.
- Lead preschoolers to say the Preschool Verse with the first child saying the first word, the second child saying the next word, and so on. Finally, everyone can say the verse together.

**DON'T FORGET TO
GIVE THIS WEEK'S
ACTIVITY PAGE TO
PRESCHOOLERS!**



Session 8



DON'T GIVE UP

1 Peter 4:12-19

Peter suffered many things as a Christian. The Book of Acts tells how Peter was arrested multiple times, flogged, and even sentenced to death by King Herod (Acts 4:3; 5:18, 40; 12:3-5). Two companions, Stephen and James, were martyred for their faith (7:58-60; 12:2). All this happened in Jerusalem, and the forces leading the opposition against these early believers were Jewish religious leaders.

Neither Acts nor the rest of the New Testament describes other hostilities against Peter. What is certain is that, as the gospel radiated out from its original home in Jerusalem, Gentile religious and political leaders joined the fray to put a stop to followers of Jesus. The latter part of Acts illustrates how this worked out in the life and ministry of Paul. Acts ends with Paul waiting for the emperor Nero to hear his appeal regarding charges against him, sometime in the early AD 60s.

During the first years of Nero's rule, he was a competent (if immoral) administrator. Paul was confident he would get a fair hearing before Nero. The defining event of Nero's reign was the fire of Rome, which destroyed half the city in AD 64. The cause of the fire—accident or arson—is uncertain. It is reasonably clear, however, that the people of the city blamed the emperor, and in order to shift the blame, Nero targeted Rome's Christians. Whether his vicious treatment extended to the provinces where Peter's first epistle was sent is unknown, yet surely these believers knew about it. Whatever suffering they experienced, their faith was bolstered by Peter's counsel to them about finding joy whenever they suffered unjustly for Christ's name. Peter encouraged his readers to trust God in difficult times—a truth as relevant today as it was then. As believers, we can hope in the sufficiency and providence of Christ.

SESSION FOCUS

CORE PASSAGE

1 Peter 4:12-19

PRESCHOOL VERSE

John 16:33

PRESCHOOL TEXT TRUTH

God will help you be brave.

PRESCHOOL CONNECTION STORY PASSAGE

Acts 16:16-34

CHRIST IN CONTEXT

Writing to the Jewish believers under persecution and opposition, Peter encouraged Christians to be confident in the hope they had because of Jesus. Jude warned Christians to believe only the truth about Jesus.

SESSION BRIEF

Peter continued his encouragement to the early Christians: Be brave. Face your critics. Hold on to the lifeline God extends to you. Trust in God's favor and protection.

Paul and Silas demonstrated fortitude and proved their faith in Jesus to overcome obstacles and threats. This week's Bible story and session can help preschoolers begin to think about the certainty of God's love and protection when people oppose us. Just as the jailer observed Paul's and Silas' peace and composure, people will notice our assured confidence in Jesus, the one Who gives us peace.

YOU CHOOSE!

Are your preschoolers ready to learn memory verses? Decide which wording of the Preschool Verse you want to use with your group.

From the Bible text:

In Me [Jesus], you may have peace. Be courageous!
John 16:33

Preschool Verse Paraphrase:

Jesus gives us peace. Be brave.
John 16:33

TEXT TRUTH

God will help you be brave.

PRESCHOOL VERSE

John 16:33

CONNECT TO 1 PETER:**PAUL AND SILAS****Acts 16:16-34**

Paul and Silas loved Jesus. They traveled to many towns to teach about Jesus. That made some people angry. The people did not want Paul and Silas to talk about Jesus any more.

One day, the angry people pushed and shoved Paul and Silas to the marketplace. The angry men found the judges and said: "Paul and Silas are upsetting everyone. They are doing things to get people in trouble."

So the judges sent Paul and Silas to jail and put them in chains.

Paul and Silas knew God loved them. They knew God would help them. They prayed and sang songs to God. The other people in the jail listened as Paul and Silas prayed and sang to God. The people learned about God from hearing Paul and Silas.

Suddenly the ground shook and the jail doors opened. The chains fell off the men.

The noise woke the guard. He was afraid because he thought all the prisoners would leave. If they did, the guard would be in big trouble.

The guard was surprised and happy when he saw Paul and Silas standing free. The guard could see that Paul and Silas were brave because of Jesus. The guard wanted Paul and Silas to tell him about Jesus. He believed what the men said, and the guard's family did, too.

The guard took Paul and Silas to his house to eat with his family. The guard was very happy to know about Jesus.

SET THE STAGE FOR EXPLORATION

1. PREPARE FOR TEACHING

- Review the teaching plan and practice using Bible-focused conversation. Pray for the preschoolers and their families.
- Before children arrive, set out the materials needed for early arrivers. Put materials for Exploration Stations and Circle Time in baskets or paper bags and set them in the areas in which children will work. Teachers may want to set up the stations before class time.
- Display posters and teaching reminders in suggested locations to remind you of the biblical focus for today.

2. OFFER ARRIVAL ACTIVITIES (5 MINUTES)

Offer two or three choices for preschoolers to explore:

- Make a paper chain.
- Build a town with blocks.
- Sculpt with play dough.

3. GET STARTED (5 MINUTES)

- After children have had time to do one or more arrival activities, gather them in a circle and ask if they know what the word *brave* means.
- Listen to children's responses, then ask: "Does being brave mean that you are not afraid?" Comment that when someone is brave, the person is willing to face danger or pain. Explain that though the person may be afraid, he is still willing to go through the danger. This is called having courage.
- Explain that Paul and Silas were courageous. Say: "Even after they were sent to jail, the men were still brave."
- Invite preschoolers to explore more about the Bible story and what it means to be brave.

4. GO TO EXPLORATION STATIONS AND CIRCLE TIME.

TOOLS

- Bible
- strips of colored paper cut in 6-inch lengths, clear tape
- wooden blocks
- fresh play dough, play dough cutting tools or craft sticks

TEXT TRUTH

God will help you be brave.

BIBLE STORY

PAUL AND SILAS

Acts 16:16-34

PRESCHOOL VERSE

John 16:33

PACK ITEMS

- 8 Story Picture: Paul and Silas
- 30 Bravery Gameboard
- 31 Number Cube

EXPLORATION STATIONS (45-60 MINUTES)

Set up at least three stations to provide choices of multisensory activities and movement for busy preschoolers.

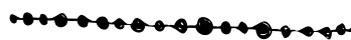
WORK LOCKS AND FASTENERS



Tools: Bible; locks and latches or items with fasteners (padlock and key, carabiner clips, binder rings, buckles, zippers), Story Picture: Paul and Silas (Pack)

- Encourage preschoolers to discover how the various items work. Help children as needed.
- Tell the Bible story as preschoolers work with the locks. Mention that Paul and Silas were put in jail and chained. Show children the Story Picture.
- Say: "Paul and Silas knew God loved them. God helped the men be brave."
- Turn in the Bible to John 16:33 and read the Preschool Verse. Invite children to say the verse.
- Remind children that God will help us be brave, too.

MAKE CIRCLE PRINTS



Tools: Bible, foam swim noodles (cut into 1- to 1½-inch rings), tempera paint (put in shallow bowl), paper, paintbrush

- Direct a child to press a foam ring into the paint, then press it on her paper to make circle prints. After making several prints, tell the child to paint a line connecting the circles. The design will look like a chain.
- Mention that Paul and Silas had chains put on them. Explain that Paul and Silas were brave.
- Say: "God helped the men be brave. He will help you be brave, too."

PLAY A GAME

Tools: Bible, Bravery Gameboard (Pack), Number Cube (Pack), paper, colored pencils, crayons

- Invite two preschoolers to play a bravery game. Tell them to toss the Number Cube and move that number of spaces on the gameboard. Comment on the pictures and help children connect them to the Bible story.
- Remark: "Paul and Silas remembered that God loved them and that He would help them."
- As children play the game, recall times when you have felt God helping you be brave. Thank God for loving and caring about us when we are afraid or unsure.
- Say: "God will help us be brave."

GUESS NATURE ITEMS

Tools: Bible; small box, nature items (rock, seashell, leaf, twig, pinecone, unshelled nut, flower); blindfold or dark lens sunglasses, Allergy Sign (Enhanced CD)

- Invite preschoolers to identify nature items without looking.
- Put a blindfold or sunglasses on a child. Remove one item from the box. Place it in the child's hand. Can she guess what it is? Ask other children to give clues to help the child identify the item.
- Affirm the child for holding the items without seeing them. Say: "You are being brave."
- Open the Bible to John 16:33 and say the Preschool Verse. Encourage preschoolers to say the verse with you.

MAKE MARACAS & SING

Tools: Bible; Enhanced CD; empty 8-ounce plastic bottles; 6- to 8-inch cardboard tubes; noise-making items (rice, beans, pasta, salt, small beads, paper clips); funnel; scissors; glue; colored tape; Activity Page

- Guide a child to partially fill a bottle with one of the noise-making items. Put glue around the inside of the cap and screw it on tightly.
- Cut down the side of a tube and roll it into itself and around the cap and top of the bottle to make a secure handle. Tape the tube in place, then wrap it completely with tape.
- Play the CD and invite children to sing and play maracas. Comment that when Paul and Silas were in jail, they prayed and sang songs to God.
- Turn to Acts 16 and tell the Bible story. Show children the picture on the Activity Page.

CIRCLE TIME (10-15 MINUTES, DEPENDING ON YOUR AGE GROUP)

LEADER TIP! USE THE BIBLE

Open a Bible to the Scripture passage while you tell the story. Doing this will help preschoolers know the story comes from the Bible.

