



OLDER KIDS  
**EXPLORE**  
the Bible.

Leader Guide > Summer 2018

*Robert Sloan, General Editor*



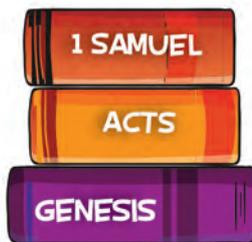
EXODUS, LEVITICUS, ACTS,  
1 & 2 CORINTHIANS

LifeWay | **Kids**

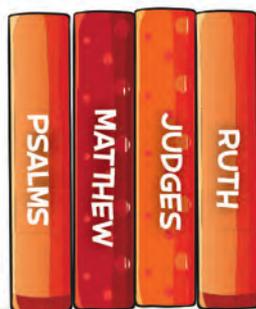
# BIBLICAL OVERVIEW 2017-18

This year kids and preschoolers will be studying the following books as they explore the Bible.

**FALL 2017**



**WINTER 2017-18**



**SPRING 2018**



**SUMMER 2018**

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## EXPLORE THE BIBLE: OLDER KIDS LEADER GUIDE

Summer 2018

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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 [lifeway.com/doctrinalguideline](http://lifeway.com/doctrinalguideline).

This study of Exodus, Leviticus, Acts, 1 & 2 Corinthians was written by Traci Perry. Recently Traci relocated to Missouri. She is excited to see where God will lead her to serve kids in her new home.

# AT A GLANCE

SESSION	SUGGESTED FOR THE WEEK OF	BIBLE STORY TITLE	BIBLE PASSAGE
<b>1</b>	June 3	Moses' Birth and Calling	Exodus 2-3
<b>2</b>	June 10	The Ten Plagues	Exodus 4-14
<b>3</b>	June 17	The Ten Commandments	Exodus 19:1-12,16-20; 20:1-17
<b>4</b>	June 24	The Tabernacle Was Built	Exodus 35:4-40:38
<b>5</b>	July 1	God Called for Holy Living	Leviticus 18:1-5; 19:1-4; 26:1-13
<b>6</b>	July 8	Peter Visited Cornelius	Acts 10:1-43
<b>7</b>	July 15	Paul Told About Jesus	Acts 16:11-15
<b>8</b>	July 22	Paul and Silas Praised God	Acts 16:16-38
<b>9</b>	July 29	Paul Traveled to Rome	Acts 27-28
<b>10</b>	Aug. 5	Unity in the Church	1 Corinthians 3; 12
<b>11</b>	Aug. 12	Paul Taught About Love	1 Corinthians 13
<b>12</b>	Aug. 19	The Ministry of a Believer	2 Corinthians 4:7-18; 5:16-21
<b>13</b>	Aug. 26	God's People Should Give	2 Corinthians 8-9

	<b>TEXT TRUTH</b>	<b>MEMORY VERSE</b>
	God heard His people and sent Moses to lead the Israelites from Egypt.	Exodus 3:12
	The plagues showed the Egyptians and the Israelites that God is the one true God.	Exodus 6:7a
	As a part of His covenant with Israel, God gave His people the law.	Psalms 119:138
	God wants to have a relationship with His people, so He provided a way for people to be in His presence.	Exodus 25:8
	God is holy, so we should pursue holiness.	Leviticus 18:4
	Salvation is for anyone who repents of his sin and trusts in Jesus.	Acts 10:34
	We should always be ready to tell people about Jesus.	1 John 3:23b
	Be faithful to God even during difficult times.	Acts 16:31
	God was always with Paul, enabling him to boldly share the gospel with others.	Matthew 28:19-20
	Everyone has different gifts, but we are all part of God's church.	1 Corinthians 15:58
	The greatest gift of the Holy Spirit is love, so do everything with love.	John 13:34b
	We are ambassadors of Jesus, who tell others how to have a relationship with God.	2 Corinthians 5:20
	Jesus gave the ultimate sacrifice. We can give sacrificially to help those in need.	2 Corinthians 9:7





Session

1



# GOD CALLED MOSES

## Exodus 2–3

At the close of the Book of Genesis we read of the death of Joseph. Once Joseph died the ruling pharaohs of Egypt soon forgot Joseph and his contributions to their society. Eventually Pharaoh enslaved the descendants of Joseph and his brothers. Life was hard for the people who were outsiders in the land. The people cried out to God for deliverance and God heard them.

The story of God’s plan to lead His people from bondage to Canaan starts with the birth and rescue of Moses. Pharaoh had enacted harsh mandates on the Israelites and had assigned the midwives to dispose of any male babies born to the Israelite women. The Egyptian midwives rebelled against this command because they trusted that God Almighty would not want babies to be murdered. About this time a baby boy was born to a woman named Jochebed from the tribe of Levi. Jochebed cleverly hid her son in the home until it became impossible to do that anymore.

When the baby was three months old, Jochebed prepared a basket made of papyrus, placed the baby inside the basket, and set the basket in the reeds at the bank of the Nile River. When the Pharaoh’s daughter approached the river, the baby’s sister, Miriam, stood watch over the basket. Once the baby was discovered, Miriam rushed to the bank and asked the princess if she would like for Miriam to find someone to nurse the baby for her. Miriam went to her own mother and Jochebed was able to nurse and raise her own son until it was time for him to go live with Pharaoh’s daughter in the palace.

Moses had left Egypt and was living in the land of Midian tending his father-in-law’s flocks. After many years, God appeared to Moses from the middle of a bush that was ablaze but did not burn up. God gave Moses a command to return to Egypt because God was going to use Moses to deliver the Israelites from the slavery they were under. God heard His people and sent Moses to lead the Israelites from Egypt.

## SESSION FOCUS

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Exodus 2–3

**MEMORY VERSE:** Exodus 3:12

**TEXT TRUTH:** God heard His people and sent Moses to lead the Israelites from Egypt.

**CHRIST IN CONTEXT:** The Book of Exodus is the story of God at work through Moses to rescue His people from bondage. In a greater way, Jesus was sent to rescue us from the bondage of sin. In Exodus the Passover lamb was sacrificed to save the Israelites. Later, Jesus would sacrifice Himself as the final Passover lamb, paying for our sin once and for all.

### GET STARTED TOOLS

(10 MINUTES)

- Bible Skills: *paper, pen, Books of the Bible Posters*

### BIBLE STUDY TOOLS

(35 MINUTES)

- Jump In: *“Nile River” (DVD-ROM)*
- Examine the Text: *Bibles, “Text Truth Strips” (Poster Pack)*
- Play the Video: *Explore the Bible on Location video*
- Memory Verse: *“Exodus 3:12” (Poster Pack)*
- Prayer: *Family Cards*

### SMALL GROUP TOOLS

(30 MINUTES)

- Explorer Guides: *Bibles, Explorer Guides, pens*
- Move: *none*
- Make: *paper cups, balloons, tape, pom-poms, paper, pen, scissors, “Allergy Alert” (enhanced CD)*
- Explore: *ice, gallon and pint-sized ziplock bags, cream, vanilla extract, kosher salt, sugar, spoons, oven mitts, “Allergy Alert” (enhanced CD), plastic tablecloths, measuring cups and spoons*

**NOTE:** Downloadable versions of DVD items are available in the Digital Video Bundle. Downloadable versions of enhanced CD items are available in the Music and Print Extras Bundle. For free online training on how to lead a group, visit [ministrygrid.com/web/explorethebible](http://ministrygrid.com/web/explorethebible).

# MOSES' BIRTH AND CALLING

## Exodus 2–3

*The Israelites had been living in Egypt and they grew and grew into a large group of people. A new pharaoh became the leader of Egypt. The new pharaoh was afraid of the number of Israelites. An Israelite woman had a baby and because of the new pharaoh, she hid her baby boy. For 3 months she hid the baby, but the baby grew too big to hide. So she made a special basket for the baby and put him inside the basket. She hid the basket in the reeds of the river. The baby's big sister, Miriam, watched the basket.*

*Pharaoh's daughter came to the river and she saw the basket. When she opened the basket and saw the baby, she felt sorry for him. She knew he was an Israelite baby. Miriam asked Pharaoh's daughter, "Should I find a Hebrew woman to care for the baby?" Pharaoh's daughter agreed. The baby's mother cared for him until he was old enough to go stay with Pharaoh's daughter who named the baby Moses.*

*Moses grew up. One day he saw an Egyptian mistreating an Israelite. Moses killed the man. He thought no one saw him, but he was wrong. Pharaoh soon heard what Moses did and Moses had to run away. Moses traveled to the land of Midian where he became a shepherd.*

*One day, Moses was watching the sheep near Mount Horeb. Moses saw something strange. A bush was on fire, but the bush did not burn up. Moses walked closer to the bush. God called to Moses from the bush, "Moses, Moses!"*

*"Here I am," Moses said.*

*God told Moses to stop and take off his sandals. "You are standing on holy ground," God said.*

*"I am the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. I have seen My people suffering in Egypt. I am going to rescue them from Egypt and bring them to a land that flows with milk and honey. Go. I am sending you to Pharaoh so you may lead My people from Egypt."*

*Moses was unsure. "If I go to the Israelites and they ask me who sent me, what should I say?"*

*God told Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. Tell them that the LORD, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob has sent you."*

*God had a plan for His people. God was going to use Moses to lead His people from Egypt to their new home, the promised land.*

### KEY POINTS

- God led Pharaoh's daughter to Moses to rescue him as a baby.
- Many years later God led Moses to Pharaoh to help rescue others.
- God's plan for Moses in Egypt illustrates His sovereignty.
- Each of us is a part of God's sovereign plan.

### TEXT CONNECTION

- Moses' mother, along with other Israelite women, had been under orders to get rid of their newborn babies. Jochebed kept her son in secret until it was no longer possible to do so.
- Once discovered by Pharaoh's daughter, Moses was reared in the palace and became known among the Egyptians. Later, Moses left the palace and ended up living in the land of Midian, tending the flocks of his father-in-law.
- While shepherding one day, Moses saw a bush that was on fire but not burning up. From the bush, God spoke to Moses and called him to rescue God's people from Pharaoh.
- God calls individuals to lead His people. God called Moses to lead His people from Egypt, and many years after Moses, God called David to lead Israel as king.
- The Book of 2 Samuel tells of David's coronation as king and how David was honored by those who came to the celebration. God's chosen leaders should be honored as such.

### EXPLORE THE BIBLE AT HOME

See the enhanced CD for additional family resources.

## GET STARTED (10 MINUTES)

### TOOLS:

- Bible Skills: paper, pen, Books of the Bible Posters

### BIBLE SKILLS PREPARATION:

- On separate pieces of paper print the name of each book of the Bible that will be discussed (*Exodus, Leviticus, Acts, 1 Corinthians, and 2 Corinthians*) as well as the following questions:
  - *Who wrote the text?*
  - *Who is the audience?*
  - *What was happening in the world?*
  - *When was the book written?*
  - *When did the events of the book take place?*
  - *Where was the book written?*
  - *Why was the book written?*

### BIBLE SKILLS

- Say: “Today, we are beginning a study that will include five different books of the Bible. Let’s talk about those books!”
- Display the following Books of the Bible Posters: *Exodus, Leviticus, Acts, 1 Corinthians, and 2 Corinthians.*
- Select three volunteers, and allow the first volunteer to randomly choose one of the books of the Bible.
- Guide the second volunteer to randomly choose one of the questions to read aloud.
- The third volunteer will read the answer to that question on the corresponding poster of that book.
- Repeat the activity until all the questions have been answered from each poster.
- If it will take too long to include three volunteers, consider making the selections yourself and involving only one volunteer to read the answer.
- At the end of the activity, allow the kids to show what they have learned by telling who wrote each book (*Exodus/Moses, Leviticus/Moses, Acts/Luke, 1 Corinthians/Paul, 2 Corinthians/Paul*). If time allows, ask them repeatedly until they are able to answer quickly each time.
- Say: “We’ve already learned some interesting things. I can’t wait to get started on this study!”
- Dismiss to Bible Study.

## BIBLE SKILLS SPOTLIGHT

- Uses Bible study resources to gather information about Bible writers.
- Identifies prominent Bible people by the books in which their stories are recorded.

## BIBLE STUDY (35 MINUTES)

### JUMP IN

- Greet the girls and boys as they arrive. Invite a few of the kids to tell the group any interesting things happening in their lives. Use their examples to help them recognize how every experience contributes to the entire story of their lives.
- Say: “Every day is another important experience in your life. Even our time together right now is part of your journey. God has something planned for you that includes being here today. Imagine how amazing it would be if God did something this week that would make it possible for you to accomplish something for Him when you’re 80 years old.”
- Display the “Nile River” visual.
- Ask: “Why do you think the Nile River is our object today?” Allow kids to share their guesses.
- Say: “Our object is the Nile River. The Nile is the longest river in the world. It has always been an important resource for Egypt. In today’s Bible story, we will hear how God used the Nile River to rescue a boy whom God had a plan for—even when he was a little baby.”
- Emphasize to the kids that God is at work in our lives long before we realize what He has in mind for us.

### EXAMINE THE TEXT

- Encourage the kids to open their Bibles to Exodus 2:5. As the verses are read, remember that they are not going to give the kids the full context of the story. That can be discussed as verses are read or completely explained as the story is told in full after the Bible reading.
- Read or invite the kids to help read Exodus 2:5-6,10.
- Say: “God placed Moses in an extraordinary situation that not only preserved his life, but also set him up to eventually gain perspective that would not have been possible any other way.”
- Read or choose kids to help read Exodus 2:23-25 and 3:9-10.
- Say: “God knew what His people needed. The things He had in mind for Moses were part of a larger plan for His people.”
- Tell the Bible story in your own words. A Bible story page has been provided for you to use as a guide.
- Ask: “What did God say His name was? I AM WHO I AM. God’s answer showed that God is eternal. He has always existed, He currently exists, and He will always exist in the future.”
- Display the “Text Truth Strip” for everyone to read aloud together: **God heard His people and sent Moses to lead the Israelites from Egypt.**

### TOOLS:

- Jump In: “Nile River” (DVD-ROM)
- Examine the Text: Bibles, “Text Truth Strips” (Poster Pack)
- Play the Video: Explore the Bible on Location video
- Memory Verse: “Exodus 3:12” (Poster Pack)
- Prayer: Family Cards

## NOTE:

- Exodus 6 and Numbers 26 reveal that Moses' mother was named Jochebed (*JAHK uh bed*).

## PLAY THE VIDEO

- Play the Session 1 video.
- Ask: "Would you want Joel to build a boat for you? Why did Jochebed need a basket? How did God protect Moses? What did God call Moses to do?"

## MEMORY VERSE

- Display the "Exodus 3:12" poster, and offer someone the opportunity to lead the group in reading it aloud together.
- Form a circle. Assign a single word of the verse to each kid in order around the circle until there are no more words in the verse left to assign. It is possible that some kids will have more than one word.
- Guide the kids to say their assigned words in order until they can work together well enough to say the verse without hesitation. Once they are able, reverse the order or randomly change the assigned words. After a few minutes of contributing their individually assigned words, the kids might be familiar enough with the entire verse to say it in unison.
- Encourage the kids to use this technique with friends to practice the Memory Verse during the week.

## PRAYER

- Distribute the Family Cards to the kids. Invite a volunteer to read aloud the description on the card.
- Ask: "When you share your cards with your families this week, what do you think our object, the Nile River, will help you remember?" Allow the kids to discuss the things they will remember until someone responds with the Text Truth: **God heard His people and sent Moses to lead the Israelites from Egypt.**
- Say: "God had plans for Moses even when Moses floated in a basket in the Nile River. He has plans for you too."
- Spend some time praying for the kids to trust God's plans for their lives. If possible, mention each kid by name.
- Dismiss to Small Group.

## SMALL GROUP (30 MINUTES)

### EXPLORER GUIDES

- Distribute Explorer Guides and lead kids to locate today's pages, "God Called Moses."
- Review today's object, the "Nile River." Invite kids to recall where the Nile River appeared in today's Bible story.
- Select volunteers to read aloud "I Am the Lord." Then guide kids to complete the activity, "Names of God." As time allows, choose a few of the names for the kids to look up in the Bible.
- Guide kids to examine the ancient sandals.
- Help volunteers read the "Fire Facts."
- Close by allowing the kids some reflection time while they complete the "God Hears" prompt.

### TECH CONNECT (OPTIONAL)

- Prior to Bible study, download the Explore the Bible: Kids Family App.
- Use the activity labeled "Explorer Plus" on the app.

### ACTIVITIES

- Select one or more of the activities to complete as time allows.

### TOOLS:

- Explorer Guides: Bibles, Explorer Guides, pens

## STOP AND GO

*Tools: none*

- **Say:** "We know from our Bible story that **God heard His people and sent Moses to lead the Israelites from Egypt.** Moses needed to follow God's instructions in order to lead the Israelites. The Israelites needed to listen to Moses to be able to comply with God's plan. We can learn a lot from their examples about how important it is to stay aware of what God is doing in our lives and how He wants us to live. We are going to practice working together, staying attentive, obeying the rules, and observing one another."
- Allow the kids to move around the room randomly. Inform them that they must all be moving at the same time. That is the most important part of the game. They work together to stop or go. They do not have to be moving in the same direction or doing the same things. The only requirement is that they all move at the same time.
- If one person stops moving, everyone must stop moving.
- Once everyone stops, all the kids must wait at least three seconds after the last person stops before moving again. If no one moves after three seconds, all the kids must remain still until someone finally moves. Once someone moves, they must all move again. This will repeat throughout the entire game.