CIRCLE TIME TOOLS

- Bible
- Yes and No signs, tape
- cards with words of Preschool Verse written on them, gift bag
- Activity Page

PACK ITEMS

- 8 Story Picture: Paul and Silas
- 31 Number Cube



LET'S GATHER.

- As preschoolers gather for circle time, ask a child to toss the Number Cube. Tell preschoolers to clap the number of times shown on the cube. Continue with other actions such as nod heads, shrug shoulders, and tap feet.
- Say: "God makes us able to do many different things. Sometimes people can do things that other people might be afraid to do; and sometimes people can do things even when they are afraid."
- Say: "Paul and Silas were like that. They were brave. Let's hear a story about them."



LET'S HEAR THE BIBLE STORY.

- Help a child open the Bible to Acts 16. Say: "This is where our story is found. This is the Book of Acts in the New Testament."
- Keep the open Bible on your lap as you tell the story in your words.
- Tape the Yes and No signs to walls on opposite sides of the room. Direct children to go to the word that correctly answers questions you ask about the Bible story.
- Ask questions such as:
 - Did Paul and Silas love Jesus?*
 - Did the judges tell Paul and Silas to go home?*
 - Was the guard kind to Paul and Silas?*
 - Did Paul and Silas bake cookies while in jail?*
- Pass the Story Picture around the circle for preschoolers to see. Say: "Paul and Silas were brave and kept on talking about Jesus."



LET'S PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS.

- Print each word of the Preschool Verse and Scripture reference on separate cards. Put all the cards in the bag.
- Pass the bag around the circle and invite each child to get a card.
- Lead children to work together to put the words in the correct order and say the verse. Help as needed.
- Ask a child to turn in a Bible to John 16:33. Tell the preschooler to hold the Bible for his friends to see the page.
- Recall that Jesus helped Paul and Silas have peace.



LET'S PRAY TOGETHER.

- Say: "Paul and Silas prayed, and we can, too." Invite preschoolers to name people for whom they would like to pray.
- Pray for each person named. Thank God that we can talk to Him and that He will hear us.
- Ask God to help us be brave.



LET'S EXPLORE MORE.

- Ask teachers to look at the Activity Page with groups of two or three children. Help children do the activity on the back of the page.
- Remind preschoolers of the Text Truth: "God will help you be brave."

**DON'T FORGET TO
GIVE THIS WEEK'S
ACTIVITY PAGE TO
PRESCHOOLERS!**



Session 9



SERVE ONE ANOTHER

1 Peter 5:1-11

The Book of 1 Peter contains several emphasized themes: hope (confidence in God for the future), suffering (a privilege and a part of God’s plan), holiness (growth in Christ-like character), and humility (following Jesus’ example). This week’s lesson emphasizes humility. Peter offered advice about how various members of the congregation relate to one another. Spiritual truths and guidelines for living were significant in the apostle’s heart as he brought the letter to a close. The final verses provide important clues about the origin and background that led to Peter’s composing and sending out his inspired epistle.

Interestingly in this passage, Peter uses the description of a lion to describe the predatory nature of the Enemy. This thought might have been taken from Psalm 22:13 in which lions came to be known as ferocious beasts and the enemies of God’s people. Under the control of Emperor Nero, Christians were likewise brought before lions in the arena. This brought a particularly alarming, yet realistic, picture of the “Accuser” in the world.

However, Peter encouraged his readers to remain true to the power of Almighty God. The roaming lion is eclipsed by the power of the Lion of the Tribe of Judah. First Peter 5 echoes James 4:7 in the exhortation to resist Satan and submit to the authority of God. Leaders—coined “shepherds” by the apostle—are called to be humble guides and models for their flock. Contemporary philosophers and Jewish leaders practiced modeling their lives for their stewardship, but Peter provides shepherd imagery to lead his readers to humility. Shepherd imagery was widely known in the ancient world and even Jesus used it to describe His work.

As he closes the letter, Peter calls for the church to submit to the Chief Shepherd—Jesus—and remain faithful during their persecution. Likewise, we can submit to the shepherds in our lives, with all humility and loyalty to the Chief Shepherd, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, resist sin in obedience and recognition of the power of God.

SESSION FOCUS

CORE PASSAGE

1 Peter 5:1-11

PRESCHOOL VERSE

Galatians 5:15

PRESCHOOL TEXT TRUTH

Be ready to serve others.

PRESCHOOL CONNECTION STORY PASSAGE

John 13:1-20

CHRIST IN CONTEXT

Writing to the Jewish believers under persecution and opposition, Peter encouraged Christians to be confident in the hope they had because of Jesus. Jude warned Christians to believe only the truth about Jesus.

SESSION BRIEF

Peter called on believers to serve in love and humble themselves as Jesus did. Not regarding Himself too good to wash the feet of His disciples, Jesus showed the men—and us—an example of humility. Jesus said, “I have shown you what to do; now do it!”

Peter stressed the importance of putting Self at the “end of the line.” We are to extend a helping hand to people in need, regardless of who they are. And we are to remember that our needs will be met by our loving God.

YOU CHOOSE!

Are your preschoolers ready to learn memory verses? Decide which wording of the Preschool Verse you want to use with your group.

From the Bible text:
Serve one another through love. Galatians 5:15

Preschool Verse Paraphrase:
Serve one another through love. Galatians 5:15

TEXT TRUTH

Be ready to serve others.

PRESCHOOL VERSE

Galatians 5:15

CONNECT TO 1 PETER:**A SURPRISE FOR JESUS' HELPERS****John 13:1-20**

It was almost time for the special Passover celebration and Jesus wanted to be with His disciples.

Jesus and the disciples had just finished eating. Jesus stood up and took off His robe. He got a towel and tied it around His waist.

The disciples began to watch Jesus. What is Jesus doing? The men wondered. Then they saw Jesus pour some water into a pan. Jesus began to wash each man's feet and dry them with the towel.

The disciples could not believe their eyes! They were surprised that Jesus was doing this.

Then Jesus went to Peter and bent down.

"Jesus, are You going to wash my feet?" Peter asked.

Jesus looked at Peter. Then He answered, "You don't understand what I am doing here, but later you will understand."

Peter got upset. "You will never wash my feet—ever!" Peter shouted.

But Jesus told Peter he must let Jesus do this, or Peter could no longer have anything to do with Jesus.

Then Peter tried to get Jesus to wash him all over. But Jesus said He did not need to do that.

Jesus explained, "I have shown you what you should do." Jesus told His disciples they must now follow His example.

Jesus wanted His helpers to know He loved them. He wanted them to be kind and loving to others. He wanted them to be ready to serve others as He had served them.

SET THE STAGE FOR EXPLORATION

1. PREPARE FOR TEACHING

- Review the teaching plan and practice using Bible-focused conversation. Pray for the preschoolers and their families.
- Before children arrive, set out the materials needed for early arrivers. Put materials for Exploration Stations and Circle Time in baskets or paper bags and set them in the areas in which children will work. Teachers may want to set up the stations before class time.
- Display posters and teaching reminders in suggested locations to remind you of the biblical focus for today.

2. OFFER ARRIVAL ACTIVITIES (5 MINUTES)

Offer two or three choices for preschoolers to explore:

- Match letter tiles to words of Preschool Verse.
- Read books about Jesus.
- Play with toy emergency vehicles on a road mat.

3. GET STARTED (5 MINUTES)

- As children complete arrival activities, lead them to sit in a semicircle facing you. Toss one table tennis ball back and forth to preschoolers. Next, toss each child a table tennis ball on which you have printed a word of the Preschool Verse.
- Help preschoolers read the words on the balls, put them in order, and read the verse.
- Ask children: “What do you think this verse means? Jesus taught His disciples to be ready to serve others as He had served them. We’ll learn more about that today.”
- Encourage preschoolers to go to Exploration Stations to discover more about what it means to serve one another through love.

4. GO TO EXPLORATION STATIONS AND CIRCLE TIME.

TOOLS

- Bible
- Preschool Verse printed on long strip of paper, letter tiles to spell words of Preschool Verse
- books about Jesus
- Road Mat (Pack Item 25), toy emergency vehicles
- table tennis balls, fine point marker (Write individual words of Preschool Verse on the balls.)

TEXT TRUTH

Be ready to serve others.

BIBLE STORY A SURPRISE FOR JESUS' HELPERS

John 13:1-20

PRESCHOOL VERSE

Galatians 5:15

PACK ITEMS

- 9 Story Picture: A Surprise for Jesus' Helpers
- 15 Jesus Puzzle Pictures
- 23 Book: *Love Is Something You Do*
- 32 Poster: What My Feet Can Do

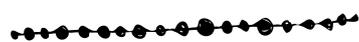
LEADER TIP!

Snack bags bonus: Add a gospel tract and information about your church.

EXPLORATION STATIONS (45-60 MINUTES)

Set up at least three stations to provide choices of multisensory activities and movement for busy preschoolers.

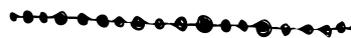
WORK JESUS PUZZLES



Tools: Bible; Jesus Puzzle Pictures (Pack), other puzzles featuring Jesus

- As a child works a puzzle, talk about the puzzle pictures and what Jesus is doing in the pictures.
- Help the child recall Bible stories, reminding the child that Jesus loved and cared for others. Remark: "We should follow Jesus' example and serve others as Jesus did."
- Open the Bible to Galatians 5:15 and read the Preschool Verse. Ask the child to say the verse with you.
- Talk with the preschooler about things he could do to serve or help someone.
- Tell today's Bible story.