## POM-POM LAUNCHER



Tools: paper cups, balloons, tape, pom-poms, paper, pen, scissors, “Allergy Alert” (enhanced CD)

- Write each word of the Text Truth on individual pieces of paper.
- Tape the pieces of paper with the individual words of the Text Truth—**God heard His people and sent Moses to lead the Israelites from Egypt**—in various places on a wall. Position tape on or around the papers so that the sticky side is turned out. Double-sided removable tape is ideal but not necessary. There will need to be quite a bit of sticky tape available since all the kids will be aiming at the same surfaces.
- Guide the kids to tie the open ends of the balloons and cut holes in the other ends large enough to fit a cup inside each one. Help the kids cut or tear holes in the bottoms of their paper cups then cover the bottoms of the cups with the balloons. Depending on how well the cups fit, they might want to tape the balloons in place.
- Lead the kids to a certain location in the room and designate a barrier or foul line. Consider having kids sit on the floor for added difficulty. Direct boys and girls to load a single pom-pom in each of their cups.
- Shout “launch” to begin the chaos. The kids will pull on the tied ends of the balloons then let go to attempt to land pom-poms on the tape of each word of the Text Truth in order. The first to complete the task wins.
- Conclude by reviewing the Bible story and the Text Truth: **God heard His people and sent Moses to lead the Israelites from Egypt.**

## HOMEMADE ICE CREAM



Tools: ice, gallon and pint-sized ziplock bags, cream, vanilla extract, kosher salt, sugar, spoons, oven mitts, “Allergy Alert” (enhanced CD), plastic tablecloths, measuring cups and spoons

- This activity includes salted ice which creates a chemical reaction that essentially makes the ice colder. It is probably best, especially for the kids, to avoid skin contact with the salted ice.
- Place plastic tablecloths on the floor to catch any spills or dribbles.
- Help each kid fill a gallon size ziplock bag half full with ice. Add  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup of kosher salt.
- Fill a pint size ziplock bag with  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup of cream,  $\frac{1}{4}$  teaspoon of vanilla extract, and a tablespoon of sugar.
- Carefully seal the smaller bag, and insert it inside the larger bag, making sure to cover it with the ice. Seal the large bag, and vigorously shake it for at least five minutes. It will require mitts or some sort of hand protection, because the bags will get cold.
- As the kids shake the bags, help them recite the Text Truth: **God heard His people and sent Moses to lead the Israelites from Egypt.**
- Say: “Name a time that you eat ice cream.” Allow kids to share.
- Emphasize that ice cream is often eaten on birthdays and times of celebration.
- Say: “When Moses was born, I’m sure his parents were happy. But it was also a scary time. Pharaoh didn’t want the Israelites to have more kids, but who protected Moses?” (God did by using Moses’ mother, sister, and Pharaoh’s daughter.)
- Conclude: “We can trust God during times of celebration and in difficult times. He is always with us just as He was with Moses and had a plan for Moses.”
- Give kids a spoon and allow them to enjoy some ice cream.



## Session 2



# GOD'S POWER OVER EGYPT

## Exodus 4–14

When Moses arrived back in Egypt, he found a people excited to know that God had heard their pleas and had sent someone to deliver them from Egyptian oppression. Moses and his brother, Aaron, approached Pharaoh and gave him a message from God. Pharaoh's response was one that denied the existence of any god but himself—a typical belief of Egyptian pharaohs. Pharaoh's unbelief would not serve him well as his exchanges with Moses and Aaron continued.

After Moses and Aaron first visited Pharaoh, he increased the workload of the Israelites whom he suspected of being lazy or having way too much time on their hands. Israel did not react kindly to this news and felt that Moses had come to oppress them further instead of coming to their aid. God had a plan and intended to show both Egypt and Israel that He alone was the one true God. God told Moses to encourage the people that God would indeed bring them out of slavery and take them to their own land.

In their second approach to the throne of Pharaoh, Moses and Aaron again asked to be allowed to go and worship their God. This time, instead of outright denial, Pharaoh asked for a sign. God had already prepared a sign; Aaron cast his staff on the ground and it became a snake. Each successive sign from God increased in intensity and complexity. The first few signs affected both Israel and Egypt. Later signs affected only Egypt. The plagues therefore showed both the Egyptians and the Israelites that God is the one true God.

The final plague, the death of the firstborn, affected both the Egyptians and those unbelieving Israelites who had not trusted God's word. Following this plague, Pharaoh relented and allowed the Israelites to leave Egypt and go worship their God. As God had promised, the Egyptians willingly gave over their wealth to the Israelites as they left. God helped His people leave Egypt and He took care of them as they obeyed.

## SESSION FOCUS

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Exodus 4–14

**MEMORY VERSE:** Exodus 6:7a

**TEXT TRUTH:** The plagues showed the Egyptians and the Israelites that God is the one true God.

**CHRIST IN CONTEXT:** The Book of Exodus is the story of God at work through Moses to rescue His people from bondage. In a greater way, Jesus was sent to rescue us from the bondage of sin. In Exodus the Passover lamb was sacrificed to save the Israelites. Later, Jesus would sacrifice Himself as the final Passover lamb, paying for our sin once and for all.

### GET STARTED TOOLS

(10 MINUTES)

- Bible Skills: “Bible Book Cards” (enhanced CD), Bibles

### BIBLE STUDY TOOLS

(35 MINUTES)

- Jump In: none
- Examine the Text: “Dead Tree” (DVD-ROM), Bibles, “Text Truth Strips” and “Christ in Context: Exodus” (Poster Pack)
- Play the Video: Explore the Bible on Location video
- Memory Verse: “Exodus 6:7a” (Poster Pack)
- Prayer: Family Cards

### SMALL GROUP TOOLS

(30 MINUTES)

- Explorer Guides: Bibles, Explorer Guides, pens
- Move: table tennis balls, bucket, straws, masking tape
- Make: coffee filters, markers, spray bottle, water, paper towels, poster board, hair dryer, glue
- Explore: “Letters” (enhanced CD), ziplock baggies, scissors, paper, pencils

**NOTE:** Downloadable versions of DVD items are available in the Digital Video Bundle. Downloadable versions of enhanced CD items are available in the Music and Print Extras Bundle. For free online training on how to lead a group, visit [ministrygrid.com/web/explorethebible](http://ministrygrid.com/web/explorethebible).

# THE TEN PLAGUES

## Exodus 4–14

*God had heard His people cry for help. God chose Moses to lead the people from Egypt.*

*Moses and his brother Aaron went to Pharaoh, “The LORD, the God of Israel says: Let My people go.”*

*Pharaoh replied, “Who is the LORD that I should obey Him? I will not let Israel go.”*

*Instead of releasing the Israelites, Pharaoh made them work harder.*

*God told Moses, “Pharaoh will let the people go because of My strong hand.” God told Moses and Aaron to go see Pharaoh and say, “This is how you will know that I am the LORD, I will strike the water of the Nile with my staff and it will turn to blood. The Egyptians will not be able to drink water from the river.”*

*Moses and Aaron did exactly what God told them and God turned the Nile into blood. But Pharaoh did not care.*

*God sent more plagues to the Egyptians. The land was covered with frogs, gnats, and then flies. The livestock of the Egyptians died. The Egyptians got boils. Hail rained down on Egypt. Locusts came and ate everything that wasn’t destroyed by the hail. Then darkness came over the land for three days.*

*More than once Pharaoh said he would let the people go if God stopped the plague. But Pharaoh changed his mind when the plague stopped.*

*God sent one final plague. Every firstborn Egyptian male died, but God provided protection for Israel. The Israelites spread the blood of a lamb over the doorposts of their houses, and the firstborn male lived. Pharaoh finally agreed to let the people go.*

*God led the Israelites toward the Red Sea. He led them with a pillar of cloud during the day and a pillar of fire at night.*

*Soon, Pharaoh changed his mind. He ordered his troops to go after the Israelites. As Pharaoh approached, the Israelites became terrified. Moses told the people, “Don’t be afraid. God will provide for you.”*

*God told Moses, “Lift up your staff over the sea. The sea will divide and you will walk through on dry ground. Egypt will know that I am the LORD.”*

*When Israel had walked across the dry ground, the Egyptians chased them. God told Moses to stretch out his hand and the sea would close. Pharaoh and his army were covered by the sea. God had protected His people. Israel saw God’s great power and believed in Him.*

### KEY POINTS

- God did exactly what He told Moses He would do.
- Pharaoh wanted to be in control and did not want to do things God’s way.
- The plagues showed that God is the one true God.

### TEXT CONNECTION

- God heard the Israelites cry out for help. God had prepared Moses to be the deliverer of the people. Moses and Aaron spoke to Pharaoh and asked that God’s people be allowed to go and worship the one true God.
- God had promised Moses that Pharaoh would let the people go, but God had plans before that—plans that would prove to both Israel and Egypt that God was indeed the one and only true God.
- Moses was committed to God’s plan and as the plagues progressed, Moses remained faithful to God and God honored Moses’ faithfulness.
- God honors leaders who are committed to His purposes. Just as God honored Moses for his faithful obedience, God also honored David.
- Second Samuel 3 tells of Abner, King Saul’s cousin, who pledged his faithfulness to David, the new king. Abner faithfully served David throughout David’s kingship as they followed the leading of the one true God.

### EXPLORE THE BIBLE AT HOME

See the enhanced CD for additional family resources.

## GET STARTED (10 MINUTES)

### TOOLS:

- Bible Skills: “Bible Book Cards” (enhanced CD), Bibles

### BIBLE SKILLS

- Say: “There are 39 books in the Old Testament. Each book tells us unique things about God. Altogether, they share a message of the coming Messiah.”
- Read and help the kids repeat the books of the Old Testament in order.
- Say: “There are 27 books in the New Testament telling us unique things about God. The message of the New Testament completes the Old Testament. The promised Messiah arrived as a baby in a manger, lived a perfect life, sacrificed Himself on a cross, was buried in a borrowed tomb, rose from the dead, ascended to heaven, and is coming again someday.”
- Read and have the kids repeat the books of the New Testament in order.
- Say: “The Bible tells of our amazing God. Everything we learn from the Bible will help us know Him better. One small way we can attempt to know God better is to learn the names of each book of the Bible.”
- Distribute “Bible Book Cards” in random order.
- Ask: “Who has Genesis?”
- Instruct the kid who has the Genesis card to say, “I have Genesis. Who has Exodus?”
- The kids will continue in order through the books of the Bible. If any kid does not know which book is next in the order, give three options and allow him to select the appropriate one.
- After the group has named all the books of the Bible, repeat the activity. This time have all the kids announce the name of each book together. If possible, repeat it multiple times so each kid gets familiar with the names and order of the books.
- Dismiss to Bible Study.

## BIBLE SKILLS SPOTLIGHT

- Names all the books of the Old Testament and all the books of the New Testament.
- Memorizes Bible passages and quotes individual verses when given the reference.
- Learns the Bible is God’s message about Himself and how He rescues and transforms us.

## BIBLE STUDY (35 MINUTES)

### JUMP IN

- Greet the kids as they arrive.
- Pretend to place a crown on each kid's head.
- Say: "Imagine that I just gave you special privileges. You now get everything you want for the rest of your life and everyone is obligated to do everything your way."
- Explain to the kids that they can throw their imaginary crowns in the garbage and not accept their privileges.
- Say: "Think of what it would take to get you to throw it in the garbage. If I told you that you could avoid destruction, would you give up control and toss away your crown?" Allow the kids to respond.
- Say: "We might not always think it is better to do things God's way, but it is. God is always in control. His way is always best. If we resist doing things God's way, we risk exposing ourselves to destructive consequences. We'll see an example of that in our study today."

### EXAMINE THE TEXT

- Say: "I'm going to tell you a story of how God displayed His authority by causing an entire group of people and their leader to plead for what they had originally opposed."
- Tell the Bible story in your own words. A Bible story page has been provided for you to use as a guide.
- Display the "Dead Tree" visual. Explain that it is an image of a tree destroyed by locusts.
- Ask: "Why do you think our object is a dead tree? What type of destruction did Egypt experience?"
- Guide kids to read Exodus 10:13-15.
- Continue: "This tree has been eaten by locusts. Can you imagine all the trees in Egypt looking like this one—no leaves, no fruit? God was showing Pharaoh that He is the one and only God, but did Pharaoh listen?"
- Say: "During some of the plagues, Pharaoh attempted to negotiate with God. He begged Moses and Aaron to ask God to relieve them of the plague. Pharaoh looked to God when he suffered, but resisted God when he experienced relief."
- Invite the kids to discuss Pharaoh's insincerity. He did not want to let go of his power or have any consequences for his decisions. Help the kids compare that example to genuine repentance and faith.
- Encourage the kids to open their Bibles to Exodus 6.
- Say: "Notice in these verses how God speaks of what is to come. Even before the first plague, God had already declared freedom for the Israelites."
- Read or invite the kids to help read Exodus 6:1-2 and 7:4-5.

### TOOLS:

- Jump In: none
- Examine the Text: "Dead Tree" (DVD-ROM), Bibles, "Text Truth Strips" and "Christ in Context: Exodus" (Poster Pack)
- Play the Video: Explore the Bible on Location video
- Memory Verse: "Exodus 6:7a" (Poster Pack)
- Prayer: Family Cards

- Say: “When Pharaoh finally let the Israelites go, even the Egyptians were eager for them to leave. God accomplished everything He said He would do.”
- Read or choose a couple of the kids to read Exodus 12:33-36,50-51.
- Display the “Text Truth Strip” for everyone to read aloud together: **the plagues showed the Egyptians and the Israelites that God is the one true God.**
- Display the “Christ in Context: Exodus” poster. Read the statement and discuss how the events in our Bible story foreshadowed Jesus.

## PLAY THE VIDEO

- Play the Session 2 video.
- Ask: “What bugs did Kaileigh meet? What did she learn from the bug specialist? What did she learn from the Book of Exodus?”

## MEMORY VERSE

- Review the previous week’s verse, Exodus 3:12.
- Consider offering special recognition to kids who recite the verse during the review each week.
- Display the “Exodus 6:7a” poster, and offer someone the opportunity to lead the group in reading it aloud together.
- After reading the verse, ask a volunteer to attempt to recite it. Because it is a relatively short verse, it is possible that some of the kids will be able to remember it quickly.
- If anyone is able to recite it correctly, rally the rest of the group to join you in a three second standing ovation. Offer standing ovations for any other volunteers who recite the verse.
- Even if they are already able to recite the verse, encourage the kids to practice this week so that they do not forget it.

## PRAYER

- Distribute the Family Cards to the kids. Invite a volunteer to read aloud the description on the card.
- Ask: “When you share your cards with your families this week, what do you think our object of the dead tree will help you remember?” Allow the kids to discuss the things they will remember until someone responds with the Text Truth: **the plagues showed the Egyptians and the Israelites that God is the one true God.**
- Say: “God is in control. We can trust Him and know that He hears our prayers.”
- Invite the kids to bow their heads, and allow those who want to participate to take turns saying, “Help me trust you, God.” Close by praying for everyone to know that they can trust God.
- Dismiss to Small Group.

## SMALL GROUP (30 MINUTES)

### EXPLORER GUIDES

- Distribute the Explorer Guides and help kids find today's pages, "God's Power over Egypt."
- Invite kids to check out the object, the "Dead Tree." Remind kids that one of the plagues was locusts.
- Review some of the plagues by helping kids read "The Plagues."
- Say: "God wanted Egypt to understand that He is the one true God."
- Guide kids to recall the Bible story as they solve the "Bible Story True/False" activity. (Answers: True; False; False; True; True)
- Select a volunteer to read aloud about an ancient Egyptian pharaoh in "King Tut's Thrones."
- Challenge kids to create their own hieroglyphics message about today's Bible story in the space provided.

### TECH CONNECT (OPTIONAL)

- Prior to Bible study, download the Explore the Bible: Kids Family App.
- Use the activity labeled "Explorer Plus" on the app.

### ACTIVITIES

- Select one or more of the activities to complete as time allows.

### TOOLS:

- Explorer Guides: Bibles, Explorer Guides, pens

## BUCKET OR STRAWS

*Tools: table tennis balls, bucket, straws, masking tape*

- Before beginning the game, give the kids a chance to practice saying the Text Truth: **the plagues showed the Egyptians and the Israelites that God is the one true God.**
- Give each kid one table tennis ball and two straws, and organize them in a line facing the bucket. Instruct the first kid in line to stand behind a tape line and toss the ball into the bucket. Make sure the bucket is far enough away to create a high level of difficulty.
- If the ball lands in the bucket, he will shout the first word of the Text Truth, and go to the back of the line.
- If the ball does not land in the bucket, he will have to use the straws to retrieve it and carry it to the back of the line. Once he is back in line, he no longer has to use the straws to hold it.
- The next player in line will toss the ball. If it lands in the bucket she will shout the second word of the Text Truth.
- Each player will take a turn retrieving the ball with the straws or shouting the next word in the Text Truth.
- The game ends when the entire Text Truth has been shouted.



## COFFEE FILTER ART



*Tools: coffee filters, markers, spray bottle, water, paper towels, poster board, hair dryer, glue*

- Set up a spritzing and drying station ahead of time. Layer paper towels in rows that can be reached by the hair dryer.
- Say: “According to our Text Truth, **the plagues showed the Egyptians and the Israelites that God is the one true God.** Thankfully, we don’t have to experience that to know God. We can read those Bible stories in our Bibles and learn from others who already know God.”
- As a group, discuss people in the church who teach others about God. Work together to select a person to thank or encourage.
- Guide the kids to use the markers to cover the coffee filters with various color patterns, then spritz them with water from the spray bottle. A little water will cause the colors to blend, but too much will remove the colors.
- As they are ready, hold one filter at a time on a paper towel, and dry it with the hair dryer. It will work to dry more than one at a time, but the colors will blend together if the coffee filters touch. If a hair dryer is not available, plan ahead for drying time.
- Once dry, allow the kids to begin gluing the filters in various places on the poster board. Remind them that only a small amount of glue is necessary to hold them in place.
- After the kids have filled the poster board, they will have a unique piece of art to give as a gift to the person they selected as a thank you for teaching them about the one true God.

## BIBLE WORDS MATH



*Tools: “Letters” (enhanced CD), ziplock baggies, scissors, paper, pencils*

- Print each group of 3-4 kids a set of “Letters.” Cut the letters out and place them inside a ziplock bag.
- Review the Text Truth: **the plagues showed the Egyptians and the Israelites that God is the one true God.**
- Say: “Although God showed Himself in a mighty way to the Egyptians, Pharaoh did not want to believe in God.”
- Explain that you will be playing a review game. Help kids form groups of 3-4. Give each a set of letters.
- Say: “I have given every team a set of letters. Each letter is worth a certain number of points. Your goal is to use the letters to spell words from our Bible story. Write down each word on your paper and add up the letters to reveal how many points that word is worth. Write down the points next to the word.”
- Continue: “Each team will have 3 minutes to spell as many words as possible. Remember the words have to be connected to today’s Bible story.”
- Play the game.
- After the game, review the words the kids thought of. Congratulate the team with the most words, the team with the highest score, and the team with the longest word.



## Session 3



# GOD'S COVENANT WITH ISRAEL

**Exodus 19:1-12,16-20; 20:1-17**

After Israel passed safely through the Red Sea, God led the people to a mountain to worship. About three months after leaving Egypt, Israel was camped at the base of a mountain in the Sinai wilderness. The wilderness the Israelites were in is not anything like what we think of when we hear the word *wilderness*. This wilderness was devoid of anything but rock and sand. No water, trees, or life of any kind was likely in the area. A vast wasteland would better define where Israel found themselves. This setting is where God chose to dwell among His people and instruct them through Moses, God's chosen servant.

Moses went up the mountain to meet with God. God's first command to Moses was a very simple, easy to understand, command. God told Moses to tell the people if they would listen to His commands and follow them, God would take the people as His own and make them into a set apart kingdom of priests and holy people. The people responded that they would indeed follow God.

God commanded the Israelites, through Moses, to cleanse themselves and be prepared for God's presence to come down upon the mountain and speak to the people. God gave specific instructions for the people and three days later God came down upon the mountain. As part of His covenant with Israel, God gave His people the Law. The text tells us that Moses was at the base of the mountain with the people when God issued the Ten Commandments.

The first four commands focused on man's relationship with God. That relationship needed to identify God as the one and only God and to rid the people of belief in impostors or idols that would take His place. The remaining commands dealt with man's relationship to other people. Interpersonal relationships needed to be filled with respect and love, echoing God's love for people. Formally God's rules help us know how to love God and love others.

## SESSION FOCUS

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Exodus 19:1-12,16-20; 20:1-17

**MEMORY VERSE:** Psalm 119:138

**TEXT TRUTH:** As a part of His covenant with Israel, God gave His people the law.

**CHRIST IN CONTEXT:** The Book of Exodus is the story of God at work through Moses to rescue His people from bondage. In a greater way, Jesus was sent to rescue us from the bondage of sin. In Exodus the Passover lamb was sacrificed to save the Israelites. Later, Jesus would sacrifice Himself as the final Passover lamb, paying for our sin once and for all.

### GET STARTED TOOLS

(10 MINUTES)

- Bible Skills:** *index cards, scissors, Bibles, paper, pens*

### BIBLE STUDY TOOLS

(35 MINUTES)

- Jump In:** *“Ten Commandments” (DVD-ROM)*
- Examine the Text:** *Bibles, “Text Truth Strips” and “Ten Commandments Poster” (Poster Pack), “The Gospel” (enhanced CD)*
- Play the Video:** *Explore the Bible on Location video*
- Memory Verse:** *“Psalm 119:138” (Poster Pack)*
- Prayer:** *Family Cards*

### SMALL GROUP TOOLS

(30 MINUTES)

- Explorer Guides:** *Bibles, Explorer Guides, pens*
- Move:** *heavyweight paper, dowels, craft sticks, paper, tape, stapler, straws, scissors, tables*
- Make:** *heavyweight paper, hole punches, pens, binder rings, Memory Verse posters (Poster Pack)*
- Explore:** *none*

**NOTE:** Downloadable versions of DVD items are available in the Digital Video Bundle. Downloadable versions of enhanced CD items are available in the Music and Print Extras Bundle. For free online training on how to lead a group, visit [ministrygrid.com/web/explorethebible](http://ministrygrid.com/web/explorethebible).

# THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

**Exodus 19:1-12,16-20; 20:1-17**

*God led the Israelites out of Egypt. The Israelites camped at Mount Sinai. Moses went up the mountain to listen to God. God said, “You saw that I rescued you from the Egyptians. If you will listen and keep My covenant, you will be My special people, My holy nation.”*

*Moses went back to the people and shared what God had said. The people agreed to obey God and keep His covenant.*

*God told Moses to get ready. God was going to speak to Moses and the Israelites would hear it, so they would always believe what Moses said about God. God told Moses to prepare the people. God was going to come down to Mount Sinai.*

*Moses prepared the people. He explained that no one was allowed on the mountain. On the third day, there was lightning and thunder and a thick cloud covered the mountain. The people heard a loud trumpet. Moses brought all of the people to stand before God. The mountain was covered in smoke because God came down on the mountain in fire. Moses went up the mountain and spoke to God. God answered him in the thunder.*

*God gave His people these commands: Do not have other gods; Do not make any idols; Do not misuse the name of the Lord your God; Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy; Honor your father and mother; Do not murder; Do not commit adultery; Do not steal; Do not lie; Do not covet.*

*The people were scared by the lightning, thunder, trumpet, and smoke. Moses explained that God didn’t want the people to be afraid. God wanted the people to respect and honor Him and not to break His law. While the people stood at a distance, Moses approached the mountain to hear more of the laws God had for His people.*

## KEY POINTS

- **As a part of His covenant with Israel, God gave His people the law.**
- God’s law shows us what is right and wrong. It also shows us that we need forgiveness.
- No one can follow God’s law perfectly, only Jesus could do that.
- Because Jesus fulfilled the law, His sacrifice was accepted to pay the penalty for our sin.

## TEXT CONNECTION

- After traveling for a few months following their escape from Egypt, the Israelites settled at the base of Mount Sinai. God’s presence came to dwell on the mountain. It was there God gave Israel His rules for living.
- God gave His people the law to help them identify how they should relate both to God and to other people. God commanded the people to treat Him with respect and to honor Him alone as the one true God.
- Next, God directed the people’s relationships with one another to be loving, honoring, and respecting.
- God’s works and presence were recognized by His people and they celebrated.
- Second Samuel 5–6 records another celebration that gave glory to God. The ark of the covenant had rested too long away from the people. David had built a place in Jerusalem, his capitol city, for the ark to rest. Once in place, the people celebrated as God’s presence came to dwell among His people again.

## EXPLORE THE BIBLE AT HOME

See the enhanced CD for additional family resources.

## GET STARTED (10 MINUTES)

### TOOLS:

- Bible Skills: index cards, scissors, Bibles, paper, pens

### PREPARATION:

- Cut small rectangular sections out of the centers of index cards. Make them random lengths so that when they are placed on the top of a page of the Bible different words are visible through the cutouts.

### TIP:

- A great resource for pronouncing Bible names and places is “That’s Easy for You to Say” by W. Murray Severance.

### BIBLE SKILLS

- Each kid will get an index card with a section cut out of it. He will place the card on different pages of the Book of Exodus to search for words that fit within the section on his card. As he finds words that fit, he will write them down.
- Encourage the kids to look for words that seem unfamiliar or have complicated pronunciations.
- Once the kids have each found a certain number of words, have them read their words. It should be fun to practice all the unusual pronunciations together.
- This activity can be isolated to a particular chapter in a book or the kids can be assigned different sections of the Bible. It can be altered for the group depending on how familiar the kids are with the various words in Scripture.
- The goal is to help the kids recognize more words in the Bible to gain confidence as they read. It will also be less distracting to them when they encounter an uncommon word.
- You may want to prepare several unusual names and places mentioned in the Book of Exodus to present to the kids in addition to the ones they encounter during their search. This will ensure a variety of challenging words.
- To avoid any confusion, consider accessing a book or digital resource to refer to for proper pronunciation.
- Encourage kids that adults (*even pastors and teachers*) do not automatically know how to pronounce all of the unusual names in the Bible. They also have to practice and look some of them up.
- Dismiss to Bible Study.

## BIBLE SKILLS SPOTLIGHT

- Pronounces most of the names of Bible people, places, and things mentioned in the Bible.
- Locates from memory often-used Bible passages and memory verses such as: The Ten Commandments (*Exodus 20*).

## BIBLE STUDY (35 MINUTES)

### JUMP IN

- Greet the kids as they arrive by asking if they know the difference between right and wrong. Select multiple volunteers to give examples.
- Ask: “How do we know if something is right or wrong?” Allow the kids to respond.
- Say: “God determines what is right or wrong. The Bible tells us how to know if something is acceptable to God.”
- Display the “Ten Commandments” visual.
- Ask: “Does anyone know what today’s object is? It’s the Ten Commandments. Does anyone want to guess what language the commands are written in on this tablet? It’s Hebrew. Hebrew is the language that most of the Old Testament was written in. Why do you think this is our object?”
- Say: “Today, we’ll be talking about these simple commands that God gave to Israel. These commands tell us how God wants His people to live. They also show us how much we need Jesus.”

### EXAMINE THE TEXT

- Display the “Text Truth Strip” for everyone to read aloud together: **as a part of His covenant with Israel, God gave His people the law.**
- Say: “God wanted the Israelites to know right from wrong, so He gave them guidance. His instructions to Israel still matter to us today. We have a new covenant with God, but His law still shows us right from wrong. It also helps us see how much we need forgiveness.”
- Display the “Ten Commandments Poster.”
- Encourage the kids to open their Bibles to Exodus. Read or invite the kids to help read Exodus 20:1-17. Although some of the kids might be familiar with this passage, it is possible they have never actually read it directly from the Bible. Discuss the importance of reading the Bible. If time allows, invite the kids to share the most recent passages they have read.
- Tell the Bible story in your own words. A Bible story page has been provided for you to use as a guide.
- Say: “Imagine what it must have been like for the Israelites to get such specific instructions directly from God. It was probably overwhelming.”
- Lead the kids to discuss how easy or hard it is to follow God’s instructions. Explain that no one except Jesus has ever followed God’s commands perfectly. Because He did, His sacrifice was the only acceptable payment for our sin.
- Use “The Gospel” to help the kids understand why it matters to them that Jesus fulfilled the law.

### TOOLS:

- Jump In: “Ten Commandments” (DVD-ROM)
- Examine the Text: Bibles, “Text Truth Strips” and “Ten Commandments Poster” (Poster Pack), “The Gospel” (enhanced CD)
- Play the Video: Explore the Bible on Location video
- Memory Verse: “Psalm 119:138” (Poster Pack)
- Prayer: Family Cards

**PLAY THE VIDEO**

- Play the Session 3 video.
- Ask: “What type of writing did Kaileigh learn about today? Why did God give the Israelites the law?”

**MEMORY VERSE**

- Review the previous week’s verse, Exodus 6:7a.
- Display the “Psalm 119:138” poster, and offer someone the opportunity to lead the group in reading it aloud together.
- Say: “This verse is a beautiful reminder that we can trust God’s way. His commands are our guide.”
- Practice the verse as a group, or allow the kids to work in pairs to practice. Challenge them to recite it without assistance at least once before it is time to dismiss for the day.
- Encourage the kids to practice throughout the week.

**PRAYER**

- Distribute the Family Cards to the kids. Invite a volunteer to read aloud the description on the card.
- Ask: “When you share your cards with your families this week, what do you think the picture of the Ten Commandments will help you remember?” Allow the kids to discuss the things they will remember until someone responds with the Text Truth: **as a part of His covenant with Israel, God gave His people the law.**
- Say: “Let’s give thanks to God that He shows us how to live for Him and offers forgiveness through Jesus.”
- Enlist one volunteer to thank God for His guidance and another volunteer to thank Him for sending Jesus.
- Dismiss to Small Group.

## SMALL GROUP (30 MINUTES)

### EXPLORER GUIDES

- Distribute the Explorer Guides and invite boys and girls to locate today's pages, "God's Covenant with Israel."
- Select a few volunteers to read about today's object, the "Ten Commandments," and "Mount Sinai."
- Guide kids to complete the activity "My Top Ten."
- Help girls and boys match the Old Testament commandments with their New Testament affirmations in "Command Matching."
- Invite kids to read Exodus 19:16-17. Ask the kids to imagine what it was like for the Israelites to wait, knowing that God has a message for them. Choose some volunteers to read the facts in "Crash! Boom! Bang!"

### TECH CONNECT (OPTIONAL)

- Prior to Bible study, download the Explore the Bible: Kids Family App.
- Use the activity labeled "Explorer Plus" on the app.

### ACTIVITIES

- Select one or more of the activities to complete as time allows.

### TOOLS:

- Explorer Guides: Bibles, Explorer Guides, pens

## DOWEL TARGETS

*Tools: heavyweight paper, dowels, craft sticks, paper, tape, stapler, straws, scissors, tables*

- Construction of the targets should occur prior to Bible study.

- Cut an even number of circles of equal size out of heavyweight paper. Each target will require two paper circles. Use a stapler to attach the end of a craft stick to the center of one of the circles. Attach another circle to the other end of the craft stick, but do not place it in the center. This time put the end of the craft stick closer to the bottom of the circle.
- Cut a small section of a straw and tape it perpendicular along the center of the craft stick. Once it is secured, feed the dowel through the straw. This should create a spinning target on the dowel. If the target does not balance correctly, tape the straw higher on the craft stick.
- Multiple targets can be on the dowel, but they might slide into one another as they spin. Instead of too many targets on one dowel, add more dowels around the room with only a few targets on each.
- Tape the ends of the dowel to two chairs, tables, or other similar surfaces of equal heights.
- Guide kids to make their own paper triangles (or paper wads).
- Sit the kids on the floor in front of the targets. Guide them to launch paper triangles at the targets. Every time someone hits a target he can say the Text Truth: **as a part of His covenant with Israel, God gave His people the law.**



## MEMORY VERSE FLIP BOOK



*Tools: heavyweight paper, hole punches, pens, binder rings, Memory Verse posters (Poster Pack)*

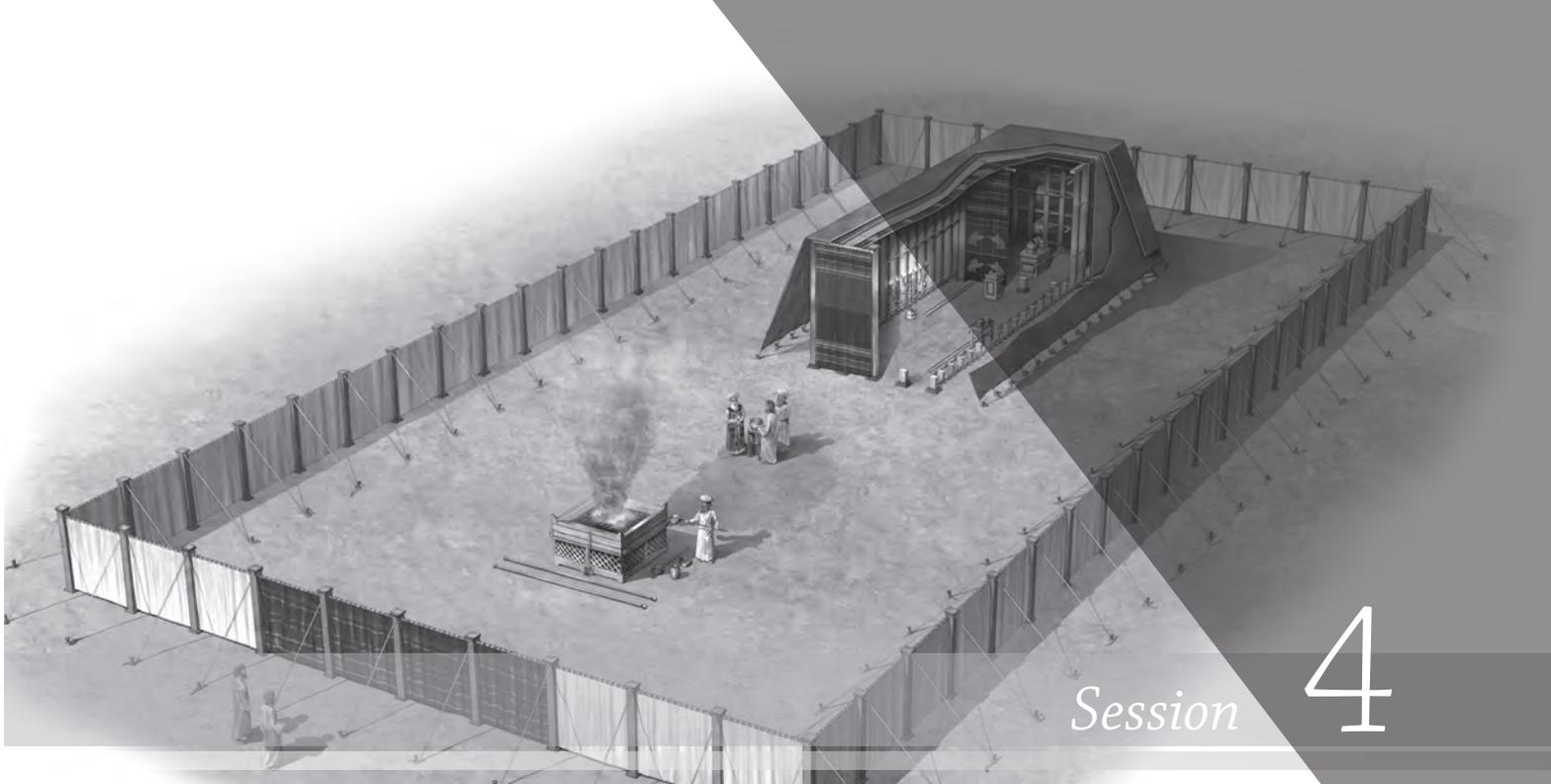
- Cut four different colors of heavyweight paper into enough equal-sized rectangles for each kid to have 13 pieces of each color.
- **Say: “As a part of His covenant with Israel, God gave His people the law. God will always give His people guidance. We can know who God is and how He wants us to live by learning what is in the Bible. Learning God’s Word is fun and important.”**
- Explain to the kids that they will be making a flip book to play games as they learn Memory Verses.
- Display the Memory Verses that will be learned throughout the 13 weeks of this study, and distribute one color of the heavyweight paper. Instruct the kids to write one Memory Verse on each paper. Repeat with different colors for books, chapters, and verses.
- Guide the kids to punch holes in the tops of their papers, then connect all of one color with a binder ring. If they repeat this with each color, it should result in four sets of papers connected by different binder rings. They can all be linked together when they are not in use.
- Challenge the kids to quickly match today’s verse with the correct book, chapter, and verse number.
- These flip books can be used for individual practice as well as group games as the kids learn more and more of the Memory Verses throughout the quarter.