MAKE A COLLAGE



Tools: Bible, large sheet of paper, picture cutouts showing helping actions, scissors, glue, masking tape

- Tape the paper to the wall. Talk to children about serving and helping others. Ask: "How do you help at home? How does your family help others?"
- Tell children to look for pictures showing people helping and serving others.
- While children glue pictures on the paper, remark: "Jesus surprised His helpers by washing their feet. Jesus wanted His helpers to know that He loved them."
- Say the Preschool Verse.

EXAMINE SAND & MAKE PICTURES

Tools: Bible, Story Picture: A Surprise for Jesus' Helpers (Pack), clean play sand, colored sand, magnifying glass, plastic spoons, paper, glue

- Invite a preschooler to examine clean, white sand under a magnifying glass. Explain that sand is made up of rocks and minerals that are crushed into small grains.
- Invite the child to squeeze glue onto paper, then sprinkle plain or colored sand over the glue to make a sand picture. Suggest he use a magnifying glass to examine his sand picture.
- Show the Story Picture to the child. Explain that Jesus' helpers walked on dirt roads. Say: "Their feet got tired and dirty. Jesus loved His helpers and washed His helpers feet."

USE CLEANING ITEMS

Tools: Bible; items such as small broom and dustpan, feather duster; play food, plastic dishes, reusable totes

- Observe preschoolers as they play with the various items. Point out ways you see children helping and working together. Mention that when friends love and care for one another, they want to show love and help.
- Comment on the items and ways family members use them to help others. Say: "Your mother and daddy love you, and they make sure you have good food to eat and things that you need. They help other people, too."
- Say: "We should always be ready to serve others. A verse in the Bible tells us to serve one another through love." Show preschoolers the verse at Galatians 5:15.

PREPARE SNACK BAGS

Tools: Bible; blank paper bags; colored pencils, crayons; stickers; bottled water; snack items (crackers, granola bars, trail mix, fruit cups with plastic spoons); baby wipes; Book: Love Is Something You Do (Pack)

- Invite children to prepare snack bags for some people in your community. You might choose a ministry group in your church to receive the bags.
- Encourage each child to decorate a bag. Then he can place a bottle of water, some snacks, and a package of wipes in the bag.
- As preschoolers work on the snack bags, remind them of the Text Truth: "Be ready to serve others."
- Say: "Jesus served His helpers when He washed their feet and He told them to follow His example."
- Read the book to the children.

CIRCLE TIME (10-15 MINUTES, DEPENDING ON YOUR AGE GROUP)

LEADER TIP! USE THE BIBLE

Open a Bible to the Scripture passage while you tell the story. Doing this will help preschoolers know the story comes from the Bible.

CIRCLE TIME TOOLS

- Bible
- Enhanced CD
- Activity Page

PACK ITEMS

- 9 Story Picture: A Surprise for Jesus' Helpers
- 32 Poster: What My Feet Can Do



LET'S GATHER.

- As children are seated in the circle, encourage them to look at the What My Feet Can Do poster. Lead children to do some of the actions mentioned.
- Comment: "We can do a lot of different things with our feet." Mention that our feet can take us to places where we can help and serve others. Guide preschoolers to name some places where we can serve others (home, church, school, community, other countries).
- Say: "Jesus loved and served His disciples and He told them to follow His example. Let's listen to a Bible story about Jesus."



LET'S HEAR THE BIBLE STORY.

- Turn in the Bible to John 13 and keep the Bible opened as you tell the story in your own words.
- Review the story by making statements about the Bible story. Tell preschoolers to decide whether a statement is true or not true.
- Make statements such as:
Jesus ate a meal with His disciples.
Jesus washed dishes.
Peter did not want Jesus to wash his feet.
Jesus told His disciples to do what He did.
- Show the Story Picture and pass it around the circle while music plays. Remind children that Jesus loved His disciples and served them in love.



LET'S PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS.

- Say: "Today's story is from the Book of John in the New Testament." Explain that John is one of the books known as the Gospels.
- Show preschoolers the first four books of the New Testament that are called the Gospels.
- Say: "These books tell us about Jesus and the things He said and did."
- Help a preschooler turn to John 13. Ask another child to find the name *Jesus* somewhere in the chapter.
- Comment: "Jesus taught His disciples that they should be ready to serve others as He had served them."



LET'S PRAY TOGETHER.

- Comment that one way we serve others is by praying for them. Ask preschoolers for their prayer requests.
- Pray for the requests and ask God to help us always be ready to help and serve others.



LET'S EXPLORE MORE.

- Form small groups of children and teachers. Encourage children to recall something they remember about today's Bible story.
- Help preschoolers complete the activity on the Activity Page.
- Lead children to repeat the Preschool Verse.

**DON'T FORGET TO
GIVE THIS WEEK'S
ACTIVITY PAGE TO
PRESCHOOLERS!**



Session 10



LEARNING HOW TO ACT

2 Peter 1:3-11

Because Peter's second epistle is even shorter than his first, there is limited data to make an accurate assessment of some of the particulars many readers would like to know. For example, how much time passed between the writing of the two letters? (Perhaps a few months; maybe a few years.) Was Peter writing to the same congregations he addressed in his first letter? (Maybe; see 2 Peter 3:1.) On the other hand, we can be confident that this was the apostle's final correspondence, written shortly before his death. (See 2 Peter 1:14.) Further, Peter wrote with a great sense of his authority as Jesus' ambassador. (He designated himself as a slave and apostle of Jesus Christ.)

Peter followed the same letter-writing format in this letter as he had before. Peter begins with a formal salutation and greeting (1 Peter 1:1-3 and 2 Peter 1:1-2). Then he launches into his subject matter, covering a variety of topics (1 Peter 1:4—5:9 and 2 Peter 1:3—3:13). Finally, Peter wraps up the letter with a formal conclusion (1 Peter 5:10-14 and 2 Peter 3:14-18).

One subject appears to have been forefront in Peter's mind as he composed the letter. This topic was perhaps the most important in his last days. Peter wanted his readers to be supremely confident that God's power had already provided everything necessary for them to shape their character and grow in godliness. Peter began by affirming God's complete provision to enable believers to live godly lives (1 Peter 1:3-4). Peter moved on by developing a pathway to godly character, listing one virtue after another (1 Peter 1:5-9). Peter concluded these opening thoughts with a command that his readers confirm their salvation through godly living (1 Peter 1:10-11). What would you communicate to good friends to encourage them if you knew it was your last opportunity to write anything to them?

SESSION FOCUS

CORE PASSAGE

2 Peter 1:3-11

PRESCHOOL VERSE

2 Peter 1:3

PRESCHOOL TEXT TRUTH

God helps us know how to act.

PRESCHOOL CONNECTION STORY PASSAGE

1 & 2 Timothy

CHRIST IN CONTEXT

Writing to the Jewish believers under persecution and opposition, Peter encouraged Christians to be confident in the hope they had because of Jesus. Jude warned Christians to believe only the truth about Jesus.

SESSION BRIEF

Peter declared we have an example of godly living in the life of God's Son, Jesus. Through His power, we can live a victorious life and overcome Satan and the corruption in our world. We have been shown how to be equipped in goodness, brotherly love, self-control, endurance, and service.

These are the things Paul stressed in his letters to Timothy. Paul wanted the young man to be an example to others of a life wholly devoted to God.

Paul, like Peter, knew that God has provided all we need to live for Him.

YOU CHOOSE!

Are your preschoolers ready to learn memory verses? Decide which wording of the Preschool Verse you want to use with your group.

From the Bible text:
[God] has given us everything for life. 2 Peter 1:3

Preschool Verse Paraphrase:
God has shown us how to live.
2 Peter 1:3

TEXT TRUTH

God helps us know how to act.

PRESCHOOL VERSE

2 Peter 1:3

CONNECT TO 2 PETER:**PAUL'S LETTERS TO TIMOTHY****1 & 2 Timothy**

Timothy was a young man in charge of the church at Ephesus. Timothy had learned a lot about Jesus and the church when he traveled with Paul to teach people in many towns.

Now Timothy was working in the church, and Paul decided to write him a letter. Paul wanted to help Timothy be a good leader.

Paul wrote: "Timothy, first I encourage you to pray for people. This is good, and it pleases God. Remember that there is only one God, and He sent Jesus to help everyone."

Paul told Timothy to show people how to act toward one another. Paul explained how people were to worship God.

"Until I can see you again, Timothy, teach the people. Be an example in your words, in your actions, in your love. When you do these things, people will know you love God and His Son, Jesus," Paul wrote. Paul told Timothy to stay away from what was not true, and always do what is right.

Paul wrote other things in his letters to Timothy. He said he always prayed for Timothy night and day. "Be strong, Timothy. The things I have taught you are the things you should teach to others. God will help you understand everything."

Paul loved Timothy and wanted to help him. Paul reminded Timothy to be a good example to others. He said do not quarrel, but be gentle and patient to everyone.

"Continue in what you have learned, Timothy. Remember that everything written in Scripture (the Bible) is given to us by God to help us."

SET THE STAGE FOR EXPLORATION

1. PREPARE FOR TEACHING

- Review the teaching plan and practice using Bible-focused conversation. Pray for the preschoolers and their families.
- Before children arrive, set out the materials needed for early arrivers. Put materials for Exploration Stations and Circle Time in baskets or paper bags and set them in the areas in which children will work. Teachers may want to set up the stations before class time.
- Display posters and teaching reminders in suggested locations to remind you of the biblical focus for today.