## NOISE OR MUSIC



*Tools: none*

- It will help if some participants practice ahead of time.
- Invite the kids to clap, stomp, or sing. Give no instruction, but encourage everyone to participate. Once chaos has been demonstrated, quiet the room, and explain that you will all participate in creating a unique sound.
- Lead the kids in rhythmic clapping and stomping. This will need to be a prepared pattern that can be demonstrated and easily followed. If possible, have select individuals prepared to contribute extra sounds without disturbing the rhythm. It would be ideal if someone could sing or if the rhythm could be incorporated into a song the kids already know.
- Since some groups have difficulty maintaining a rhythm together, it will work just as well to illustrate the chaos and order concept to encourage the kids to sing individual songs then lead them in a song together.
- Say: “Describe the difference between the first time we made sounds and the second time we made sounds.”
- Review the Text Truth: **as a part of His covenant with Israel, God gave His people the law.**
- Say: “Those two experiences can help us remember why we obey God’s commands. When we disobey God’s commands, life tends to get chaotic and overwhelming. Sin creates trouble in our lives. Have you noticed how sin creates problems in our relationships with God and with each other? God intended for everyone to live in unity and peace. His commands help us to love Him and to love others.”



## Session 4



# THE TABERNACLE

## Exodus 35:4–40:38

Moses had spent a significant amount of time on the mountain with God. When he finally descended to the base, he carried with him the commandments God had issued on stone in His own handwriting. God had also given Moses plans for a movable place of worship the people would take with them on their journey. God wanted to have a relationship with His people, so He provided a way for people to be in His presence.

Moses called for the people to bring an offering for the construction of the tabernacle. This offering was to be of linens, yarn, leather, wood, oil, spices, gemstones, and precious metals. All of the offerings brought by the people would be used to create a place where God would dwell among His people. The people responded to God's command so wholeheartedly that Moses had to stop them from bringing any more materials.

The tabernacle court consisted of three main areas, each of which had implements of worship defined for specific purpose. The outer court consisted of a wood-framed fence that was draped with heavy fabric. In the outer court was an altar for burning the burnt offering the people would bring for various offenses. The people were allowed into the outer court to offer sacrifices for forgiveness. The outer court also housed a laver, or water bowl, where the priests would wash themselves to become cleansed for service.

The court also housed the tabernacle itself constructed of wooden poles draped in ornate colorful fabric. Inside, the tabernacle was split into two areas, the holy place and the most holy place. The holy place contained a table which held freshly baked bread, a golden lampstand, and an altar on which incense was burned. The most holy place, also called the holy of holies, housed the ark of the covenant, the symbol God had given the people to identify His presence among them. This ark was a small wooden box covered completely in gold. The lid was called the mercy seat and was the place God's Spirit came to dwell among the people of Israel.

## SESSION FOCUS

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Exodus 35:4–40:38

**MEMORY VERSE:** Exodus 25:8

**TEXT TRUTH:** God wants to have a relationship with His people, so He provided a way for people to be in His presence.

**CHRIST IN CONTEXT:** The Book of Exodus is the story of God at work through Moses to rescue His people from bondage. In a greater way, Jesus was sent to rescue us from the bondage of sin. In Exodus the Passover lamb was sacrificed to save the Israelites. Later, Jesus would sacrifice Himself as the final Passover lamb, paying for our sin once and for all.

### GET STARTED TOOLS

(10 MINUTES)

- Bible Skills: “Alphabet Activities” (Poster Pack), paper, pens, various resources

### BIBLE STUDY TOOLS

(35 MINUTES)

- Jump In: “Tabernacle” (DVD-ROM)
- Examine the Text: “Text Truth Strips” and “Tabernacle Illustration” (Poster Pack), “The Gospel” (enhanced CD)
- Play the Video: Explore the Bible on Location video
- Memory Verse: “Exodus 25:8” (Poster Pack)
- Prayer: Family Cards

### SMALL GROUP TOOLS

(30 MINUTES)

- Explorer Guides: Bibles, Explorer Guides, pens
- Move: tape, buttons
- Make: heavyweight paper, scissors, markers, tape
- Explore: toothpicks, tape, clay

**NOTE:** Downloadable versions of DVD items are available in the Digital Video Bundle. Downloadable versions of enhanced CD items are available in the Music and Print Extras Bundle. For free online training on how to lead a group, visit [ministrygrid.com/web/explorethebible](http://ministrygrid.com/web/explorethebible).

# THE TABERNACLE WAS BUILT

## Exodus 35:4–40:38

*God gave Moses instructions to share with the Israelites. Moses said, “Let everyone who has a willing heart bring an offering.” Men and women brought bracelets, earrings, and all kinds of gold jewelry. Many women made blue, purple, and scarlet yarn and gave it as an offering. Animal skins, wood, oil, spices, bronze, silver, and onyx were also given.*

*God chose Bezalel to lead the skilled workers to make the tabernacle. God filled Bezalel with wisdom and the ability to make everything needed for the tabernacle. Bezalel and Oholiab were given the ability to teach the workers how to craft the tabernacle and its furniture. They were given the ability to cut gemstones, embroider, design, weave, and much more.*

*As the craftsmen began to work, the Israelites continued to bring offerings. The craftsmen had more offerings than they needed to do their work. Moses told the people to stop giving because the materials they had given were more than enough.*

*God gave instructions and the craftsmen followed the instructions exactly. The craftsmen made the tabernacle, the ark of the covenant, the table of showbread, the lampstand, the altar of incense, the altar of burnt offering, the bronze basin, and the courtyard of the tabernacle. They also made the priestly garments for Aaron and his sons.*

*Each item was made following God’s instructions exactly. When everything was finished, Moses inspected it and set up the tabernacle. God explained to Moses that a veil would hang between the holy of holies and the rest of the tabernacle. When the sanctuary was completed, the glory of God came down and filled the tabernacle.*

### KEY POINTS

- **God wants to have a relationship with His people, so He provided a way for people to be in His presence.**
- Through Jesus, we can have a relationship with God.
- The tabernacle was a temporary place where God could dwell with His people.
- When Jesus returns, God will dwell with His people forever.

### TEXT CONNECTION

- God wants to have a relationship with His people, so He provided a way for people to be in His presence.
- The tabernacle was a movable structure God instructed the Israelites to build so God’s presence could dwell with the people.
- God gave Moses specific instructions for the construction of the tabernacle, and once it was finished, God dwelt among the people in the tabernacle. God talked with Moses and gave him guidance for the people.
- The tabernacle and items of worship pointed forward to Jesus Christ, God’s promised Savior. Jesus, in the Book of John, called Himself the Light of the world, symbolized by the lampstand; and the Bread of life, symbolized by the table of showbread.
- David, like Moses, was blessed to have a relationship with God that included great promises. God promised that through David’s family, God would provide salvation.

### EXPLORE THE BIBLE AT HOME

See the enhanced CD for additional family resources.

## GET STARTED (10 MINUTES)

### TOOLS:

- Bible Skills: “Alphabet Activities” (Poster Pack), paper, pens, various resources

### SUGGESTED RESOURCES:

- Bibles
- Books of the Bible Posters
- Bible dictionaries
- Memory Verse Posters

### BIBLE SKILLS

- Say: “We all have unique ways that we can apply what we learn from the Bible. Let’s see how that works with what we’ve been learning together!”
- Display the “Alphabet Activities” poster.
- Distribute pens and paper.
- Allow the kids to write down each activity that corresponds with every letter of their names.
- Depending on the size of the group, it might work best to announce each letter of the alphabet and have all the kids with that letter in their names simultaneously perform the task listed. Some smaller groups might be able to allow each kid to take turns performing their tasks individually.
- This activity is intended to rely on information the kids have already discussed. If you decide to use today’s information, consider designating a help station with all the resources for the kids to quickly find any answers to the questions they do not know. This will help maintain the pace of the activity and aid to prevent any embarrassment for kids who might be less familiar with the information.
- If time allows, encourage the kids to do new tasks with their middle or last names.
- Dismiss to Bible Study.

## BIBLE SKILLS SPOTLIGHT

- Learns the Bible teaches people how to live a Christian life by following Jesus.
- Understands the Bible teaches that salvation through Jesus is God’s gift of forgiveness.
- Knows that the Bible tells about God’s plan to rescue us. Knows how to use the Bible to tell someone about God and Jesus.

## BIBLE STUDY (35 MINUTES)

### JUMP IN

- Greet the kids as they arrive by saying their names or nicknames. If time allows, ask specific questions about the previous week or anything going on in their lives.
- Say: “When we talk and spend time together as a group, we are getting to know each other better. That’s the way it is with relationships.”
- Display the “Tabernacle” visual.
- Explain: “Our object is the tabernacle. Why do you think that is our object today?” (*Allow kids to answer.*)
- Continue: “What was the tabernacle? The tabernacle was a tent where the people could come offer sacrifices for their sin and give offerings to God. It also was a place where God could be with His people.”
- Say: “God guided the people of Israel to build a temporary dwelling place for Him. He was right next to them as they lived their lives. It was a unique relationship. It’s an illustration of what God offers us today.”

### EXAMINE THE TEXT

- Tell the Bible story in your own words. A Bible story page has been provided for you to use as a guide. Display the “Tabernacle Illustration” poster and share some of the details about the tabernacle.
- Say: “The people helping to build the tabernacle were not only able to do something to honor God, but they were invited to participate in something very special that God was doing for them.”
- Display the “Text Truth Strip” for everyone to read aloud together: **God wants to have a relationship with His people, so He provided a way for people to be in His presence.**
- Say: “It is always amazing to think of how God makes Himself available to people. In the verses we are about to read, we can see that God was involved all along the way as people contributed to the building of the tabernacle.”
- Encourage the kids to open their Bibles, and read or invite the kids to help read Exodus 35:29-35 and 40:34.
- Share: “Next week we will study the Book of Leviticus. Leviticus helps us understand more about the purpose of the tabernacle. God did not want His people to be separated from Him, so He created a way the people could atone or seek forgiveness of their sin in the tabernacle.”
- Say: “God does not simply want people to be kind or generous in order to build structures in His honor. He wants a relationship.”
- Ask the following questions, pausing after each one to allow kids to share their thoughts: “Why does God want a relationship with us? How did we break our relationship with God? Why is sin a problem? How did God rescue us? Who reconciled our relationship with God?” Use “The Gospel” to explain how to have a relationship with God.

### TOOLS:

- Jump In: “Tabernacle” (DVD-ROM)
- Examine the Text: “Text Truth Strips” (Poster Pack), “The Gospel” (enhanced CD)
- Play the Video: Explore the Bible on Location video
- Memory Verse: “Exodus 25:8” (Poster Pack)
- Prayer: Family Cards

**PLAY THE VIDEO**

- Play the Session 4 video.
- Ask: “What did Joel want to build? Where did Joel visit? What did he learn?”

**MEMORY VERSE**

- Review the previous week’s verse, Psalm 119:138.
- Display the “Exodus 25:8” poster.
- Offer someone the opportunity to lead the group in reading it aloud together.
- Invite the kids to repeat the verse several times. Ask them to consider what it means to have such a loving God who wants a personal relationship with His people. Remind the kids that God dwelling in the tabernacle is an example of His love, because He is involved in the lives of His people.
- Allow the kids to share their observations of the Memory Verse and how it makes them think and feel about God.
- Encourage the kids to continue practicing throughout the week to not only memorize the verse, but to also remember God’s love.

**PRAYER**

- Distribute the Family Cards to the kids. Invite a volunteer to read aloud the description on the card.
- Ask: “When you share your cards with your families this week, what do you think our object of the tabernacle will help you remember?” Allow the kids to discuss the things they will remember until someone responds with the Text Truth: **God wants to have a relationship with His people, so He provided a way for people to be in His presence.**
- Say: “God already did everything necessary for you to have a relationship with Him. He provided His Son as a sacrifice for sin. Trust in Jesus, turn from sin, and turn to God.”
- Pray for the kids to trust Jesus and turn to God.
- Dismiss to Small Group.

## SMALL GROUP (30 MINUTES)

### EXPLORER GUIDES

- Distribute the Explorer Guides and help kids find today's pages, "The Tabernacle."
- Invite kids to review today's object, the "Tabernacle."
- Lead kids to review today's Bible story as they solve the "Word Search" and the "Mystery Message." (*Answer: tabernacle*)
- Help kids read and think about "Have You Ever Given an Offering?"
- Invite boys and girls to read "The Great High Priest."

### TECH CONNECT (OPTIONAL)

- Prior to Bible study, download the Explore the Bible: Kids Family App.
- Use the activity labeled "Explorer Plus" on the app.

### ACTIVITIES

- Select one or more of the activities to complete as time allows.

### TOOLS:

- Explorer Guides: Bibles, Explorer Guides, pens

## FLOOR MAZE

*Tools: tape, buttons*

- Create an elaborate maze by placing strips of tape in a planned pattern on the floor. Tape a square in the center of the maze large enough for three kids to stand inside it.

- Sit the kids in a row along a wall out of the way.
- Place buttons on the floor every few inches within the tape maze. All players must walk within the parameters of the maze.
- Select one player to protect the buttons. His role is to tag the other players as they attempt to collect buttons.
- Select three players as collectors. They will begin in the start square in the center of the maze. Each collector will go a different direction to begin collecting buttons. A collector may only pick up the next button in her path. If she is forced to leave a button to escape the protector, she must return to that spot before gathering any more buttons.
- If a collector is tagged by the protector, she is out. Another player can go to the start square, announce the Text Truth: **God wants to have a relationship with His people, so He provided a way for people to be in His presence**, and then that kid can begin collecting. There can only be three collectors in the maze at one time.
- If all the collectors are tagged before the buttons are collected, the protector wins. However, if all the buttons are collected before the collectors are tagged, the collectors win.
- Ask: "You collected buttons in our game. What offerings did the people collect for the tabernacle? How much did they collect? Why did the people build the tabernacle?"



## PAPER CITY



*Tools: heavyweight paper, scissors, markers, tape*

- Distribute the supplies to the kids. Inform them that everyone will be working together to build a paper city.
- Invite the kids to cut, fold, and tape the paper into various sized three-dimensional rectangles. Instruct them to draw windows, signs, and doors to make their rectangles look like tiny buildings.
- Discuss various types of skyscrapers, storage buildings, businesses, and houses to inspire the kids to include different styles and aspects in their buildings.
- Compare and contrast their buildings with building in your own city.
- As they work, talk about the people in your community. Encourage the kids to share examples of different relationships they see. Focus on how people interact and what kind of impact relationships have on people. Emphasize our need to connect, and guide the discussion to the Text Truth: **God wants to have a relationship with His people, so He provided a way for people to be in His presence.**
- Say: “There is no more important relationship than a relationship with God. When we know Him and spend time with Him, we are equipped to go into the world and connect with others for His glory.”
- Place the buildings together to complete the paper city. Spend a moment praying that the people in your community who know Jesus will be strengthened by that relationship and those who do not will be introduced to Him.

## TOOTHPICK STORYTELLING



*Tools: toothpicks, tape, clay*

- Consider creating a scene ahead of time to give the kids an example.
- To initiate a brief discussion about today’s study, read the Text Truth: **God wants to have a relationship with His people, so He provided a way for people to be in His presence.**
- Ask: “Do you think you could tell this Bible story to others?” Allow the kids to respond, and invite them to discuss what they learned.
- Form teams of three or four, and distribute toothpicks, tape, and clay to each kid. Challenge the teams to recreate portions of the story with their supplies.
- Offer assistance as they begin to avoid any delays that will keep them from completing their scenes. Remember that it is more important for the kids to know the story at the end of the activity than at the beginning.
- For an extra challenge, require the kids to primarily use the toothpicks to create the scenes. The clay and tape are only intended as supplemental supplies to hold the toothpicks together and add necessary details.
- Make it clear to the kids whether or not they are able to include words in their scenes. Some groups might attempt to simply scratch images onto the clay. Although that is not the goal of this activity, it can be an option if there is not enough time for a more creative approach.
- Once the scenes have been created, allow each team to tell its portion of the story to the entire group.



## A HOLY LIFE

**Leviticus 18:1-5; 19:1-4; 26:1-13**

God is holy! Because God is holy, His people should pursue holiness. God's standard of holiness required the Israelites to be set apart. God also commands us to be holy, or set apart in obedience to Him. God gave the Israelites certain rules to live by to help them know what the expected holiness looked like. The system of rules and regulations guided the Israelites' daily lives. When they sinned, the system of sacrifice served to cleanse the people of their sin.

Leviticus records the laws that God gave to Moses. God gave these rules to help Israel know how they should live. Leviticus 18 begins with a phrase that would be very familiar to Israel in the ensuing years. God's command to not follow the evil practices of the Egyptians coupled with the warning to flee the evil they would find in Canaan, should have adequately warned Israel that God wanted them to live differently from those around them. As Israel had done previously and continued to do, they agreed to follow God's commands and do everything He said. We know that though Israel did not follow through with that commitment, God provided a way of salvation for them and us.

God led Moses to once again share what God's holiness would look like. The structure of Leviticus 19 allows the reader to see that God commands holiness because He, Himself, is holy. As a reshaping of the Ten Commandments, God taught the people that He required faithfulness to Him and Him alone, and healthy relationships with other people, especially parents.

The Book of Leviticus ends with another promise. God once again assured the nation of Israel that if they would be faithful to follow the commands God had set forth, He would bless them and not harm them. God would bless the land and it would be fruitful. God would protect the nation from their enemies and bring peace. God promised His never-ending presence with the people—a presence that still exists today!

## SESSION FOCUS

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Leviticus 18:1-5; 19:1-4; 26:1-13

**MEMORY VERSE:** Leviticus 18:4

**TEXT TRUTH:** God is holy, so we should pursue holiness.

**CHRIST IN CONTEXT:** The Book of Leviticus details the laws and sacrifices that the Israelites were required to follow to remain in relationship with God. However, people could not fulfill the many laws. Jesus fulfilled the Law and made the final atoning sacrifice for sin. Through Jesus, we can be reconciled to and have a relationship with God.