2. OFFER ARRIVAL ACTIVITIES (5 MINUTES)

Offer two or three choices for preschoolers to explore:

- Lace around greeting cards.
- Play with people figures.
- Read books about Jesus, church, and helping.

3. GET STARTED (5 MINUTES)

- When preschoolers have had an opportunity to do arrival activities, ask them to join you in a circle.
- Ask a few children to tell about their activities. Relate the activities to today's Bible story.
- Comment: "I like to receive letters or messages from my friends. Long ago a man named Timothy received a letter from his friend, Paul. Paul loved Timothy and wanted to help him."
- Tell preschoolers they can learn more about Paul's letter to Timothy as they play in the Exploration Stations.

4. GO TO EXPLORATION STATIONS AND CIRCLE TIME.

TOOLS

- Bible
- 2-3 colorful greeting cards (Punch holes around each card and attach a 12-inch string for lacing.)
- people figures
- books related to Jesus, church, helping

TEXT TRUTH

God helps us know how to act.



EXPLORATION STATIONS (45-60 MINUTES)

Set up at least three stations to provide choices of multisensory activities and movement for busy preschoolers.

BIBLE STORY

PAUL'S LETTERS TO TIMOTHY

1 & 2 Timothy

PRESCHOOL VERSE

2 Peter 1:3

PACK ITEMS

10 Story Picture: Paul's Letters to Timothy

20 Do What Is Right Cards

26 Game Spinner

PAINT WITH FEATHERS



Tools: Bible, paper, tape, craft feathers, liquid tempera paint, aluminum pans, Activity Page

- Pour 2-3 colors of paints into the pans and place a few feathers with each pan.
- Tape paper to a table. Invite a preschooler to use a feather to sweep paint over the paper.
- While the child paints, explain that a quill (writing instrument) is similar to a feather. Use the tip of a feather to show how people use a quill to write.
- Remark: "Paul may have used a quill to write. He wrote a letter to help Timothy be a good leader in the church and be a good example to others."
- Show the picture on the Activity Page.

MAKE A CRAFT STICK DESIGN



Tools: Bible, cardboard or heavy paper, assorted craft sticks, washable markers, liquid glue

- Show preschoolers how to arrange craft sticks on paper to make houses and churches, flowers and trees, and various shapes and designs.
- Suggest that children use sticks to make a picture or design on paper or cardboard, then glue the sticks in place.
- Mention Paul's letter to Timothy. Comment on preschoolers being kind and helping one another. Say: "Paul told Timothy to be a good example to others."

MATCH BLOCK SHAPES

Tools: Bible, poster board, construction paper, assorted block shapes, markers, scissors

- Trace block shapes onto poster board and paper. Lay the poster board on the floor along with the blocks.
- Cut out paper shapes and print on each shape something that Paul wrote in his letter to Timothy (*pray for people, teach others, be an example, do what is right, be strong, do not quarrel, be patient*).
- Lead preschoolers to match each block to its shape. After all blocks are matched, guide children to remove blocks, find the matching paper shapes, and discover what Paul wrote to Timothy.
- Turn to 2 Peter 1 and comment that this part of the Bible tells us how God wants people to act.

**WORK POSTCARD
PUZZLES**

Tools: Bible, Story Picture: Paul's Letters to Timothy (Pack), assorted postcards, bag, marker, scissors

- Write on each postcard one reminder Paul told Timothy in his letters. (See Bible story.)
- Cut each postcard into two puzzle pieces. Drop all the puzzle pieces in a bag.
- Invite two children to put postcard pictures together. Turn the cards over to show Paul's reminders.
- Show children the Story Picture. Say: "Paul wrote the letters to help Timothy."
- Recall things that Paul told Timothy in his letters. Find Paul's letters in the Book of 1 Timothy.
- Turn to 2 Peter 1:3 and repeat the Preschool Verse.

GUESS WHO USES IT

Tools: Bible, items used by church helpers (hymnal, offering plate, church bulletin, feather duster, baby toy, notepad, microphone, flashlight), church pictorial directory

- Talk with children about helpers in your church. Name the pastor, music director, preschool teacher, teachers, ushers, greeters, custodians, and secretaries. Show photos of the helpers.
- Display the helper items. Say: "Each of these items can be used by a church helper. I'll describe one item and tell how it could be used. You guess who would use that item." Play until all items are recognized.
- Say: "Paul wanted to help Timothy be a good leader. Paul reminded Timothy of things that he should do."
- Lead preschoolers to say the Preschool Verse.

CIRCLE TIME (10-15 MINUTES, DEPENDING ON YOUR AGE GROUP)

LEADER TIP! USE THE BIBLE

Open a Bible to the Scripture passage while you tell the story. Doing this will help preschoolers know the story comes from the Bible.

CIRCLE TIME TOOLS

- Bibles
- Enhanced CD
- tape
- Activity Page

PACK ITEMS

- 10 Story Picture: Paul's Letters to Timothy
- 20 Do What Is Right Cards (Tape cards around the room at children's eye level.)
- 26 Game Spinner



LET'S GATHER.

- Play the Enhanced CD as children make their way to the circle.
- Place the Game Spinner (Pack) on the floor and tape the arrow next to the spinner.
- Give preschoolers turns to turn the spinner and look around the room for something that matches the color. Remark on the usefulness of the item to learn from the Bible.
- Say: "We use our eyes to see colors and things around us. We use our eyes to read. We read the Bible to learn about Jesus and how God wants us to live. We learn how to act."
- Continue: "Paul told Timothy to be a good example in what he said, what he did, and in the way he loved others."
- Talk briefly to the children about what it means to be an example. Then say: "Let's learn more about Paul's letter."



LET'S HEAR THE BIBLE STORY.

- Open the Bible to 1 Timothy and keep the Bible opened as you tell the story.
- Show the Story Picture to the children and ask them to tell why Paul wrote the letter to his friend. Remind children that Paul loved Timothy and wanted to help him be a good leader.
- Direct preschoolers to look for cards taped to the wall, then return to their seats.
- In turn, read the children's cards and ask whether this is a right thing to do.



LET'S PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS.

- Distribute Bibles to pairs of children. Ask teachers to help children find the Book of 1 Timothy.
- Say: "This is where Paul's letter to Timothy is written in the Bible. Paul wrote letters to many people."
- Guide children to turn a few more pages and locate 2 Timothy. Say: "This is another letter that Paul wrote to Timothy."
- Help children turn to 2 Peter 1:3. Lead the children in saying the Preschool Verse.
- Comment: "We have the Bible to help us know how God wants us to act and how to live."



LET'S PRAY TOGETHER.

- Comment: "The Bible tells us that God hears us talk to Him."
- Ask children for prayer requests.
- Pray, mentioning each child's request and asking for God to help us be good examples in all we say and do.



LET'S EXPLORE MORE.

- Ask teachers to help two or more children in a group look at the picture on the Activity Page and recall the Bible story.
- Work with children to do the activity on the Activity Page.
- Give preschoolers another opportunity to say the Preschool Verse.

**DON'T FORGET TO
GIVE THIS WEEK'S
ACTIVITY PAGE TO
PRESCHOOLERS!**



Session

11



LEARN FROM THE BIBLE

2 Peter 1:12-21

In the first century, many religions were in competition. The cities of the Roman Empire were filled with rival temples and shrines. In addition to the old gods of Greek mythology adopted by the Romans, there were Egyptian and Babylonian sects. Philosophies—some people might call them “worldviews” today—had become a source of religious truth for many intellectuals. Judaism was a proportionately small percentage of the population in urban areas, especially outside the Holy Land. Yet the Jews were known for believing that God had spoken truth to their ancestors, who had written the books that they considered sacred Scripture, trustworthy and true, and the very Word of God. When we read about the life and teachings of Jesus in the Gospels, we see that He clashed with Jewish religious leaders on many issues. Yet one area in which they all agreed was that the Jewish Scriptures were God’s precious, reliable Word.

Having heard Jesus’ commitment to the Scriptures, Peter was writing to Christians in a part of the Roman Empire who likely had not been taught the nature of Scripture. The Christians were living in a society with competing claims concerning the source of religious truth. As the apostle proceeded with his letter, he thought it essential to provide an understanding of what the Scriptures of Israel really were. Peter prefaced his comments by reminding Christians how important it is to review God’s truth from time to time. This was pressing for Peter, because he wanted believers to be able to recall God’s truth after his death. Peter went on to note his own experiences of Jesus’ life. Eyewitness testimony in the Gospels is one factor involved in our accepting the reliability of what the Gospel writers wrote (1:16-18). Peter’s primary focus was to explain that God’s written Word is the result of God speaking through humans. Therefore, it is reliable and true, and we can depend on its truthfulness (1:19-21). Significantly, this epistle soon came to be revered by the early Christians as an essential component of Scripture.

SESSION FOCUS

CORE PASSAGE

2 Peter 1:12-21

PRESCHOOL VERSE

2 Peter 1:21

PRESCHOOL TEXT TRUTH

God gave people the Bible to learn about Him.

PRESCHOOL CONNECTION STORY PASSAGE

Acts 18:24-28

CHRIST IN CONTEXT

Writing to the Jewish believers under persecution and opposition, Peter encouraged Christians to be confident in the hope they had because of Jesus. Jude warned Christians to believe only the truth about Jesus.

SESSION BRIEF

Can't you imagine Peter shouting, "Listen up, people. The prophets said the Messiah would come—and He has! The prophecies we grew up reading in the Scriptures have been confirmed! We are eye-witnesses. We know that everything the prophets proclaimed has come true in Jesus!"

Peter wanted people to know that God's promises—though penned by men—are authored and validated by God.

A Jewish scholar, Apollos, learned about those promises and saw their fulfillment in Jesus. Help children learn that God gave people the Bible to learn about Him and His Son, Jesus.

YOU CHOOSE!

Are your preschoolers ready to learn memory verses? Decide which wording of the Preschool Verse you want to use with your group.

From the Bible text:

Moved by the Holy Spirit, men spoke from God. 2 Peter 1:21

Preschool Verse Paraphrase:

Men spoke what God told them. 2 Peter 1:21

TEXT TRUTH

God gave people the Bible to learn about Him.

PRESCHOOL VERSE

2 Peter 1:21

CONNECT TO 2 PETER:**APOLLOS TAUGHT PEOPLE****Acts 18:24-28**

Apollos was from Alexandria, a city in Egypt. Apollos was a very important man, and he knew the Scriptures (the Bible) very well. Apollos had studied the Scriptures and had learned about the things of God.

Apollos was very excited about the good news about Jesus. He traveled to the town of Ephesus. While he was in Ephesus, Apollos taught the people about Jesus. He went to the synagogue in Ephesus and began to speak to the people.

Priscilla and Aquila were at the synagogue while Apollos taught. They listened to Apollos. Then Aquila and Priscilla invited Apollos to go to their home. They told Apollos more about God and taught him more about Jesus. Apollos listened to what his friends said.

Then Apollos decided he should go to another place—Achaia. People in the Ephesus church wrote a letter to the helpers in the Achaia church and asked them to welcome Apollos.

Apollos left on his trip. When he got to Achaia, he began to teach the people and help them understand and learn more about Jesus.

Over and over again Apollos taught people what the Scriptures said about Jesus, and that He was God's Son. Apollos helped people know the Bible is true.

SET THE STAGE FOR EXPLORATION

1. PREPARE FOR TEACHING

- Review the teaching plan and practice using Bible-focused conversation. Pray for the preschoolers and their families.
- Before children arrive, set out the materials needed for early arrivers. Put materials for Exploration Stations and Circle Time in baskets or paper bags and set them in the areas in which children will work. Teachers may want to set up the stations before class time.
- Display posters and teaching reminders in suggested locations to remind you of the biblical focus for today.

2. OFFER ARRIVAL ACTIVITIES (5 MINUTES)

Offer two or three choices for preschoolers to explore:

- Make a paper plate lacing card.
- Look at a variety of Bibles. Locate 2 Peter 1:21.
- Spell words (*God, Bible, live*) with letter tiles.

3. GET STARTED (5 MINUTES)

- After children have completed arrival activities, invite those who decorated paper plates to show them to the class.
- Pick up a Bible. Comment: “Bibles may look different on the outside and the inside, but the words written in them are God’s truth. God gave people the Bible so they could learn about Him.”
- Continue: “Today’s Bible story is about a man named Apollos who knew the Scriptures (Bible) and was excited to tell others about Jesus. Let’s move to Exploration Stations to learn more.”

4. GO TO EXPLORATION STATIONS AND CIRCLE TIME.

TOOLS

- Bible
- paper plates with Preschool Verse printed on one side, pencils, crayons, markers, sparkly stickers, hole punch, 12-inch shoelaces
- assorted Bibles, card with *2 Peter 1:21* printed on it
- wooden letter tiles

TEXT TRUTH

God gave people the Bible to learn about Him.

BIBLE STORY APOLLOS TAUGHT PEOPLE

Acts 18:24-28

PRESCHOOL VERSE

2 Peter 1:21

PACK ITEMS

- 11 Story Picture: Apollos Taught People
- 33 Apollos Cards 1
- 34 Apollos Cards 2
- 35 Travels of Apollos Map
- 36 Learn About the Bible Cards

LEADER TIP!

Boat construction ideas—
Make a boat hull from the rectangle shapes and glue it to a sheet of paper. A craft stick or straw could be used to make a mast. Use triangle shapes to make sails.

EXPLORATION STATIONS (45-60 MINUTES)

Set up at least three stations to provide choices of multisensory activities and movement for busy preschoolers.

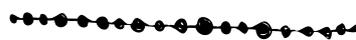
MAKE BOAT DESIGNS



Tools: Bible, Travels of Apollos Map (Pack), assorted paper, craft sticks or plastic straws cut in half, scissors, glue

- Cut a variety of paper rectangle and triangle shapes. Invite preschoolers to use these shapes along with the craft sticks or straws to design a boat. (See Leader Tip.)
- As children work, show them the map. Point out the places Apollos visited. Say: “Apollos probably traveled by boat often.”
- Mention that Apollos was excited to tell people about Jesus. He learned about Jesus from the Scriptures (Bible).
- Remark: “Apollos helped people know that the Bible is true.”

PLAY A BIBLE GAME



Tools: Bible, Apollos Cards 1 & 2 (Pack), puzzles about the Bible and Jesus

- Instructions for playing the Bible game using the Apollos cards are included in the Leader Pack.
- Invite two or three children to play the Bible game while others work puzzles.
- As children enjoy these activities, open the Bible to 2 Peter 1. Remark: “Peter wrote that God told men what to write in the Bible. Everything in the Bible is true. And that is what Apollos taught the people.”
- Invite a child to look in the Bible for the names *Peter* and *Apollos*.

STAMP PLAY DOUGH LETTERS

Tools: Bible, fresh play dough, play dough letter stamps, play dough cutters and rollers, index cards, marker

- Print on the cards the words *Bible*, *true*, *Jesus*, *Apollos*, and other words and names from the Bible story.
- Read a word from a card. Encourage a child to use stamps to make dough letters like those printed on the card.
- Relate the letters and words to the Text Truth: “God gave people the Bible to learn about Him.”
- For example, remark: “This is the word *true*. Apollos helped people know that the Bible is true.”
- Open the Bible to 2 Peter 1:21 and say the Preschool Verse.

PASS THE BIBLE

Tools: Bible, Enhanced CD, Learn About the Bible Cards (Pack), Story Picture: Apollos Taught People (Pack)

- Invite several children to sit in a circle and pass a Bible while music plays.
- Stop the music. Tell the child holding the Bible to get a Bible card. Read the information on the card to help children in the circle learn more about the Bible.
- Continue playing until all the cards have been read.
- Show preschoolers the Story Picture. Ask a child to point to Apollos.
- Open the Bible to Acts 18 and tell the Bible story in your own words.
- Say: “God gave people the Bible to learn about Him.”

PLAY WITH BLOCKS & PEOPLE FIGURES

Tools: Bible, Activity Page, wooden blocks, toy people figures, pictures of churches

- Locate a few pictures of churches to use as a backdrop. Stand the people figures on the floor near the blocks.
- Remark that Apollos traveled to Ephesus and Achaia to teach people what the Bible told about Jesus. Apollos helped people know the Bible is true.
- Say: “That is what your teachers and other church helpers do. They help you learn what the Bible teaches.”
- Children may enjoy building a church and pretending that Apollos is teaching the people about Jesus.
- Show children the picture on the Activity Page.

CIRCLE TIME (10-15 MINUTES, DEPENDING ON YOUR AGE GROUP)

LEADER TIP! USE THE BIBLE

Open a Bible to the Scripture passage while you tell the story. Doing this will help preschoolers know the story comes from the Bible.

CIRCLE TIME TOOLS

- Bible
- Activity Page

PACK ITEMS

- 11 Story Picture: Apollos Taught People
- 33 Apollos Cards 1
- 34 Apollos Cards 2
- 35 Travels of Apollos Map



LET'S GATHER.

- Remove matching pairs of cards from the Apollos Cards.
- As children arrive in the circle, give each child a card. Say: "Find a friend who has a matching card and sit next to that friend."
- Collect the cards after children find their seats. Say: "Today you have heard about a man named Apollos. Apollos was excited to tell people about Jesus."
- Continue: "We learn about Jesus, too. Let's listen to the story about Apollos."



LET'S HEAR THE BIBLE STORY.

- Open the Bible to Acts 18 and tell the story in your own words.
- Ask a child to hold the map. Point to where Apollos started in Alexandria, and then to other places he traveled (Ephesus and Achaia).
- Ask questions to help children think about the story:
 - Why did Apollos leave Alexandria?*
 - What did Apollos do in Ephesus?*
 - How did Aquila and Priscilla help Apollos?*
 - What did Apollos teach about who Jesus was?*
- Show children the Story Picture, then pass it around the circle.



LET'S PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS.

- Remind preschoolers of the two parts of the Bible, the Old Testament and the New Testament.
- Ask: "How did we get the Bible?" Help a child turn to 2 Peter 1:21 to get the answer.
- Read the Preschool Verse. Encourage preschoolers to repeat the verse with you.
- Ask: "Why did God give us the Bible?" (*to learn about Him*)
- Remark: "Just as Apollos read and studied the Scriptures, we should read and study the Bible to learn more about God and Jesus."



LET'S PRAY TOGETHER.

- Say thank you to God for giving us the Bible to help us learn more about Him.
- Pray that God will help us learn more about Jesus and help us be ready to share what we know with other people.



LET'S EXPLORE MORE.