### GET STARTED TOOLS

(10 MINUTES)

- Bible Skills:** *scissors, heavyweight paper, pens, Bibles, “Bible Book Cards” (enhanced CD)*

### BIBLE STUDY TOOLS

(35 MINUTES)

- Jump In:** *“Date Palm” (DVD-ROM), dates, “Allergy Alert” (enhanced CD)*
- Examine the Text:** *“Text Truth Strips” (Poster Pack), “The Gospel” (enhanced CD)*
- Play the Video:** *Explore the Bible on Location video, “Christ in Context: Leviticus” (Poster Pack)*
- Memory Verse:** *“Leviticus 18:4” (Poster Pack)*
- Prayer:** *Family Cards*

### SMALL GROUP TOOLS

(30 MINUTES)

- Explorer Guides:** *Bibles, Explorer Guides, pens*
- Move:** *various colored pom-poms, paper bags, timer*
- Make:** *low-tack contact plastic, scissors, stencils, pencils, tape*
- Explore:** *various recorded sounds including a worship song*

**NOTE:** Downloadable versions of DVD items are available in the Digital Video Bundle. Downloadable versions of enhanced CD items are available in the Music and Print Extras Bundle. For free online training on how to lead a group, visit [ministrygrid.com/web/explorethebible](http://ministrygrid.com/web/explorethebible).

# GOD CALLED FOR HOLY LIVING

**Leviticus 18:1-5; 19:1-4; 26:1-13**

*God gave the Israelites the law to follow. The law is recorded in the Book of Leviticus. Because God is holy and people sin, God needed to give His people rules to follow. When the people followed these rules, they could be right with God.*

*The LORD spoke to Moses. “Tell the Israelites that I said: I am the LORD your God. Do not follow the religious beliefs of the Egyptians. Do not follow the religious beliefs of the land of Canaan, the land I am giving you. You should obey My ordinances and My statutes. I am the LORD your God. Keep My commands. I am the LORD.”*

*The LORD also told Moses, “Tell Israel: Be holy because I the LORD your God am holy. You must honor your parents. Keep the Sabbath. I am the LORD your God. Do not look to idols or make images of false gods. I am the LORD your God.”*

*God promised to bless the Israelites if they obeyed His commands. “I will give you rain when you need it. The land will grow good food. The trees will grow their fruit. You will have a good, long harvest with plenty of food to eat. You will live safely in your land. I will give the land peace. Nothing will frighten you. I will be among you and I will not reject you. I will be your God and you will be My people. I am the LORD your God who rescued you from Egypt.”*

## KEY POINTS

- God is our example and sets the standard for how we are to live our lives.
- God deserves honor and obedience.
- **God is holy, so we should pursue holiness.**

## TEXT CONNECTION

- God is holy. Because God is holy we should strive to be holy, too. We should live lives that honor God, following Jesus' example.
- The early Israelites did not have Christ's example to guide their lives. Instead, God gave Moses rules that would help the Israelites live in the ways that would please and honor God. The Book of Leviticus details God's rules for holy living.
- The people of Israel had these rules to help them follow God. However, apart from Christ we can never completely follow God. And, God's rules show us that fact.
- God is honored when we extend kindness to others. In the Book of 2 Samuel, David extended kindness to the family of Jonathan.
- David's actions fulfilled a promise David had made to Jonathan to treat his family with kindness. David did not let his promise to Jonathan end when Jonathan died. Instead, David remained faithful to his friend and honored God with his choice.

## EXPLORE THE BIBLE AT HOME

See the enhanced CD for additional family resources.

## GET STARTED (10 MINUTES)

### TOOLS:

- Bible Skills: scissors, heavyweight paper, pens, Bibles, “Bible Book Cards” (enhanced CD)

### PREPARATION:

- Cut heavyweight paper into strips that can be used as bookmarks.

### BIBLE SKILLS

- Provide a bookmark and a pen to each kid.
- Direct the kids to create their own format designating the days of the week. It will probably need to be lists or sections, but it can be whatever unique ideas the kids have. They will need space to write beside each day of the week.
- One at a time, invite a kid to randomly select a “Bible Book Card.” Whichever card he selects will be the book he reads from during the week. Consider allowing the books being studied throughout this quarter as alternatives (*Exodus, Leviticus, Acts, 1 Corinthians, 2 Corinthians*).
- Assist the kids as they look through their selected books to determine how much to read each day. The goal is for each kid to complete a chapter or entire book before the next group meeting.
- Give the kids time to write the references for the passages they plan to read each day next to the appropriate days on their bookmarks.
- If time allows, let the kids explain their plans with the group.
- Remember to follow up to allow the kids to share their experiences.
- Dismiss to Bible Study.

## BIBLE SKILLS SPOTLIGHT

- Establishes the discipline of daily Bible reading.
- Knows that the Bible tells about God’s plan to rescue us. Knows how to use the Bible to tell someone about God and Jesus.

## BIBLE STUDY (35 MINUTES)

### JUMP IN

- Greet the kids as they arrive, and offer each of them a date. (*Some stores sell them individually wrapped.*)
- As the kids are enjoying their snack, display the “Date Palm” visual.
- Say: “The date palm is known to produce an abundance of fruit. In our Bible reading today, you might notice a couple of verses that mention fruit and being fruitful (*Leviticus 26:3-5*). Many times God uses fruit to illustrate blessings or the results of life choices.”
- Continue: “When we live for God, we will be blessed. That doesn’t mean that everything in life will be perfect. Our world is broken by sin, but when we live for God, we grow to know and love Him more. Think of the fruit in your life as we learn more about what God wants for us and from us.”

### EXAMINE THE TEXT

- Encourage the kids to open their Bibles, and read or have the kids help read *Leviticus 18:1-5* and *19:1-4* (*emphasize 18:4 and 19:2*).
- Ask: “Did you notice anything in those verses that God is challenging people to do?” Allow the kids to respond. This question is intended to get the kids generally thinking about obedience and holiness.
- Read or invite the kids to help read *Leviticus 26:1-13*. Emphasize God’s participation in the relationship with His people (*verse 12*), as well as His status as God. It is implied and evident throughout the passage that He deserves to be obeyed.
- Ask: “Why do you think the date palm is our object? God promised Israel that He would bless them with plenty of food if they obeyed His commands. The date palm, with its huge amount of fruit, helps us remember how God can give in great abundance to bless those who are obedient to His Word.”
- Explain to kids that God’s blessings aren’t always physical items. He also promised Israel peace, safety, and His presence.
- Tell the Bible story in your own words. A Bible story page has been provided for you to use as a guide.
- Invite the kids to share their perceptions of holiness. Allow them to explain what they think it means and how it looks in everyday life. Explain that God is perfectly holy, and since we can never attain that perfection, we are separated from Him by our sin. Use “The Gospel” to illustrate how Jesus stands in our place as our holy substitute so that we can be forgiven.
- Say: “Our obedience cannot cover over sin. Only the sacrifice of Jesus accomplishes that. The Book of *Leviticus* is full of rules Israel had to follow to have a relationship with God. Sin separates people from God, but God doesn’t want us to stay separated from Him. Sin has a price. God

### TOOLS:

- Jump In: “Date Palm” (DVD-ROM), dates, “Allergy Alert” (enhanced CD)
- Examine the Text: “Text Truth Strips” (Poster Pack), “The Gospel” (enhanced CD)
- Play the Video: Explore the Bible on Location video, “Christ in Context: *Leviticus*” (Poster Pack)
- Memory Verse: “*Leviticus 18:4*” (Poster Pack)
- Prayer: Family Cards

told Israel how to make sacrifices to atone (*pay the price*) for their sin. When Jesus came to earth, He made the ultimate sacrifice for our sin. He died on the cross to pay for our sin. Because Jesus fulfilled the law and never sinned, He could make the final sacrifice for sin—once and for all.”

- Continue: “As believers, we should obey God because He deserves to be obeyed. When we obey, our relationship with Him is better, and we are blessed.” Help kids understand that God’s blessings are not only physical items like food and rain. We are also blessed by God’s love, peace, and so on.
- Display the “Text Truth Strip” for everyone to read aloud together: **God is holy, so we should pursue holiness.**

### PLAY THE VIDEO

- Play the Session 5 video.
- Ask: “Where did Kaileigh go? What was she learning about? What did she learn about Leviticus?”
- Display the “Christ in Context: Leviticus” poster and discuss the statements with the boys and girls.

### MEMORY VERSE

- Review the previous week’s verse, Exodus 25:8.
- Display the “Leviticus 18:4” poster, and offer someone the opportunity to lead the group in reading it aloud together.
- Ask the kids to take turns either reading the Memory Verse to the group or sharing a practical way they can apply the verse to their lives. If necessary, make a few suggestions before they begin. The goal is to have the kids practice the verse and think of how to live according to what they are learning. It will help them to see Scripture in a more personal way.
- Encourage the kids to practice memorizing and applying the Memory Verse throughout the week.

### PRAYER

- Distribute the Family Cards to the kids. Invite a volunteer to read aloud the description on the card.
- Ask: “When you share your cards with your families this week, what do you think our object of the date palm will help you remember?” Allow the kids to discuss the things they will remember until someone responds with the Text Truth: **God is holy, so we should pursue holiness.**
- Say: “God deserves our best. Even though we can never be perfect, our efforts to be holy always honor God.”
- Pray that the kids will honor God and pursue holiness.
- Dismiss to Small Group.

## SMALL GROUP (30 MINUTES)

### EXPLORER GUIDES

- Distribute the Explorer Guides and lead kids to find today's pages, "A Holy Life."
- Invite another kid to read aloud "Jesus Fulfilled the Law."
- Help boys and girls as they write their answers in "Q & A."
- Discuss the "Consequence Matching" choices and consequences.
- Review the "Date Palm" object.

### TECH CONNECT (OPTIONAL)

- Prior to Bible study, download the Explore the Bible: Kids Family App.
- Use the activity labeled "Explorer Plus" on the app.

### ACTIVITIES

- Select one or more of the activities to complete as time allows.

### TOOLS:

- Explorer Guides: Bibles, Explorer Guides, pens

## POM-POM RELAY

*Tools: pom-poms, paper bags, timer*

- Determine the number of teams, and ensure that each team has an equal number of pom-poms.

- Place piles of various colored pom-poms around the room. Each team will have an assigned color that those team members will gather in individual paper bags. The number of teams will be determined by the number of pom-pom colors.
- Set a timer or play a song to determine how long the teams have to collect their pom-poms. Once the time ends, direct each team to leave their bags at designated spaces on a table to await the official count.
- While everyone waits for the official count, have someone lead the kids in a discussion or practice of the Text Truth: **God is holy, so we should pursue holiness.**
- Each pom-pom equals one point. A team will lose a point for every pom-pom collected that does not belong to that team. Explain these rules before the winner is revealed, and relate it to holiness. Help the kids understand how sin always takes something away from us.
- After the winning team celebrates, restructure the teams, and repeat the game as many times as possible.





## WALL DECALS

*Tools: low-tack contact plastic, scissors, stencils, pencils, tape*

- To avoid any damage to the windows, test the removability of the contact paper prior to use.
- Another option is to attach the decals to banner paper.

- **Unroll the contact plastic along a row of tables. Flatten it as much as possible, and tape it in place.**
- **Sit the kids along the sides of the tables. Distribute stencils for them to trace onto the contact plastic. If the reverse side is used for easy visibility, instruct the kids to reverse their stencils as well.**
- **Begin with letter stencils so that the kids can work together to create decals of the Text Truth: **God is holy, so we should pursue holiness.****
- **Once the stencils have been traced, cut the contact plastic into sections for the kids to cut out their individual decals.**
- **As they complete their work, have them place their decals in a designated place (*window, banner paper displayed on the wall, and so on*).**
- **It should create a unique reminder of God's love and provision.**
- **If the kids work quickly enough, allow them to create their own decals to take home as their individual reminders of what they are learning about God.**



## SOUNDS LIKE EMOTIONS

*Tools: various recorded sounds including a worship song*

- Use a smart phone or similar device to gather various recorded sounds to play. Although the plan is to use recorded sounds, a version of this activity can work with various instruments and noisemakers instead.
- **Gather the kids in a tight circle on the floor. Explain that they will be listening to different sounds on a device. Ask them to lean in close to hear, but make sure the first sound is unpleasant and louder than they will expect. Invite them to share their reactions to the sound. Ask if it was unexpected or if it made them feel a certain way.**
- **Offer to play another sound, but this time make it a soothing sound such as ocean waves or a lullaby. Again, ask for their reactions, and guide them to compare how it differed from the first.**
- **Repeat this several times using animal noises, laughter, creaking doors, and any other sounds that will elicit responses.**
- **Discuss how sound causes us to feel and the way it influences us to interact with the world around us. Explain to the kids that God gave us our hearing for His glory. Play a song that the kids will recognize as worshipful.**
- **Conclude by reminding the kids that the greatest sound we can hear is the Word of God being read. Encourage them to spend time in the Bible during the week to get to know God better. Refer the kids to the Text Truth: **God is holy, so we should pursue holiness.****
- **Say: "One way to pursue holiness is to read and memorize God's Word." Encourage kids to read aloud one verse each day to help them remember this week's Text Truth.**



## PETER'S VISION

### Acts 10:1-43

The first verse of Acts 10 identifies a man in Caesarea named Cornelius. Cornelius was a leader in the Roman military who had attained the rank of centurion. As a centurion, Cornelius would have been responsible for about 100 men. Cornelius was also known as a devout man who followed God. Caesarea was a city on the banks of the Mediterranean Sea. While Jewish believers were in the city, Caesarea was primarily filled with Gentiles who were not God followers.

Acts 10 begins a new narrative for the people of Israel. Up until this point, with very few exceptions, the Jewish believers proselytized only Jews. Now, God was going to expand their thinking and mission, and He was going to use Peter to do it.

Peter was in Joppa, another port city, staying in the home of a man named Simon. Peter had gone up on the housetop to pray and while he was there, God gave him a vision of a large sheet filled with all kinds of animals. As a devout Jew, Peter recognized the animals in the sheet as being unclean for a Jew to consume. A voice told Peter to eat and he quickly refused. The voice told Peter to not call unclean the things God said were clean. Once Peter awoke, he pondered the meaning of his dream and heard the voice again. Peter was told to go with three men who had just arrived. The men explained why they were there and the next day Peter accompanied the men to Cornelius' house.

When Peter arrived in Caesarea, Cornelius had assembled a crowd to hear Peter's message. Peter arrived knowing what God wanted him to do. Jews would never enter the homes of Gentiles as it would make them ritually unclean. However, Peter understood from his vision that God loves every person. Peter shared God's message with Cornelius and his household and each of them repented and were baptized. Peter knew that salvation is for anyone who repents of his sin and trusts in Jesus. God does not show favoritism. All people have the same opportunity to trust in Jesus.

## SESSION FOCUS

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Acts 10:1-43

**MEMORY VERSE:** Acts 10:34

**TEXT TRUTH:** Salvation is for anyone who repents of his sin and trusts in Jesus.

**CHRIST IN CONTEXT:** The Book of Acts records the continuation of Jesus' ministry and the history of the early church. After Jesus' ascension, the Holy Spirit came and empowered Jesus' followers to share the gospel of Jesus Christ all over the world. Jesus' ministry continued through His faithful followers, and many people received Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

### GET STARTED TOOLS

(10 MINUTES)

- Bible Skills:** *"The Gospel"* (enhanced CD), construction paper, tape, scissors, markers, disposable plates, Bibles

### BIBLE STUDY TOOLS

(35 MINUTES)

- Jump In:** *"Caesarea Maritima"* (DVD-ROM)
- Examine the Text:** *"Text Truth Strips"* (Poster Pack), *"The Gospel"* (enhanced CD)
- Play the Video:** *Explore the Bible on Location* video
- Memory Verse:** *"Acts 10:34"* (Poster Pack), sticky notes
- Prayer:** *Family Cards*

### SMALL GROUP TOOLS

(30 MINUTES)

- Explorer Guides:** *Bibles, Explorer Guides, pens*
- Move:** *cotton balls, paper bags, yarn, large plastic hoop, tape, markers*
- Make:** *cupcakes, icing, sprinkles, candies, ziplock bags, scissors, spoons, bowls, "Allergy Alert"* (enhanced CD)
- Explore:** *"Review Questions"* (enhanced CD), *masking tape*

**NOTE:** Downloadable versions of DVD items are available in the Digital Video Bundle. Downloadable versions of enhanced CD items are available in the Music and Print Extras Bundle. For free online training on how to lead a group, visit [ministrygrid.com/web/explorethebible](http://ministrygrid.com/web/explorethebible).

## PETER VISITED CORNELIUS

### Acts 10:1-43

*The church continued to grow as the disciples told people about Jesus. God wanted everyone to hear about Jesus, not only the Jewish people. He had a plan to help the disciples understand this important truth.*

*A man named Cornelius was a centurion in the Italian Army. He loved and obeyed God along with his family. He was kind to the Jewish people and always prayed to God.*

*One day, Cornelius had a vision. An angel of God came and told him that God had heard his prayers. Cornelius was told to send men to the city of Joppa to find Peter.*

*In Joppa, Peter went to the roof of a house at noon to pray. He was hungry, and while he waited for food to be prepared he had a special vision.*

*Peter saw heaven open and a large sheet was lowered down. On the sheet were all kinds of animals, reptiles, and birds. A voice said to Peter, "Get up Peter and eat."*

*Peter knew that the Law had rules about what the people could eat and couldn't eat. "No, Lord," Peter said. "I have never eaten the foods that are unclean. A second time the voice spoke and said, "What God has made clean, you should accept."*

*This happened three times. Then Peter saw the sheet taken back to heaven.*

*Peter was very confused by his vision. While he was thinking about it, the men sent by Cornelius arrived. The Spirit of God told Peter that three men were looking for him and that Peter should go with them. Peter obeyed.*

*The next day Peter and the three men traveled to Cornelius's house. Peter went inside and found many people there. Peter said, "You know the Law said that a Jewish person and a non-Jewish person should not visit together. But God has shown me that this rule no longer applies because of Jesus. Why did you send for me?"*

*Cornelius explained that he had a vision that he should send for Peter. Everyone had come to Cornelius' house to hear what God wanted Peter to tell them.*

*Peter said, "Now I understand. God doesn't have favorites. In every nation, the person who believes is acceptable to Him." Then Peter told everyone about Jesus. Jesus had been sent by God. He had died on the cross, but God had raised Him from the dead. Finally Peter said, "Everyone who believes in Jesus will receive forgiveness of their sins."*

*Many of the Gentiles believed in Jesus and were saved. The church continued to grow.*

### KEY POINTS

- God does not show favoritism.
- God helped Peter understand that people in every nation can be saved.
- **Salvation is for anyone who repents of his sin and trusts in Jesus.**

### TEXT CONNECTION

- The Book of Acts shares stories about the spread of the gospel following the ascension of Christ. The early apostles shared the message primarily with the Jews who lived in Jerusalem. Acts 10 gives us a turning point in that narrative.
- Peter, a devout Jew, was committed to sharing Christ. Up until this point he had only shared the message in Jerusalem.
- God revealed to Peter His plan for the Gentiles. Peter did not need to worry about only sharing the gospel with the Jews because he began to understand the message was for anyone. Salvation is for anyone who repents of his sin and trusts in Jesus.
- God holds all people accountable for their sin, no matter their race, ethnicity, or social status. In 2 Samuel 12 David found this to be true when he was confronted by Nathan the prophet.
- Nathan shared a story of deceit that angered David until he understood Nathan's story to be about himself. David, the king, was accountable for his sin, too.

### EXPLORE THE BIBLE AT HOME

See the enhanced CD for additional family resources.

## GET STARTED (10 MINUTES)

### TOOLS:

- Bible Skills: “The Gospel” (enhanced CD), construction paper, tape, scissors, markers, disposable plates, Bibles

### BIBLE SKILLS

- Display “The Gospel” to review it with the kids before they begin working on their projects. Encourage the kids not to simply copy the poster, but to think of their own ways to tell the message of Jesus.
- Provide construction paper, tape, scissors, markers, a disposable plate, and a Bible to each kid.
- Guide the kids to cut various shapes from the construction paper. On each shape, there should be a key point or Bible verse to explain a portion of the gospel message. For example, one section might mention sin while another mentions faith.
- Assist the kids with ideas, and help them make any necessary corrections as they work.
- Spend time in discussion about the primary aspects of salvation. Encourage the kids to lead the discussion, but be prepared to gently correct any misunderstandings.
- Direct them to attach the paper shapes to the plates with tape. This will create decorative reminders of the gospel.
- Encourage the kids to display their completed projects somewhere visible for a while to remember what they have learned from the Bible about salvation.
- Dismiss to Bible Study.

## BIBLE SKILLS SPOTLIGHT

- Understands the Bible teaches that salvation through Jesus is God’s gift of forgiveness.
- Knows that the Bible tells about God’s plan to rescue us. Knows how to use the Bible to tell someone about God and Jesus.

## BIBLE STUDY (35 MINUTES)

### JUMP IN

- Greet the kids as they arrive, and invite a few volunteers to tell about any special trips they have recently taken.
- Say: “We’re going to talk today about a trip that Peter took to Caesarea. This is what the city looks like today.”
- Display the “Caesarea Maritima” visual.
- Say: “Because part of our Bible story takes place in Caesarea Maritima, it is our object today. This trip of Peter’s was important because it was to visit someone who was a Gentile, a Roman centurion. This is not the type of person that Peter would have normally gone to visit, especially to talk about the things they talked about.”
- Continue: “The people who met in Caesarea responded to God and were able to see the gospel reach where no one expected.”

### EXAMINE THE TEXT

- Ask the kids to share examples of times in their lives when they learned something new about God and it changed the way they thought or acted. Commend them for responding to God’s Word.
- Encourage the kids to open their Bibles, and read or invite the kids to help read Acts 10:1-43. The Bible story page highlights many key points from the text, so if time is a concern, consider reading verses 34-43 instead of the entire passage.
- Tell the Bible story in your own words. A Bible story page has been provided for you to use as a guide.
- Say: “Jesus changed everything when He died on the cross. He made it possible for people to be forgiven of their sins. In fact, He made it possible for people from any group in any part of the world to be forgiven of their sins.”
- Display the “Text Truth Strip” for everyone to read aloud together: **salvation is for anyone who repents of his sin and trusts in Jesus.**
- Review “The Gospel,” emphasizing any points that require extra explanation. Allow the kids to ask questions about salvation. Be concise with any answers to encourage the kids to continue participating in the discussion. If the kids seem knowledgeable about the key aspects of the gospel, have them answer questions instead of ask them. It will keep them engaged and might cause them to think about things in a new way.

### PLAY THE VIDEO

- Play the Session 6 video.
- Ask: “What did Joel try to eat? What was God teaching Peter through Peter’s vision and visit to Cornelius? Who are we supposed to tell about Jesus?”

### TOOLS:

- Jump In: “Caesarea Maritima” (DVD-ROM)
- Examine the Text: “Text Truth Strips” (Poster Pack), “The Gospel” (enhanced CD)
- Play the Video: Explore the Bible on Location video
- Memory Verse: “Acts 10:34” (Poster Pack), sticky notes
- Prayer: Family Cards

### NOTE:

- There are two different Caesarea’s in the New Testament. Caesarea Maritima was located on the Mediterranean Sea. Caesarea Philippi was located inland, near Mount Hermon. Today’s Bible story occurred in Caesarea Maritima.

**MEMORY VERSE**

- Review the previous week's verse, Leviticus 18:4.
- Display the "Acts 10:34" poster.
- Offer someone the opportunity to lead the group in reading it aloud together.
- Allow one of the kids to place a sticky note over a random word in the verse. This might require using multiple sticky notes or tearing them to avoid covering other words.
- Lead the group in reading the verse aloud again trying to remember the word that is no longer visible.
- Repeat this process with kids selecting more and more words until the group is able to recite the entire verse.
- Encourage the kids to continue practicing the Memory Verse throughout the week.

**PRAYER**

- Distribute the Family Cards to the kids. Invite a volunteer to read aloud the description on the card.
- Ask: "When you share your cards with your families this week, what do you think our object, Caesarea Maritima, will help you remember?" Allow the kids to discuss the things they will remember until someone responds with the Text Truth: **salvation is for anyone who repents of his sin and trusts in Jesus.**
- Say: "Let's thank God for being willing to forgive sin!"
- Invite the kids to take turns contributing to a brief prayer of thanks.
- Dismiss to Small Group.

## SMALL GROUP (30 MINUTES)

### EXPLORER GUIDES

- Distribute Explorer Guides to boys and girls. Help them locate today's pages, "Peter's Vision."
- Invite kids to read about today's object, "Caesarea Maritima," and the other location from today's Bible story, "Joppa."
- Guide kids to complete the "Fill It In" gospel explanation. Assist them as needed. (*Answers: created, sin, Jesus, cross, admit, forgiveness, Savior*)
- Lead girls and boys to examine "Where Is the Gospel?"
- Allow kids to spread out and quietly complete the reflection activity, "Apply It." Consider closing the time in prayer, praying that kids will have boldness to share the gospel with others.

### TECH CONNECT (OPTIONAL)

- Prior to Bible study, download the Explore the Bible: Kids Family App.
- Use the activity labeled "Explorer Plus" on the app.

### ACTIVITIES

- Select one or more of the activities to complete as time allows.

### TOOLS:

- Explorer Guides: Bibles, Explorer Guides, pens

## COTTON BALL BAG SPIN

*Tools: cotton balls, paper bags, yarn, large plastic hoop, tape, markers*

- Give each kid a paper bag to fill with cotton balls. Help them tape the bag closed and attach a long piece of yarn to the bag. Insist that each kid put his name on the bag somewhere.
- Place a large plastic hoop on the floor in the center of the room. The game will work best if the hoop is taped down to prevent it from moving out of position. Consider using multiple hoops if the room or group is large.
- Stand the kids in groups on both sides of the room facing the hoop(s).
- Guide the kids to swing their bags by the end of the yarn. The bag will spin, but the kids will stand still. Warn them not to let go until it is time.
- Invite one of the kids to recite the Text Truth: **salvation is for anyone who repents of his sin and trusts in Jesus.** Instruct the kids that when they hear the last word of the Text Truth, they will let go of their bags immediately. It might take a little practice to help them let go at the right time. The bags will not be aiming in the same directions, so there should be bags of cotton flying all over the room.
- Allow the kids to retrieve their bags, and give a point to anyone if his bag landed inside the hoop.
- Repeat with a different kid reciting the Text Truth.



MAKE



## TOP THE CUPCAKE

Tools: cupcakes, icing, sprinkles, candies, ziplock bags, scissors, spoons, bowls, "Allergy Alert" (enhanced CD)

Fill ziplock bags with icing.

- Invite kids to name one food they want to try one day.
- Ask: "What did God tell Peter to eat? Think about it. Peter had never eaten bacon! That seems crazy to us, but to Peter that was part of the law and he wanted to obey God."
- Continue: "Jesus changed everything! Followers of Jesus weren't required to follow the law because Jesus had already done that for them (*and us*)."
- Say: "I'm glad that God has given us so many blessings. Let's celebrate God's gift of salvation with cupcakes!"
- Because this activity has the potential to be messy, it might be a good idea to go over the rules and expectations before the kids begin.
- Give each kid a cupcake and a ziplock bag filled with icing. Cut a small hole in the bottom corner of the bag to spread the icing on the cupcake.
- Distribute bowls of sprinkles, candies, and any other available toppings for the kids to spoon onto their cupcakes. Inform them that if the icing sits too long, the toppings will not stick to it as well.
- Allow the kids to chat about whatever they want while they decorate their cupcakes. While they eat, take an opportunity to review the Text Truth: **salvation is for anyone who repents of his sin and trusts in Jesus**. Talk to the kids about salvation being a gift. Explain that God does not owe people salvation. It is something He offers out of love and is more than we deserve.

EXPLORE



## FROM JOPPA TO CAESAREA MARITIMA

Tools: "Review Questions" (enhanced CD), masking tape

Create a start and finish line on the floor.

- Form two or more teams.
- Briefly review today's Bible story and Text Truth: **salvation is for anyone who repents of his sin and trusts in Jesus**.
- Explain the game: "The goal is to get your entire team from the start line, 'Joppa,' to the finish line, 'Caesarea Maritima.' The first team to completely cross the line gets to answer a review question for a bonus point. Each time a team lines up at Joppa I will announce how they will need to travel to Caesarea Maritima."
- Allow the teams to line up. Call out how they must travel and give the start command. Ask the first team to completely arrive in Caesarea Maritima a review question.
- Continue playing as time allows.
- Possible Ways to Travel:
  - 1) baby crawl
  - 2) army crawl
  - 3) walk on your knees
  - 4) zigzag
  - 5) skip
  - 6) tiptoe
  - 7) walk sideways
  - 8) walk backwards
  - 9) swim
  - 10) fly like airplanes



# THE GOSPEL SPREADS

## Acts 16:11-15

Paul was on a missionary journey and ended up in Philippi. Philippi, like Caesarea, was a Roman colony and would have been primarily Gentile. The truth of this is further noted as the text tells us that Paul had to go outside the city to find people who were praying. Jewish law required ten practicing Jewish men in a city before a synagogue could be established. Since this left Philippi with no synagogue, Paul went outside the city.

When Paul arrived near the river, he saw a group of women gathered in prayer. Paul approached the women and sat down to begin teaching them about the God whom they were worshipping. One of the women, Lydia, was a prominent businesswoman in Philippi. As she listened to Paul tell of Jesus, the Spirit opened her heart to listen. Lydia became a true believer in Jesus.

The city of Thyatira was well known at the time for its dyeing industry. Lydia was one of those who made and traded the deep purple-colored cloth popular from this city. Lydia's profession would have marked her as a person of considerable wealth and means. This is also evident in the fact that Lydia, following her conversion, invited Paul and his companions to stay in her home. To invite guests would have meant that Lydia had plenty of available rooms to support those guests. Lydia and those in her household who also became believers likely began the church in Philippi, which met in Lydia's home.

Paul's life was characterized by a desire to tell others about his faith in Christ. The Book of Acts is filled with stories of the boldness Paul employed as he shared not just with Gentile women by a river, but with kings and anyone in between. Paul learned, as had Peter in our last study, that anyone can repent of his sin and trust in Jesus. God does not show favorites and Lydia, a believing woman, was no exception. Paul knew that believers should always be willing to tell others about Jesus. Paul was prepared on the Sabbath to share with those who needed God's message and we should always be ready to share too.

## SESSION FOCUS

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Acts 16:11-15

**MEMORY VERSE:** 1 John 3:23b

**TEXT TRUTH:** We should always be ready to tell people about Jesus.

**CHRIST IN CONTEXT:** The Book of Acts records the continuation of Jesus' ministry and the history of the early church. After Jesus' ascension, the Holy Spirit came and empowered Jesus' followers to share the gospel of Jesus Christ all over the world. Jesus' ministry continued through His faithful followers, and many people received Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

### GET STARTED TOOLS

(10 MINUTES)

- Bible Skills: *Bibles, sticky notes, "The Gospel" (enhanced CD)*

### BIBLE STUDY TOOLS

(35 MINUTES)

- Jump In: *"Purple Cloth" (DVD-ROM), purple ribbons*
- Examine the Text: *"Christ in Context: Acts" and "Text Truth Strips" (Poster Pack), Bibles*
- Play the Video: *Explore the Bible on Location video*
- Memory Verse: *"1 John 3:23b" (Poster Pack)*
- Prayer: *Family Cards*

### SMALL GROUP TOOLS

(30 MINUTES)

- Explorer Guides: *Bibles, Explorer Guides, pens*
- Move: *masking tape, Bible, "Review Questions" (enhanced CD)*
- Make: *white heavyweight paper, washable paint in variety of colors, paintbrushes, permanent markers in the same colors as the paint*
- Explore: *banner paper, colored pencils, rulers, tables, tape*

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## PAUL TOLD ABOUT JESUS

### Acts 16:11-15

*Paul, Silas, and Timothy traveled from city to city to tell people the good news of Jesus Christ. They reached the city of Philippi and stayed there several days. On the Sabbath, they went outside the city down to the river to search for a place of prayer, where the Jewish people of the city would gather.*

*Some women had gathered by the river and a woman named Lydia was one of them. Lydia was from the city of Thyatira. Her job was selling purple cloth. Lydia worshiped God and listened to what Paul was teaching. God helped Lydia pay attention to what Paul was saying.*

*Lydia believed in Jesus. Her family also believed in Jesus. They were all baptized and Lydia invited Paul, Silas, and Timothy to come stay at her house.*

### KEY POINTS

- Paul, Timothy, and Silas traveled and talked to many people who did not know Jesus.
- Paul, Timothy, and Silas did not always know who they would get to talk to as they traveled.
- We do not always know when we will have an opportunity to talk to someone who does not know Jesus.
- **We should always be ready to tell people about Jesus.**

### TEXT CONNECTION

- Peter's faithfulness to share the good news of Jesus with the Gentiles had a widespread effect. Many Gentiles became followers of Christ. A young man named Saul began to persecute Christ followers.
- Saul had a life-changing encounter with Jesus. As a result, Saul (Paul) became a follower of Christ. Paul's testimony and faithfulness to follow Christ became a tool in sharing the gospel with others.
- Paul was in the city of Philippi. Paul and his companions met a woman named Lydia. Lydia became a follower of Christ and not only welcomed Paul into her home, but invited her family to hear the truth of Christ.
- Lydia's example of sharing the love of Christ with her family is an example that is recorded multiple times in Scripture.
- In 2 Samuel 13, David cared enough for his family to help them see how sin affected them and broke their relationships with their families and God.

### EXPLORE THE BIBLE AT HOME

See the enhanced CD for additional family resources.

## GET STARTED (10 MINUTES)

### TOOLS:

- Bibles, sticky notes, “The Gospel” (enhanced CD)

### BIBLE SKILLS

- Select three to five verses that reference essential aspects of the gospel. Groups that are more advanced in their knowledge of the gospel and use of their Bibles might be able to handle more verses. Consider using “The Gospel” as a guide.
- Assist the kids in finding those verses and placing sticky notes next to them.
- Demonstrate how to use those verses to share the gospel. Keep it simple so that the kids can replicate your demonstration. They will not need to copy everything you said, but make sure they understand the essentials of the gospel.
- Encourage kids to prepare, in their own words, how to tell someone about Jesus.
- Allow the kids to form pairs to practice sharing the gospel.
- Challenge the kids to be as brief as possible. This will cause them to think of the most important details to share.
- Commend the kids for their efforts, and help them understand that talking about Jesus is not about performance. It is learning the information and developing the skills to share the information, that God might use them in the lives of others.
- Dismiss to Bible Study.

## BIBLE SKILLS SPOTLIGHT

- Knows that the Bible tells about God’s plan to rescue us. Knows how to use the Bible to tell someone about God and Jesus.
- Understands the Bible teaches that salvation through Jesus is God’s gift of forgiveness.
- Begins to tell others the meaning of the biblical content of a verse or passage.

## BIBLE STUDY (35 MINUTES)

### JUMP IN

- Greet the kids as they arrive, and drape purple ribbons over their shoulders. If actual ribbon is not available, purple ribbons cut from paper will work just as well.
- Say: “I hope you enjoy your extravagant gift. Purple is expensive, you know.”
- Display the “Purple Cloth” visual.
- Say: “Actually, this ribbon isn’t necessarily considered extravagant these days, but it would have been at one time. We’re going to talk today about a lady who sold purple cloth at a time when purple dye was expensive. She probably had a nice home and a comfortable lifestyle because of her business.”
- Continue: “There was nothing the woman had that was more valuable than what would happen in her relationship with God after she met Paul and Silas.”

### EXAMINE THE TEXT

- Encourage the kids to open their Bibles to the Book of Acts.
- Display the “Christ in Context: Acts” poster and review the statement with boys and girls.
- Say: “Today we will see how some of Jesus’ followers shared the truth about Him with others.”
- Read or invite the kids to help read Acts 16:11-15.
- Say: “Many false religions were practiced in Philippi. Although there might have been a location for believers to gather in prayer, there was apparently no proper place of worship established there to honor the one true God. Imagine what it must have been like for the people there to hear Paul, Timothy, and Silas teach about Jesus.”
- Tell the Bible story in your own words. A Bible story page has been provided for you to use as a guide.
- Ask: “Have you ever been listening to someone teach, but it was difficult to pay attention because you weren’t interested in what you were learning? Maybe the opposite has happened, and you were extremely interested in what you were learning.” Allow the kids to share examples focusing primarily on things they have enjoyed learning.
- Ask the kids to explain why some things are more interesting to learn. Help them to realize that our interests are often rooted in how much we value the information.
- Say: “God helped Lydia recognize the value in what she was hearing about Jesus. Her life was changed because Paul was able to tell her God’s message. We can also ask God to help us recognize when we need to listen closely to what someone is teaching us about God and His Word.”