- Direct preschoolers to form small groups with a teacher in each group. Together review the Bible story and Text Truth.
- Help children in the group do the activity on the Activity Page and say the Preschool Verse again.

**DON'T FORGET TO
GIVE THIS WEEK'S
ACTIVITY PAGE TO
PRESCHOOLERS!**



Session 12



THE BIBLE IS TRUE

2 Peter 2:1-3; Jude 1:16-25

There is significant overlap in the content of 2 Peter 2 and Jude. Often, the writers made the same points in the same order. Bible students have wondered what these similarities imply. Did Peter and Jude confer with each other? Did Jude have access to Peter's second epistle as he wrote (or, perhaps, Peter had access to Jude's letter)? There is insufficient evidence for us to be certain, and in the end, it doesn't really matter. Peter and Jude were two early church leaders who were passionate about helping those they were writing to and encouraging them to be on guard against false teachings and teachers.

We know very little about Jude, his ministry, or the circumstances that caused him to write. We do not know the exact nature of the false teachings that he was battling. Yet his essential message is clear. The context passages for this lesson are 1 Peter 2 and Jude. Both Peter and Jude exposed the motives and results of the false teachers (2 Peter 2:1-3; Jude 1:16). Jude was reminded that the apostles had already warned them about the dangers of false teachers (Jude 1:17-19). And Jude countered the false teachers by asking the readers to grow in their own faith (Jude 1:20-25). In order to combat false teachers, the writer focused on the authority of the Scriptures as the living and active Word of God and their ability to transform the lives of believers—now and forevermore.

SESSION FOCUS

CORE PASSAGE

2 Peter 2:1-3; Jude 1:16-25

PRESCHOOL VERSE

Psalm 119:160

PRESCHOOL TEXT TRUTH

Everything written in the Bible is true.

PRESCHOOL CONNECTION STORY PASSAGE

Mark 12:13-14,24,28-34

CHRIST IN CONTEXT

Writing to the Jewish believers under persecution and opposition, Peter encouraged Christians to be confident in the hope they had because of Jesus. Jude warned Christians to believe only the truth about Jesus.

SESSION BRIEF

People have always wanted to discredit, distort, and deny the Word of God. Peter warned his readers that false teachers will exploit them with deceptive words. Seeking to deny the authenticity of God's Word, though, scoffers will be "rewarded" with destruction and demise.

Jesus was challenged by Jewish scholars and religious leaders to defend the Law. But Jesus met the agitators head on and quoted back to them the very laws they questioned.

Peter, and Jesus, wanted all people to know that everything written in the Bible is true and trustworthy.

YOU CHOOSE!

Are your preschoolers ready to learn memory verses? Decide which wording of the Preschool Verse you want to use with your group.

From the Bible text:
The entirety of Your Word is truth. Psalm 119:160

Preschool Verse Paraphrase:
Your Word is true, [God].
Psalm 119:160

TEXT TRUTH

Everything written in the Bible is true.

PRESCHOOL VERSE

Psalm 119:160

CONNECT TO 2 PETER & JUDE:**A QUESTION FOR JESUS****Mark 12:13-14,24,28-34**

Jesus and His helpers were in Jerusalem. They went to the temple. Many of the temple leaders and teachers saw Jesus and began to ask Him questions. The leaders did not believe the things Jesus said.

A scribe (a man who studied and knew about God's laws) heard the leaders talking and arguing about the things Jesus said. The scribe knew Jesus had given good answers to their questions about Moses and the commandments written in the Law.

The scribe asked Jesus, "Which commandment is the most important of all?"

"This is the most important commandment—Love the Lord God with all your heart," Jesus answered. "The second most important commandment is to love your neighbor."

Then the scribe said: "You are right, Teacher! You said God is the One, and there is no one else. Loving God is more important than anything else we do."

Then Jesus told the man, "You know what is right and what God wants you to do."

SET THE STAGE FOR EXPLORATION

1. PREPARE FOR TEACHING

- Review the teaching plan and practice using Bible-focused conversation. Pray for the preschoolers and their families.
- Before children arrive, set out the materials needed for early arrivers. Put materials for Exploration Stations and Circle Time in baskets or paper bags and set them in the areas in which children will work. Teachers may want to set up the stations before class time.
- Display posters and teaching reminders in suggested locations to remind you of the biblical focus for today.

2. OFFER ARRIVAL ACTIVITIES (5 MINUTES)

Offer two or three choices for preschoolers to explore:

- Create shapes with chenille stems.
- Combine pieces of two puzzles and work with a friend to complete the puzzles.
- Trace over letters to discover Bible story words.

3. GET STARTED (5 MINUTES)

- After children have had an opportunity to do one or more arrival activities, invite them to play a game. Make statements about your favorite things to do, places to go, likes and dislikes. After each statement, encourage preschoolers to guess if your answer is true or it is something they might not believe.
- Mention that in today's Bible story, temple leaders asked Jesus questions about the Bible, but they did not believe what He said was true. Remark: "The Bible tells us that God's Word is true."
- Tell preschoolers that as they play in the Exploration Stations, they will hear more about the Bible.

4. GO TO EXPLORATION STATIONS AND CIRCLE TIME.

TOOLS

- Bible
- assorted colors of chenille stems
- puzzles *Moses and the 10 Commandments* (LifeWay, 005267307) and *Jesus, A Special Friend* (LifeWay, 005160679)
- sheet of paper with words printed in a dot formation (words such as *Jesus, God, Law, true*); crayons

TEXT TRUTH

Everything written in the Bible is true.

BIBLE STORY A QUESTION FOR JESUS

Mark 12:13-14,24,28-34

PRESCHOOL VERSE

Psalm 119:160

PACK ITEMS

12 Story Picture: A Question for Jesus

LEADER TIP!

Preschoolers enjoy “writing.” Encourage their efforts to work on this communication skill.

EXPLORATION STATIONS (45-60 MINUTES)

Set up at least three stations to provide choices of multisensory activities and movement for busy preschoolers.

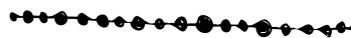
MAKE COLOR VIEWERS



Tools: Bibles, small cardboard tubes, assorted colors of cellophane (cut into squares), tape, washable markers, colored tape, stickers, Enhanced CD

- Guide a preschooler to tape a piece of cellophane over one end of a tube. Then he can decorate the tube.
- Open the Bibles to Psalm 119:160 and encourage the child to look at the verse in each Bible using his color viewer. Say the Preschool Verse.
- Remark: “Temple leaders and teachers asked Jesus questions, but they did not believe what Jesus answered. But one man knew God’s laws and Jesus’ words were true.”
- Listen to songs playing on the CD that help us think about the Bible and what it says.

PAINT OVER TAPE



Tools: Bible, heavyweight paper, crayons, painter’s tape, liquid tempera paints, paintbrushes, painting smocks

- Help a child “write” on a paper the names of people he loves. Suggest he write the names around the paper. Then give him strips of tape to cover the names.
- Tell the preschooler to paint lightly over the whole paper. Later, when the paint dries, gently remove the tape strips to reveal the names.
- Read the names. Mention to the preschooler that Jesus said the most important commandment is to love God, then love other people.

MAKE A BOOK

Tools: Bible, heavyweight paper (folded accordion style), family-type magazines, scissors, glue, colored pencils, crayons, ribbon

- Invite a child to make a book for a friend. Guide the preschooler to look for pictures of things he knows his friend likes or enjoys doing. The child can then cut out the pictures and glue them on book pages.
- When the child completes his book, tie a ribbon around the folded pages.
- Say: “You show love to friends when you make something special for them.”
- Comment: “Jesus said it is important to love God first, then your neighbor.”
- Tell children that God’s Word, the Bible, is true. We know when we read the Bible, we can believe it.

ARRANGE BIBLE WORD CUPS

Tools: Bible, plastic drinking cups, black marker, paper with Preschool Verse printed on it

- On each cup, write one word from the Preschool Verse and reference. Put the cups with the paper.
- Encourage a child to look at the paper as you read the verse. Then say: “Look at the cups. They have the same words. Can you put the cups in order to match the words on the paper?”
- Help the child sequence the cups, then read the Preschool Verse. Lead the child to say the verse with you.
- Open the Bible to 2 Peter 2. Remark: “Peter wrote about the Bible. He told people that everything written in the Bible is true.”

ASK QUESTIONS AND GUESS

Tools: Bible; Story Picture: A Question for Jesus; items from the classroom (Bible, Activity Page, wooden block, book, crayon, paintbrush, toy car, plastic dish, baby doll); large bag; towel

- Place the items in the bag.
- Invite one preschooler to get an item from the bag, but keep it hidden from friends. (He can cover it with a towel).
- Lead other children to ask questions to help them identify the item. They might ask questions such as: “Is it round? Can you hold it? Can you eat it?”
- After guessing items, show children the Story Picture. Remark that people asked Jesus questions about who He was and what the Bible said. Talk about Jesus’ answers.
- Tell preschoolers that every word in the Bible is true.

CIRCLE TIME (10-15 MINUTES, DEPENDING ON YOUR AGE GROUP)

LEADER TIP! USE THE BIBLE

Open a Bible to the Scripture passage while you tell the story. Doing this will help preschoolers know the story comes from the Bible.

CIRCLE TIME TOOLS

- Bible
- Enhanced CD
- Activity Page

PACK ITEMS

- 12 Story Picture: A Question for Jesus
- 36 Learn About the Bible Cards



LET'S GATHER.

- Play music on the CD and move through the room in a maze-like fashion. Circle Exploration Stations and encourage preschoolers to join you.
- Walk around the room, clapping or singing to the music, and ending in the Circle Time area.
- Invite children to tell about some of the things they heard about the Bible today. Recall some of the activities that preschoolers did.
- Say: "Every time we are at church we read from the Bible and learn. Jesus wanted people to know that everything written in the Bible told about Him and it was true. Let's listen to a story about questions people asked Jesus."



LET'S HEAR THE BIBLE STORY.

- Turn in the Bible to Mark 12 and keep the Bible opened in your lap as you tell the story.
- Pass the Story Picture around the circle for children to see.
- Invite preschoolers to tell their favorite part of the story.
- Ask: "What question did the scribe ask Jesus? How did Jesus answer the question? In what ways can we show that we love God?"
- Remove one chair from the circle. Tell preschoolers to move around the chairs while music plays.
- Stop the music and direct children to sit. Tell the child not sitting to tell one way we can love God or love others.
- Continue playing, giving other children an opportunity to speak.



LET'S PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS.

- Show preschoolers where the Book of Psalms is located in the Bible. Ask a volunteer to turn to Psalm 119, then another child to turn to verse 160. Help as needed.
- Lead the group to say the Preschool Verse.
- Comment that the Bible is a very special book that God has given us to learn about Him. Remind preschoolers that everything written in the Bible is true.
- Turn to 2 Peter 2 and comment that Peter wrote about the Bible.
- Invite children to choose Learn About the Bible Cards for you to read out loud.



LET'S PRAY TOGETHER.

- Invite preschoolers to pray if they are willing. Encourage them to pray for friends, family, people in need, and missionaries.
- After children pray, say a brief prayer. Pray: "We love You, God. Thank You for loving us and for giving us the Bible. Thank You that Your Word is true."



LET'S EXPLORE MORE.

- In small groups, guide preschoolers to work with a partner to complete the activity on the Activity Page.
- Lead children to say the Preschool Verse.
- Encourage children to recall things they have learned about the Bible.

**DON'T FORGET TO
GIVE THIS WEEK'S
ACTIVITY PAGE TO
PRESCHOOLERS!**



Session 13



LOVE JESUS

2 Peter 3:3-13,17-18

In this final session, the larger context verses include Peter’s teaching on “the Day of the Lord” as well as His concluding words. As has been the case for the earlier studies of this epistle, there is much that we do not know. Who, exactly, were the false teachers who were denying the second coming? Were they the same as the teachers Peter had condemned earlier in the letter? Although we can make educated guesses, we really don’t need to know the specifics. It is abundantly clear that Peter believed the best way to undercut those who scoffed at the second coming was to offer a positive presentation about the certainty of Christ’s return. Peter used the topic of the future to encourage his readers to live holy lives in the present.

The “waiting period” in the Day of the Lord and God’s judgment should not be understood as a delay, but an opportunity for all to come to repentance. God’s patience in bringing this sudden, awesome work is exemplary of His unending grace and mercy for those who have not yet placed their trust in His name.

Peter’s readers faced trials not unlike those faced by Christians today. Persecution, in its various forms, and false teaching with unsound doctrine, are considerable forces in motion. Therefore, it is essential that we hold true to the unwavering Word of God and find stability through growing in the grace and knowledge of Christ. We must fill ourselves with the knowledge and truth of God and wait expectantly for the day of His glorious and victorious return.

SESSION FOCUS

CORE PASSAGE

2 Peter 3:3-13,17-18

PRESCHOOL VERSE

2 Peter 3:9

PRESCHOOL TEXT TRUTH

God wants everyone to know and love Jesus.

PRESCHOOL CONNECTION STORY PASSAGE

John 4:1-26

CHRIST IN CONTEXT

Writing to the Jewish believers under persecution and opposition, Peter encouraged Christians to be confident in the hope they had because of Jesus. Jude warned Christians to believe only the truth about Jesus.

SESSION BRIEF

Peter strongly urged believers to remain faithful and diligent as they awaited the return of Jesus and a new heaven and new earth. The Christians were to conduct themselves in holiness and godliness, knowing God extended supreme love and grace to them.

Likewise, the Samaritan woman received the promise of new life through her encounter with Jesus. And in her joy, she ran to tell others about the life she had found in Jesus!

YOU CHOOSE!

Are your preschoolers ready to learn memory verses? Decide which wording of the Preschool Verse you want to use with your group.

From the Bible text:

The Lord is patient with you.
2 Peter 3:9

Preschool Verse Paraphrase:

God wants everyone to know and love Jesus. 2 Peter 3:9

TEXT TRUTH

God wants everyone to know and love Jesus.

PRESCHOOL VERSE

2 Peter 3:9

CONNECT TO 2 PETER:**A WOMAN MET JESUS****John 4:1-26**

Jesus and His helpers were walking through Samaria. They were tired. Jesus sat down beside a well to rest.

While Jesus rested, His helpers went to a nearby town to buy food.

In a while, someone else came to the well. A woman with a water jar had come to get water from the well. The woman saw Jesus.

“Will you give Me a drink of water?” Jesus asked the woman.

The woman was surprised that Jesus talked to her. She knew that people where Jesus lived did not talk to people from where she lived.

But Jesus kept talking to the woman. He told the woman everything she had done. Jesus told the woman that God loved her very much. He also told her that He was God’s Son.

The woman listened carefully. She was amazed at the things Jesus said. She knew that Jesus was special.

When Jesus’ helpers came back to the well, the woman left her water jar and hurried back to town. She told the people about Jesus. She said, “Come and see this special man. He told me everything I have done!”

SET THE STAGE FOR EXPLORATION

1. PREPARE FOR TEACHING

- Review the teaching plan and practice using Bible-focused conversation. Pray for the preschoolers and their families.
- Before children arrive, set out the materials needed for early arrivers. Put materials for Exploration Stations and Circle Time in baskets or paper bags and set them in the areas in which children will work. Teachers may want to set up the stations before class time.
- Display posters and teaching reminders in suggested locations to remind you of the biblical focus for today.

2. OFFER ARRIVAL ACTIVITIES (5 MINUTES)

Offer two or three choices for preschoolers to explore:

- Listen to songs about Jesus.
- Look at the Story Picture and build a well.
- Dip colored chalk in water and draw pictures.

3. GET STARTED (5 MINUTES)

- After all the children have arrived and enjoyed one or more arrival activities, introduce today's session by leading preschoolers in this chant: "God wants everyone to know and love Jesus! God wants everyone to know and love Jesus! God wants everyone to know and love Jesus!"
- Tell preschoolers to shout the words *everyone* and *Jesus* each time you repeat the statement.
- Comment: "Peter wrote in his second letter that God wants every person to know about His Son and love Him. That's what we're going to learn more about today. Let's go to our activities and get busy."

4. GO TO EXPLORATION STATIONS AND CIRCLE TIME.

TOOLS

- Bible
- Enhanced CD
- Story Picture: A Woman Met Jesus (Pack Item 13), Picture: Bible-times Well (Pack Item 28), wooden blocks, craft sticks
- paper, chalk, water

TEXT TRUTH

God wants everyone to know and love Jesus.

BIBLE STORY

A WOMAN MET JESUS

John 4:1-26

PRESCHOOL VERSE

2 Peter 3:9

PACK ITEMS

13 Story Picture: A Woman

Met Jesus

26 Game Spinner

28 Picture: Bible-times Well

EXPLORATION STATIONS (45-60 MINUTES)

Set up at least three stations to provide choices of multisensory activities and movement for busy preschoolers.

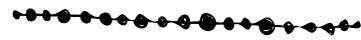
BUILD WITH SPONGE BLOCKS



Tools: Bible, new sponges, craft foam sheets, wooden blocks, scissors, Activity Page

- Cut new sponges into rectangles, squares, and triangles. You could trace around wooden blocks to make more unique shapes.
- Place the sponge blocks and craft foam on a table or hard surface. Invite children to build with the blocks and foam. You could also combine wood blocks with the sponge blocks for children to explore.
- Show children the picture on the Activity Page. Suggest that children construct a well similar to the one in the picture.
- Summarize the Bible story. Say: "Jesus wanted the woman to know that God sent Him to help people."

PLAY A COLOR GAME



Tools: Bible, Game Spinner (Pack), past Story Pictures featuring Jesus or pictures of Jesus cut from other sources, tape, squares of colored paper to match game spinner colors

- Tape a color square on the back of each picture. Lay the pictures on the floor facedown in a line.
- Invite a few children to turn the spinner, then hop to the picture with the same color square.
- Tell a child to turn over the picture and describe it. Lead him to recall the Bible story associated with the picture.
- Comment: "God wants everyone to know about Jesus and love Him."

MAKE ROCK MOSAICS

Tools: Bibles, Picture: Bible-times Well (Pack), sandpaper squares, small rocks and pebbles, glue, glue brushes

- Guide a child to brush glue over sandpaper, then press rocks and pebbles onto the glue. Note: Glue small sections at a time. The rocks will adhere better to the fresh glue.
- While a child creates her rock mosaic, show her the picture of the well. Mention that the woman went to the well to get water, and Jesus asked for a drink of water.
- Say: “The woman was surprised that Jesus even talked to her, but Jesus did, and He told her that God loved her.”
- Open the Bible to 2 Peter 3:9 and read the Preschool Verse.