### TOOLS:

- Jump In: “Purple Cloth” (DVD-ROM), purple ribbons
- Examine the Text: “Christ in Context: Acts” and “Text Truth Strips” (Poster Pack), Bibles
- Play the Video: Explore the Bible on Location video
- Memory Verse: “1 John 3:23b” (Poster Pack)
- Prayer: Family Cards

- Display the “Text Truth Strip” for everyone to read aloud together: **we should always be ready to tell people about Jesus.**
- Help kids personalize the Text Truth by asking: “Why should we be ready to tell people about Jesus?”

## PLAY THE VIDEO

- Play the Session 7 video.
- Ask: “Where did Kaileigh go? What did she learn about communication? What did she learn about the Book of Acts?”

## MEMORY VERSE

- Review the previous week’s verse, Acts 10:34.
- Display the “1 John 3:23b” poster, and offer someone the opportunity to lead the group in reading it aloud together.
- Quickly practice the verse a few times helping the kids read and repeat it until it becomes familiar.
- Tell the kids to imagine that they are on television, and a reporter is asking if they have a message for anyone. They know the news will be seen by people who do not know Jesus, so they want to say the Memory Verse.
- Go around the room pretending to hold a microphone, but give each kid only five seconds to report the verse. Allow multiple attempts as the kids learn the verse.
- Encourage them to practice the Memory Verse during the week and to share it with someone who might not know about Jesus.

## PRAYER

- Distribute the Family Cards to the kids. Invite a volunteer to read aloud the description on the card.
- Ask: “When you share your cards with your families this week, what do you think our object of the purple cloth will help you remember?” Allow the kids to discuss the things they will remember until someone responds with the Text Truth: **we should always be ready to tell people about Jesus.**
- Invite the kids to share names of people they know that they want to pray for. Specifically encourage the kids to think of people who need Jesus.
- Say a prayer that all the people mentioned will turn to Jesus.
- Dismiss to Small Group.

## SMALL GROUP (30 MINUTES)

### EXPLORER GUIDES

- Distribute Explorer Guides and help kids find today's pages, "The Gospel Spreads."
- Guide kids to examine the pictures to "Find the Difference." Then lead kids to solve the maze.
- Review today's object, the "Purple Cloth."
- Select a volunteer to read "The Science of Purple."
- Choose another kid to read aloud about "Tyrian Purple."

### TECH CONNECT (OPTIONAL)

- Prior to Bible study, download the Explore the Bible: Kids Family App.
- Use the activity labeled "Explorer Plus" on the app.

### ACTIVITIES

- Select one or more of the activities to complete as time allows.

### TOOLS:

- Explorer Guides: Bibles, Explorer Guides, pens

## ARE YOU READY?

*Tools: masking tape, Bible, "Review Questions" (enhanced CD)*

- Create a circle of tape on the floor.

- Say: "According to our Text Truth, **we should always be ready to tell people about Jesus.** How can we be ready?" Allow the kids to offer suggestions on how to be ready.
- Continue: "Let's play a game to help us be ready at all times."
- Form two teams. Each team will send a team member to the edge of the circle. Place the Bible inside the circle. When you say "go," the two players will try to be the first one to grab the Bible.
- The first player to get the Bible will earn a point for his team. His team will also get the chance to earn an extra point by correctly answering a review question.
- Remind kids that this is a fun game and they shouldn't touch the other player, only the Bible. If kids begin to get carried away in the excitement and competition, change the game to allow the first player who touches the Bible to win.
- Try to encourage anticipation by asking players "Are you ready?" from time to time and making it tough to guess when you will give the start command.



## MONOCHROMATIC PAINTING



*Tools: white heavyweight paper, washable paint in variety of colors, paintbrushes, permanent markers in the same colors as the paint*

- Ask: “What color of cloth did Lydia sell? Why do you think the Bible included that detail?”
- Invite kids to choose any color of paint and marker they wish, but they can only choose one color.
- Lead kids to print today’s Text Truth (**We should always be ready to tell people about Jesus.**) on a piece of heavyweight paper with their selected color of permanent marker.
- Distribute the paint and paintbrushes.
- Once kids have their supplies, they can paint their signs. They may make a pattern, a border, paint objects, or cover the entire paper.
- As the paint dries, invite kids to think about the people they encounter each week.
- Ask: “What was our Text Truth?” (**We should always be ready to tell people about Jesus.**) How can we be ready to tell about Jesus?”
- Allow kids to share their thoughts freely.
- Conclude: “The most important thing we can share with others is the love of Jesus. Sometimes God will put people in your life for that exact reason. You never know when He will cause your path to cross with someone so that you can tell them about Jesus. Be ready.”

## BANNER PAPER BRIDGE



*Tools: banner paper, colored pencils, rulers, tables, tape*

- It might be helpful to have a small example ready to show the kids what to expect.
- Roll banner paper lengthwise along a table or multiple tables. Tape the paper in place to prevent it from moving as the kids work.
- Allow each kid to select a colored pencil. Then assign a line to each color. For example, the kid holding the red pencil will only draw lines that go straight up and down. He can draw as many lines as he wants anywhere on the paper, but they all have to go in the same direction.
- The kids will use their rulers to keep their lines straight. Since every kid will have a unique color and a specific direction for the lines, it should create a pattern. The kids can work together to decide how to connect the lines in the shape of a bridge.
- Guide the discussion to use the bridge to illustrate how people are connected in relationships. Explain that God puts us together for a reason, and He allows us to share our lives.
- Say: “The most important thing we can share with others is the love of Jesus. Let’s recite the Text Truth together. **We should always be ready to tell people about Jesus.** Sometimes God will put people in your life for that exact reason. You never know when He will cause your path to cross with someone so that you can tell them about Jesus. Be ready.”



# A NIGHT IN PRISON

## Acts 16:16-38

Paul, still in the city of Philippi, was on his way to prayer, as was his custom, when he was followed by a girl who had been employed by men to be a fortune teller. The girl was possessed by a spirit that gave her the ability to see future events. Paul and those whom she followed day after day were annoyed by her constant muttering. However, the words the girl uttered were the truth. She claimed the men were servants of the Most High God. While the girl's claims could have been understood by the Philippians to be a reference to Zeus, Paul knew her reference to the Most High God spoke of God, alone. Paul, most likely concerned that the girl's constant shouting was taking away people's ability to focus on the gospel, cast the demon out of her and set her free.

The girl's owners were upset and set the crowd against Paul and Silas. The men were taken before the Roman officials. The accusers claimed that Paul and Silas were inciting the crowd to believe in things contrary to Roman law. Paul and Silas were flogged and arrested and locked in the lowest portion of the prison. The jailer, who would have been a retired military man, was charged with keeping the men secure while the charges about them were considered.

The jailer, not wanting these men to escape, locked them in the lowest portion of the prison and put their feet in stocks to keep them from moving. Paul and Silas would have been uncomfortable, sitting on a soiled, dirty floor with their feet stretched out in front locked by stocks. The wounds the men had would have been painful. But through all of this torture Paul and Silas began to sing praises to God. As they praised God, an earthquake happened, the stocks came open, and the cell doors swung wide. Remaining in the prison, Paul and Silas had an opportunity to share Jesus with the jailer and later his entire family. The jailer's family also became believers. Paul and Silas trusted God's faithfulness even when times were difficult. We, too, can be faithful to God even during difficult times.

## SESSION FOCUS

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Acts 16:16-38

**MEMORY VERSE:** Acts 16:31

**TEXT TRUTH:** Be faithful to God even during difficult times.

**CHRIST IN CONTEXT:** The Book of Acts records the continuation of Jesus' ministry and the history of the early church. After Jesus' ascension, the Holy Spirit came and empowered Jesus' followers to share the gospel of Jesus Christ all over the world. Jesus' ministry continued through His faithful followers, and many people received Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

### GET STARTED TOOLS

(10 MINUTES)

- Bible Skills:**  
*markerboard, dry erase markers, Bibles, various resources*

### BIBLE STUDY TOOLS

(35 MINUTES)

- Jump In:** *"Earthquake Fault Line" (DVD-ROM)*
- Examine the Text:**  
*Bibles, "Text Truth Strips" (Poster Pack)*
- Play the Video:** *Explore the Bible on Location video*
- Memory Verse:**  
*"Acts 16:31" (Poster Pack), paper, colored pencils*
- Prayer:** *Family Cards*

### SMALL GROUP TOOLS

(30 MINUTES)

- Explorer Guides:** *Bibles, Explorer Guides, pens*
- Move:** *Bibles*
- Make:** *coloring books, strips of paper, liquid glue, disposable bowls, heavyweight paper, pencils*
- Explore:** *"Bookmarks" (enhanced CD), magnet strips (2 per kid), glue, markers, scissors, heavyweight paper, Bibles*

**NOTE:** Downloadable versions of DVD items are available in the Digital Video Bundle. Downloadable versions of enhanced CD items are available in the Music and Print Extras Bundle. For free online training on how to lead a group, visit [ministrygrid.com/web/explorethebible](http://ministrygrid.com/web/explorethebible).

## PAUL AND SILAS PRAISED GOD

### Acts 16:16-38

*Paul and Silas had traveled to the city of Philippi. One day they were on their way to pray when they encountered a girl who was controlled by an evil spirit. The girl's owners used her as a fortune-teller to make money for them. The girl followed Paul and Silas and called out, "These men who talk about salvation are slaves of the Most High God." For several days, she followed Paul and Silas, calling this out. Paul became greatly annoyed and turned to the evil spirit and commanded in the name of Jesus that it leave the girl. The spirit left, and the girl's owners were angry that they wouldn't be able to use the girl to make money as a fortune-teller.*

*The men seized Paul and Silas. They dragged them to the chief magistrates and claimed that Paul and Silas were disturbing the city. A mob of people attacked Paul and Silas. Paul and Silas were beaten and thrown in jail. Their jailer was ordered to keep them guarded securely.*

*That night Paul and Silas sang hymns and prayed to God. At midnight, as they sang and prayed, a violent earthquake shook the jail. Paul and Silas were freed. All of the prisoners' doors and chains were opened.*

*When the jailer saw that the doors were opened, he started to kill himself. He thought the prisoners had escaped and he would be in terrible trouble.*

*Suddenly Paul called out, "Stop! We are still here."*

*The jailer ran to Paul and Silas and asked, "What must I do to be saved?"*

*"Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved!" Paul and Silas shared the message of salvation with the jailer and his family. His entire family believed and was baptized. The jailer washed Paul and Silas' wounds and took the missionaries home and fed them. He was so happy because he and his entire family believed in Jesus Christ as their Savior. The next morning the chief magistrates decided to release Paul and Silas.*

### KEY POINTS

- Paul and Silas were faithful to God while they were in prison.
- God used Paul and Silas to save the jailer and his family.
- God is at work in every type of circumstance.
- **Be faithful to God even during difficult times.**

### TEXT CONNECTION

- When Paul and Silas were accused by a businessman of disrupting his business, the men found themselves in the protective custody of the Romans. They were ordered to be held in the innermost part of the prison and to remain there until their case could be decided.
- Paul and Silas, instead of being distraught and brokenhearted, began to sing and praise God even in the filth and mire of the prison. Their songs of faithfulness gave them the ability to share the message of Christ with the jailer and the jailer's entire family.
- Paul and Silas were released from prison and the jailer and his family believed in Christ. Paul and Silas were faithful to God even in difficult times and used these opportunities to share about Jesus.
- In 2 Samuel 15 David was being oppressed by a family member. David, remaining faithful to God, trusted God to be his deliverer. David, like Paul and Silas, was delivered by God from opposition.

### EXPLORE THE BIBLE AT HOME

See the enhanced CD for additional family resources.

## GET STARTED (10 MINUTES)

### TOOLS:

- Bible Skills: markerboard, dry erase markers, Bibles, various resources

### BIBLE STORIES:

- Moses' Birth and Calling  
Exodus 2–3
- The Ten Plagues  
Exodus 4–14
- The Ten Commandments  
Exodus 19:1-12,16-20;  
20:1-17
- The Tabernacle Was Built  
Exodus 35:4–40:38
- God Called for Holy Living  
Leviticus 18:1-5; 19:1-4;  
26:1-13
- Peter Visited Cornelius  
Acts 10:1-43
- Paul Told About Jesus  
Acts 16:11-15

### BIBLE SKILLS

- Because this is a review of the previous seven sessions, form seven teams or allow seven volunteers to participate.
- Without practicing, each volunteer or team will take turns going to the front of the room and recounting the assigned Bible story.
- Allow the kids to use the markerboard to illustrate anything that might help tell the story.
- The kids are also welcome to use the resources from each session, such as the Text Truth and Memory Verse, in addition to their Bibles.
- Avoid intervening, unless critical details are missed or confused. Instead, allow the other kids to help when the presenters need assistance. If necessary, fill in more details after they are finished telling the stories.
- Guide the kids in a discussion of how the Bible stories have impacted their lives.
- Remind them of the importance of what they are learning.
- Commend each boy and girl for not only learning during the studies each week, but also for being able to retell the stories.
- Dismiss to Bible Study.

## BIBLE SKILLS SPOTLIGHT

- Learns the Bible is God's message about Himself and how He rescues and transforms us.
- Begins to tell others the meaning of the biblical content of a verse of passage.

## BIBLE STUDY (35 MINUTES)

### JUMP IN

- Greet the kids as they arrive, and vigorously shake their hands.
- Ask: “Did you feel that? I think something is happening!”
- Say: “No, it’s not an earthquake, although our story today does include an earthquake. No, I think I’m just shaking with excitement about our study.”
- Display the “Earthquake Fault Line” visual.
- Share: “This fault line is what can happen to the ground when an earthquake occurs. This is today’s object because Paul and Silas experienced an earthquake in today’s Bible story.”
- Walk around and pretend to check the sturdiness of the chairs the kids are sitting in.
- Say: “I just need to make sure everybody is in place. Hey, that reminds me of something else that’s in our story today! Well, that part is after the earthquake. Okay, let’s get started so you’ll understand what I’m talking about!”

### EXAMINE THE TEXT

- Tell the Bible story in your own words. A Bible story page has been provided for you to use as a guide.
- To see the story directly in Scripture, encourage the kids to open their Bibles to Acts 16.
- Say: “In our study today, we see how circumstances that are unpleasant and unfair can be used by God to accomplish miraculous and amazing things.”
- Read or invite the kids to help read Acts 16:16-24.
- Say: “Notice that the men teaching about God are being treated like terrible criminals. Instead of respecting them and being impressed by their words and actions, the people were offended.”
- Read or have the kids help read Acts 16:25-38.
- Ask: “What do you think mattered more to Paul and Silas, the hostile crowd, being arrested, or the jailer and his family believing and being baptized?” Allow the kids to respond and explain the reasons for their answers.
- Talk about how this example can remind us that unpleasant circumstances can become amazing.
- Say: “Even when a situation is not good, we can trust that God has good things planned.”
- Invite the kids to suggest ways to stay encouraged when times are difficult.
- Display the “Text Truth Strip” for everyone to read aloud together: **be faithful to God even during difficult times.**

### TOOLS:

- Jump In: “Earthquake Fault Line” (DVD-ROM)
- Examine the Text: Bibles, “Text Truth Strips” (Poster Pack)
- Play the Video: Explore the Bible on Location video
- Memory Verse: “Acts 16:31” (Poster Pack), paper, colored pencils
- Prayer: Family Cards

**PLAY THE VIDEO**

- Play the Session 8 video.
- Ask: “What game did Joel play? Did he get discouraged? What did he learn about Paul and Silas in the Book of Acts?”

**MEMORY VERSE**

- Review the previous week’s verse, 1 John 3:23b.
- Display the “Acts 16:31” poster, and offer someone the opportunity to lead the group in reading it aloud together.
- Provide paper and colored pencils for the kids to practice this verse by writing it down. Some of the kids will need to write it multiple times. Others might prefer to be decorative and make an artistic version of the verse.
- Allow the kids to talk while they work, but focus the discussion on the application, meaning, or memorization of the verse.
- Encourage the kids to continue practicing the Memory Verse throughout the week.

**PRAYER**

- Distribute the Family Cards to the kids. Invite a volunteer to read aloud the description on the card.
- Ask: “When you share your cards with your families this week, what do you think our object, the earthquake fault line, will help you remember?” Allow the kids to discuss the things they will remember until someone responds with the Text Truth: **be faithful to God even during difficult times.**
- Say: “Things are not always going to go the way we expect. The one thing we can depend on is God.”
- Allow the kids who want to participate to take turns thanking God for knowing they can trust Him even when things are difficult.
- Dismiss to Small Group.

## SMALL GROUP (30 MINUTES)

### EXPLORER GUIDES

- Distribute Explorer Guides and help kids locate today's pages, "A Night in Prison."
- Guide kids to examine the ancient ruins of "Paul's Prison."
- Direct boys and girls to complete the activity, "Praising God."
- Assist kids as they use their Bibles to discover the answers in "Wise Choices."
- Review today's object, the "Fault Line."
- Select a kid to read "Seismology." Invite another kid to read "In Ruins, but Not Ruined."

### TECH CONNECT (OPTIONAL)

- Prior to Bible study, download the Explore the Bible: Kids Family App.
- Use the activity labeled "Explorer Plus" on the app.

### ACTIVITIES

- Select one or more of the activities to complete as time allows.

### TOOLS:

- Explorer Guides: Bibles, Explorer Guides, pens

## FAST, SLOW, NO, GO

*Tools: Bibles*

- **Say:** "We learned from our Text Truth that we should **be faithful to God even during difficult times**. That requires us to be aware of what God wants. It also requires us to consider how God wants us to comply with His instructions. Today's activity will be a fun way to practice paying attention to instructions."
- **To play this game,** the leader will announce an action, then announce how to perform the action. The actions can be simple, such as telling the kids to find partners and shake hands, or they can be complicated, such as pretending to be a lion tamer stuck in mud with a sleepy lion that refuses to get up.
- **When the instruction is given,** the kids will act in whatever unique ways they determine are best. At some point the leader will say one of the following:
  - 1) **Fast,** which means everyone must perform the action as quickly as possible.
  - 2) **Slow,** which means everyone must perform the action in slow motion.
  - 3) **No,** which means everyone must freeze in place.
  - 4) **Go,** which means everyone must continue at a normal pace.
- **Establish a winner** by having kids sit out of the game if they are last to follow the instructions or keep everyone in the game the entire time. It will work either way as an example of obedience.
- **Ask:** "What instructions did God give believers in Matthew 28:19-20 and Acts 1:8?" Guide kids to use their Bibles to read the verses and discuss how they can obey the instructions and be faithful to God.