MAKE A JESUS QUILT

Tools: Bible, Enhanced CD, squares of paper, Jesus picture cutouts, clear tape, crayons or markers, glue

- Play the CD and listen for songs about Jesus. Invite children to move, clap, and sing along.
- Distribute squares of paper. Invite children to draw or glue pictures of Jesus. On one square, write the Preschool Verse.
- When all the squares are decorated, enlist preschoolers’ help to arrange them on the table or floor. Tape the squares together to make a quilted wall hanging. Put the quilt on the wall near the Circle Time area.
- Tell preschoolers the Bible story. Note that God wants everyone to know and love His Son, Jesus.

POUR AND MEASURE WATER

Tools: Bible; Story Picture: A Woman Met Jesus (Pack); small pitcher, paper cups, measuring cups, towel

- Preschoolers always enjoy water play. Encourage one child at a time to dip and pour water from cup to cup. Show him how to measure amounts of water.
- As a child enjoys water play, connect the water to today’s Bible story. Comment that the woman was surprised when Jesus asked her for a drink of water. Then Jesus told the woman about God.
- Say: “God wants everyone to know and love Jesus. The woman learned that God sent Jesus to love and help people. The woman was so happy that Jesus was kind to her.”
- Help the preschooler find the place in the Bible where we read the story about Jesus and the woman.

CIRCLE TIME (10-15 MINUTES, DEPENDING ON YOUR AGE GROUP)

LEADER TIP! USE THE BIBLE

Open a Bible to the Scripture passage while you tell the story. Doing this will help preschoolers know the story comes from the Bible.

CIRCLE TIME TOOLS

- Bible
- Enhanced CD
- Activity Page

PACK ITEMS

13 Story Picture: A Woman Met Jesus



LET'S GATHER.

- Invite children to participate in a game of "I Spy."
- When everyone is in the group, say: "I spy a picture of Jesus talking with a woman at a well. Raise your hand when you see the picture."
- Give preschoolers turns to spy something in the room and describe the item. As much as possible, link the items to learning at church.
- Play one or more songs about Jesus and lead children to stand and sing along.
- Say: "Now let's listen to hear what a woman learned about Jesus."



LET'S HEAR THE BIBLE STORY.

- Show children the Story Picture, then pass it around the circle.
- Lay the picture on the floor in front of the children. Open the Bible to John 4 and tell the story.
- Ask questions to help children think about the story:
 - Why was the woman surprised when Jesus talked to her?*
 - What did Jesus know about the woman?*
 - What did Jesus tell the woman about God?*
 - Who did Jesus tell the woman that He was?*
 - What did the woman do when she left the well and went back to town?*
- Comment: "We learn from the Bible that God wants everyone to know about Jesus."



LET'S PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS.

- Explain that today's story is included in the New Testament. Ask preschoolers where the New Testament is found in the Bible.
- Say: "The New Testament tells about the things that happened after Jesus was born."
- Explain that the Preschool Verse is also found in the New Testament. Help a child turn to 2 Peter 3:9.
- Read the Preschool Verse and lead preschoolers to say it with you.



LET'S PRAY TOGETHER.

- Encourage preschoolers to mention prayer requests. Ask a volunteer to pray.
- Close prayer time, thanking God for the Bible and the story of Jesus.



LET'S EXPLORE MORE.

- Form small groups of two or three preschoolers and a teacher. Look at the Activity Page and do the activity.
- Lead children to repeat the Preschool Verse again.

**DON'T FORGET TO
GIVE THIS WEEK'S
ACTIVITY PAGE TO
PRESCHOOLERS!**

COMING NEXT QUARTER

WINTER 2016-17

JOSHUA, JUDGES, RUTH - These Books record the early history of Israel as the Hebrews moved into the Promised Land. Stories detail Israel's conquest of the land and their subsequent fall into a pattern of abandonment of God and return. Ruth's story is included, as well as a study for Christmas.

DATE	CORE PASSAGE	CONNECTION STORY PASSAGE	PRESCHOOL VERSE
Dec. 4	Joshua 1:1-9	Joshua 1:1-11; Deuteronomy 34:9	Joshua 1:5
Dec. 11	Joshua 6:12-25	Joshua 6:1-21	Joshua 4:24
Dec. 18	Joshua 10:6-14	Luke 1:26-38	Luke 1:32-33
Dec. 25	Luke 2:1-20	Luke 2:1-20	Luke 2:11
Jan. 1	Joshua 22:1-8	Joshua 21:43-45; 22:1-10	Joshua 22:5
Jan. 8	Joshua 24:14-28	Joshua 23:1-3; 24:1,14-28	Joshua 24:15
Jan. 15	Proverbs 24:11-12; Mark 10:46-49	Mark 10:46-52	Psalms 139:13
Jan. 22	Judges 2:11-19	Judges 2:6-19; Joshua 24:24	Judges 2:18
Jan. 29	Judges 4:4-10,12-16	Judges 4-5	Judges 5:3
Feb. 5	Judges 6:11-16,25-32	Judges 6:11-32	Judges 6:16
Feb. 12	Judges 16:4-6,13-20	Judges 13	Proverbs 3:6
Feb. 19	Ruth 1:6-18	Ruth 1:1-22	Psalms 63:1
Feb. 26	Ruth 3:8-13; 4:13-17	Ruth 2:1-23; 3:1-2; 4:13-17	Ruth 2:12

TOOLS FOR DIGGING DEEP!

PRESCHOOL TOOL KIT

The resources you need to lead one class:

- One Preschool Leader Guide
- One set of Preschool Activity Pages
- One Preschool Leader Pack
- One Enhanced CD



LEADER GUIDE

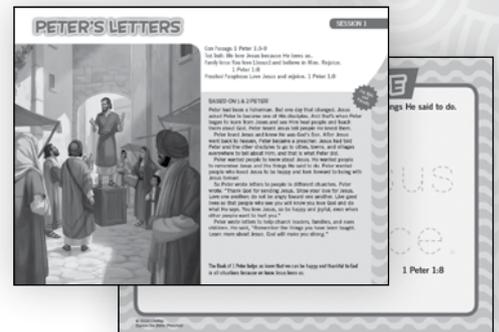
Help preschoolers dig into the Bible.

- Leader-friendly session plans for small- and large-group learning
- Sensory approach to exploring the Bible for pre-readers
- Exploration activities to encourage preschoolers to dig, explore, and discover Bible truths

ACTIVITY PAGES

Engage preschoolers in class and continue learning at home.

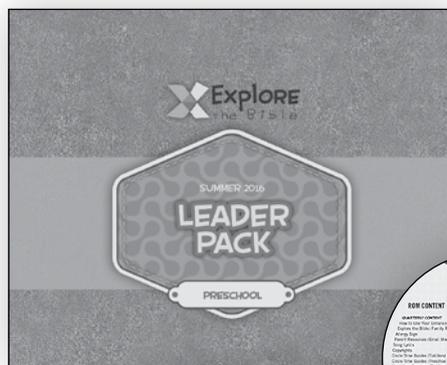
- Weekly Bible story pages with colorful illustrations
- Fun-to-do Bible-focused activities related to Bible content and application



LEADER PACK

Filled with leader-friendly resources that make teaching easy.

- Teacher helps
- Visual aids
- Story pictures
- Posters
- Games
- Bible memory tools



ENHANCED CD

- Bible-related songs
- Music for movement and rest time
- Printable teacher tools and session helps

PRESCHOOL TOOL KIT WITH WORSHIP

- Second-hour option
- Kid-friendly worship experience that reinforces every weekly session



For free online training on how to lead a group, visit ministrygrid.com/web/explorethebible.

THE GOSPEL

GOD'S PLAN FOR ME

The word *gospel* means “good news.” It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation.



GOD RULES. The Bible tells us God created everything, including you and me, and He is in charge of everything. Invite a volunteer to recite Genesis 1:1 from memory or read it from his Bible. Read Revelation 4:11 and Colossians 1:16-17.



WE SINNED. Since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God (Romans 3:23). The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death (Romans 6:23).



GOD PROVIDED. Read John 3:16 aloud. God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. Read Ephesians 2:8-9.



JESUS GIVES. Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Read Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; or 1 Peter 3:18.



WE RESPOND. We can respond to Jesus. “The ABCs of Becoming a Christian” is a simple tool that helps us remember how to respond when prompted by the Holy Spirit to the gift Jesus offers.

ADMIT

Admit to God that you are a sinner. The first people God created chose to sin and disobey God. Ever since then, all people have chosen to sin and disobey (Romans 3:23). Tell God you messed up and you are sorry for doing your own thing and turning away from Him through your thoughts, words, and actions. Repent, turn away from your sin. (Acts 3:19; 1 John 1:9) *Repent* doesn't just mean turning from doing bad things to doing good things. It means turning from sin and even from your own good works and turning to Jesus, trusting only in Him to save you.

BELIEVE

Believe that Jesus is God's Son and receive God's gift of forgiveness from sin. You must believe that only Jesus can save you and you cannot save yourself from your sin problem—not even by praying to God, going to church, or reading your Bible. Your faith or your trust is only in Jesus and what He did for you through His life, death, and resurrection. (Acts 16:31; Acts 4:12; John 14:6; Ephesians 2:8-9)

CONFESS

Confess your faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. Tell God and tell others what you believe. If Jesus is your Savior, you are trusting only in Him to save you. Jesus is also Lord, which means He is in charge and calling the shots in your life. You can start following Him and doing what He says in the Bible. You are born again into a new life and look forward to being with God forever. (Romans 10:9-10,13)

HELP KIDS NAVIGATE THE BIBLE!



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Fall 2016