## ROLLED PAPER ART



*Tools: coloring books, strips of paper, liquid glue, disposable bowls, heavyweight paper, pencils*

- Cut strips from magazines or colored paper. They can vary in length but should be the same width, less than an inch wide.
- Review the Text Truth: **be faithful to God even during difficult times.**
- Say: “We can always trust God. He sees beyond our present circumstances and knows His plan for us. It will be unique for each of our lives, but God always does what is good.”
- Continue: “This activity will result in something unique just like our experiences with God. Even if we think we know what to expect, the results will be different from how things look in the beginning.”
- Allow the kids to trace simple images, such as butterflies, trees, or soccer balls, from the coloring books onto heavyweight paper. Encourage kids to keep it very simple and work quickly.
- Guide the kids to roll the strips of paper until they have enough to fill the spaces inside their outlines.
- Pour shallow puddles of glue into disposable bowls and place them within reach of each kid. The kids will dip the ends of the rolled paper into the glue and stand them on edge inside their outlines. Remind the kids that too much glue will keep their projects from drying quickly.
- Invite the kids to look around and appreciate everyone’s unique rolled paper art.
- Ask: “Did your art turn out exactly like you expected? How is that like our lives? Who knows everything? Can we trust God? Did Paul and Silas trust God?”

## FAITHFUL BOOKMARKS



*Tools: “Bookmarks” (enhanced CD), magnet strips (2 per kid), glue, markers, scissors, heavyweight paper, Bibles*

- Print “Bookmarks” on heavyweight paper.
- Review the Bible story briefly.
- Say: “People tend to follow God when everything in life is great. Then when things get a little tough, they start to lose faith. One way we can **be faithful to God even during difficult times** is to develop a habit of reading the Bible every day and memorizing Scripture. The more we know God’s Word, the more we will remember how to trust God.”
- Continue: “We are going to plan ahead for those times in life when things are not easy. Planning ahead can help us **be faithful to God even during difficult times.**”
- Distribute a bookmark to each kid. Lead kids to list some verses on their bookmarks that will encourage them during tough times.
- Sample Verses:
  - ▶ Psalm 56:3
  - ▶ Psalm 61:2-3
  - ▶ Philippians 4:6-7
  - ▶ Matthew 6:33
  - ▶ Isaiah 41:10
  - ▶ Isaiah 43:1
  - ▶ Psalm 34:18
  - ▶ Proverbs 3:5-6
- Give each kid two pieces of magnet to glue on each end of the bookmark (*on the non-decorated side*).
- Help kids fold their bookmarks on the dotted line.
- Show kids how to fold the bookmark around a page of the Bible and let the magnets stick together.



## Session 9



# PAUL'S FINAL JOURNEY

## Acts 27–28

The Book of Acts ends with Paul's final journey to Rome, a trip he had wanted to take for quite a long time. Paul desired to go to Rome and share his faith in Christ with the Romans and their leaders. While he was still in chains, Paul got the opportunity he was anticipating. Paul and other prisoners were boarded onto a ship and set sail for Rome.

The ship began a very slow journey across the Mediterranean Sea. After sailing for a few days, the ship began to run into some nasty weather. Paul confided in the ship's crew that the travel from that point forward would be dangerous and he suggested that they find a port in which to spend the winter so as not to endanger the ship, its crew, and its cargo. Not wanting to winter where they were, the crew set sail for another port along the island of Crete. This proved an unwise decision and Paul and those on board the ship were put in great danger.

Paul had received a message from God in a vision that said no one who remained on the ship would lose his life. Paul encouraged the others and told them his message. As morning came, the sailors could see land ahead and ran the ship aground. Paul and the 276 people on the ship swam to shore and were saved.

Upon discovering the island they were on was called Malta, Paul did as he usually did and shared Christ with those with whom he came in contact. Paul healed the father of a local leading man named Publius. Paul and his companions were received graciously, and the men of the city gave Paul all he needed as his journey continued.

When winter subsided the journey to Rome resumed. Once in Rome, Paul was allowed to live in his own home with a guard who lived with him. Paul once again was able to share the message of Jesus with the people and many believed, but some did not.

Paul's life is an example that God is always with us and He gives us the ability to share the gospel with others. Encourage boys and girls to share boldly with those they meet!

## SESSION FOCUS

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Acts 27–28

**MEMORY VERSE:** Matthew 28:19-20

**TEXT TRUTH:** God was always with Paul, enabling him to boldly share the gospel with others.

**CHRIST IN CONTEXT:** The Book of Acts records the continuation of Jesus’ ministry and the history of the early church. After Jesus’ ascension, the Holy Spirit came and empowered Jesus’ followers to share the gospel of Jesus Christ all over the world. Jesus’ ministry continued through His faithful followers and many people received Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

### GET STARTED TOOLS

(10 MINUTES)

- Bible Skills:** *Books of the Bible Posters including the “Bible Books” poster*

### BIBLE STUDY TOOLS

(35 MINUTES)

- Jump In:** *“Church of St. Paul Outside the Walls” (DVD-ROM)*
- Examine the Text:** *“Text Truth Strips” and “Places Paul Traveled” (Poster Pack), Bibles*
- Play the Video:** *Explore the Bible on Location video*
- Memory Verse:** *“Matthew 28:19-20” (Poster Pack), index cards, pen*
- Prayer:** *Family Cards*

### SMALL GROUP TOOLS

(30 MINUTES)

- Explorer Guides:** *Bibles, Explorer Guides, pens*
- Move:** *balloons, tape, curling ribbon, “Allergy Alert” (enhanced CD)*
- Make:** *red chenille stems, googly eyes, glue, pony beads*
- Explore:** *pool noodle or sponges, straws, foam sheets, scissors, pan of water, glue*

**NOTE:** Downloadable versions of DVD items are available in the Digital Video Bundle. Downloadable versions of enhanced CD items are available in the Music and Print Extras Bundle. For free online training on how to lead a group, visit [ministrygrid.com/web/explorethebible](http://ministrygrid.com/web/explorethebible).

## PAUL TRAVELED TO ROME

### Acts 27–28

*Paul had been arrested because the Jewish leaders were upset with him. They accused Paul of causing trouble. The men made a plan to kill Paul when he traveled to Jerusalem. But Paul asked the leaders to send him to see Caesar in Rome instead of Jerusalem.*

*Paul and other prisoners boarded a boat to go to Rome. The boat had trouble and the voyage became dangerous. A huge storm called a northeaster caught the ship. For days they sailed without seeing the sun or the stars. Many of the people were losing hope, so Paul shared a special message God had given him: “Don’t be afraid, Paul. You will see Caesar. God will protect all those who are sailing with you.”*

*Eventually the ship ran into ground and all 276 people made it to shore safely. The boat had landed on an island called Malta. The people on the island were kind to Paul and the other people from the boat. Paul was gathering wood for the fire when suddenly a viper bit his hand. The people of the island thought that Paul would die, but God took care of Paul. Paul was not harmed. Instead, Paul was able to heal some of the people on the island who were sick.*

*After 3 months on the island, Paul and his friends got on another boat and traveled to Italy. The believers had heard Paul was coming and many of them traveled to meet Paul as he walked up the road to the city of Rome.*

*Paul was allowed to stay in a house in Rome instead of a prison. Paul invited the Jewish leaders to come visit and Paul preached from morning to night about the kingdom of God. Paul tried to convince the people that Jesus was the Messiah, their Savior. Some of the people believed and some did not. For two years Paul stayed in his house. He invited people to visit and he taught them about Jesus with boldness.*

### KEY POINTS

- Paul experienced challenging circumstances as he traveled to Rome.
- **God was always with Paul, enabling him to boldly share the gospel with others.**
- Paul was confident in God’s protection.
- We can trust God the way Paul trusted Him.
- We can rely on God to enable us to boldly share the gospel.

### TEXT CONNECTION

- Paul had spent many months in prison and was being transported by boat to Rome. The journey was hard and the ship and crew were in great danger.
- Paul and the other prisoners were subjected to violent seas and the fear of losing everything. God had given Paul a message to encourage him and let him know that he and all those that remained on the ship would be safe.
- The ship wrecked, but the crew and those on board made it safely to land. Paul began to tell the people of the island of Malta about his journeys. Paul also preached the message of Christ. The local people welcomed Paul and his message.
- God was always with Paul, enabling him to boldly share the gospel with others.
- Second Samuel 19 describes David’s return to the throne following an attempt by his son to take the crown and kingdom for himself. David learned, as did Paul, that people can be united when they place their trust in the one true God!

### EXPLORE THE BIBLE AT HOME

See the enhanced CD for additional family resources.

## GET STARTED (10 MINUTES)

### TOOLS:

- Bible Skills: Books of the Bible Posters including the “Bible Books” poster

### OPTION:

- You may choose to use a set of the *Books of the Bible Cards* to play this game. To order a set of the *Books of the Bible Cards* (Item No. 005797312), call LifeWay Customer Service at 1.800.458.2772 or order online at [www.lifeway.com](http://www.lifeway.com).

### BIBLE SKILLS

- Explain that the books of the Bible are different types of writing. Show the kids the “Bible Books” poster. Help them understand the divisions before beginning the activity (*Law, History, Poetry and Wisdom, Major Prophets, Minor Prophets, Gospels, History, Paul’s Letters, General Letters, Prophecy*).
- Invite the kids to take turns randomly selecting a “Books of the Bible Poster.” All of the posters will be in use, so the kids might not have the exact same number of posters. However, it should be as close as possible.
- Randomly announce a book of the Bible. The kid with that book will announce its division. Everyone with a poster in that same division will raise it in the air.
- Repeat this until all the divisions have been represented multiple times.
- Once the kids begin to recognize the divisions, allow them to work together to group their posters in the appropriate divisions.
- Enlist a volunteer in leading the group in reciting the different divisions.
- If time allows, collect the posters then offer extra practice by announcing random books of the Bible to test the kids on what they just learned. It will be more difficult without the posters in front of them, but commend their efforts and encourage them to practice on their own.
- Dismiss to Bible Study.

## BIBLE SKILLS SPOTLIGHT

- Names the 10 divisions of the Old and New Testaments in a limited time frame and identifies examples of books in each division.
- Identifies prominent Bible people by the books in which their stories are recorded.

## BIBLE STUDY (35 MINUTES)

### JUMP IN

- Greet the kids as they arrive.
- Display the “Church of St. Paul Outside the Walls” visual.
- Ask: “What do you see when you look at our object?” Allow the kids to share what they observe.
- Say: “When I look at today’s object, I see the enduring influence of someone who followed Jesus. Look again. Do you see it?” Allow the kids to look more closely at the visual.
- Say: “This church was built in honor of the apostle Paul. He had such an important influence on people that nearly 2,000 years after he died a structure still stands in his honor.”
- Continue: “Although Paul was a respected man before he followed Jesus, once he began to teach about Jesus the Messiah he was not treated with such high regard. In fact, this church stands in the same city where Paul sat in prison sharing the gospel.”

### EXAMINE THE TEXT

- Say: “The more we study the Bible, the more examples we see of God doing extraordinary things through His people. Let’s look at what happened with Paul on his trip to Rome.”
- Tell the Bible story in your own words. A Bible story page has been provided for you to use as a guide.
- Say: “No matter where Paul went, he was always able to talk to people about God. He was sometimes able to be an example of faith among people who had no faith at all. Let’s read about one of those situations that was referenced in our story.”
- Encourage the kids to open their Bibles, and read or invite the kids to help read Acts 27:33-44.
- Say: “Paul knew some of God’s plan. He knew that no one would die. Not only were the men on the ship able to see Paul’s faith, they were also able to see God do what He planned.”
- Display the “Text Truth Strip” for everyone to read aloud together: **God was always with Paul, enabling him to boldly share the gospel with others.**
- Say: “God will be with us and enable us to share the gospel as well. We can learn from Paul’s example to trust God and share His message of salvation with those who do not know Him.”
- Display the “Places Paul Traveled” poster. Invite kids to examine the modern day pictures of some of the places Paul visited. Note that these places still need people to tell them about Jesus today.

### TOOLS:

- Jump In: “Church of St. Paul Outside the Walls” (DVD-ROM)
- Examine the Text: “Text Truth Strips” and “Places Paul Traveled” (Poster Pack), Bibles
- Play the Video: Explore the Bible on Location video
- Memory Verse: “Matthew 28:19-20” (Poster Pack), index cards, pen
- Prayer: Family Cards

**PLAY THE VIDEO**

- Play the Session 9 video.
- Discuss: “What adventure did Joel experience? Name something that happened to Paul that could have been discouraging. Who was always with Paul? Who is always with His followers?”

**MEMORY VERSE**

- Review the previous week’s verse, Acts 16:31.
- Display the “Matthew 28:19-20” poster.
- Offer someone the opportunity to lead the group in reading it aloud together.
- Write or have the kids help write each word of the Memory Verse on individual index cards.
- Allow a volunteer to randomly select one of the cards and attempt to recite the verse beginning with that word. If she does not know the verse well enough yet, allow her to read it to the group. However, if she reads it, she must read the entire verse, which includes all the words prior to her selection. This will ensure that the kids are hearing the verse multiple times.
- Encourage the kids to practice the Memory Verse this week.

**PRAYER**

- Distribute the Family Cards to the kids. Invite a volunteer to read aloud the description on the card.
- Ask: “When you share your cards with your families this week, what do you think our object of the Church of St. Paul Outside the Walls will help you remember?” Allow the kids to discuss the things they will remember until someone responds with the Text Truth: **God was always with Paul, enabling him to boldly share the gospel with others.**
- Ask the kids to think of people in their lives who inspire them with their faith in God. Offer them an opportunity to share examples if they want.
- Say: “It is very inspiring the way Paul trusted God throughout his ordeal. Let’s pray that we can have such strong faith in God that others see Him working in our lives and want the same faith.”
- Pray for the kids to trust Jesus and be able to live out their faith for others to see.
- Dismiss to Small Group.

## SMALL GROUP (30 MINUTES)

### EXPLORER GUIDES

- Distribute the Explorer Guides and help kids locate today's pages, "Paul's Final Journey."
- Help kids unscramble the names of the many places Paul traveled in "Paul's Journey." (Answers: Sidon, Myra, Fair Havens, Malta, Syracuse, Rhegium, Puteoli, Rome)
- Guide kids to examine the map, "Paul's Journey to Rome," to see the path and many places Paul traveled on his way to Rome.
- Review today's object, "Church of St. Paul."
- Guide kids to read about "The 10/40 Window," then complete the "Color and Think" activity.

### TECH CONNECT (OPTIONAL)

- Prior to Bible study, download the Explore the Bible: Kids Family App.
- Use the activity labeled "Explorer Plus" on the app.

### ACTIVITIES

- Select one or more of the activities to complete as time allows.

## BALLOON FRENZY

Tools: balloons, tape, curling ribbon, "Allergy Alert" (enhanced CD)

- Inflate enough balloons so that each kid can have 2 and there will still be extras

to throw during the game.

- Tie curling ribbon to each balloon. Tape the ribbon around each kid's ankle so that when it is stepped on it will tear away rather than trip him. The balloon should trail behind him as he moves around the room.
- Each kid will begin with two balloons, but play can continue as long as one is still in place.
- The object of the game is to stomp the balloons of the other players while protecting their own. If a balloon pops or breaks free from the ankle, that person must freeze in place for 30 seconds. Consider whether a player will be allowed to retrieve a loose balloon to re-enter the game after losing both balloons.
- It is an option for the kids to form teams. If teams are formed, it would probably be best to match the ribbon or balloons to keep them from working against their own teammates during the chaos.
- Begin by standing the kids in a circle around the room facing away from each other. Fill the center of the room with extra balloons to add confusion. Each kid must take at least five steps before the first attempt to stomp any balloons.
- Initiate the game by reciting the Text Truth: **God was always with Paul, enabling him to boldly share the gospel with others.**
- The final player with a balloon still attached is the winner.
- Say: "When your balloon popped or was pulled off, did you feel overwhelmed or disappointed or frustrated? Sometimes, life is full of disappointing and frustrating moments. Do you think Paul ever felt overwhelmed or frustrated? Remember, God was always with Paul. No matter what we are going through, God is always with us too."



## CHENILLE SNAKES



*Tools: red chenille stems, googly eyes, glue, pony beads*

- Give each kid a chenille stem and pony beads.
- Help kids curl one end of the chenille stem into a little loop to make the tongue of the snake (*and keep the beads from sliding off*).
- Guide girls and boys to add beads to their chenille stem until about an inch remains.
- Assist kids in bending the beaded stem to make a “head” near the tongue loop and curving the remaining stem to make the “body” of the snake.
- Loop the end to keep beads from sliding off.
- Allow kids to glue eyes onto the head of the snake.
- Ask: “Who was bitten by a snake in our Bible story? What did all the people think would happen to Paul? What happened? How did that show that **God was always with Paul, enabling him to boldly share the gospel with others?**”
- Conclude: “No matter where Paul traveled, God was with him. Our snake is a fun way for us to remember that God will be with us as we share the gospel too.”

## BOAT FLOAT



*Tools: pool noodle or sponges, straws, foam sheets, scissors, pan of water, glue*

- Cut the pool noodle into 1½-inch wide pieces. If you do not have access to a pool noodle, give each kid a sponge.

- Say: “To help us remember today’s Bible story, we are going to make boats that will float.”
- Tell the kids to cut a triangle from foam and glue it to the side of the top of the straw.
- Guide each kid to take her pool noodle piece and cut a notch in the top of the noodle to slide the bottom of the straw into. She can add some glue to help the straw stay inside the notch.
- Allow the glue to dry for a minute as you review today’s Bible story.
- Say: “From now on many things will probably come to our minds when we think of our Text Truth: **God was always with Paul, enabling him to boldly share the gospel with others.** Paul faced unusual situations as he traveled to share the gospel—being arrested, the shipwreck, the snake, and more. I wonder what it would’ve been like to be with him during some of those experiences.”
- Allow kids to share their thoughts.
- Help the kids to recognize that God is involved in the details of our lives and will be with us as we share the gospel too.
- As time allows, guide kids to take turns allowing their boats to float in the pan of water. You may even opt to let kids “race” their boats to get Paul to Rome.



# CHURCH UNITY

## 1 Corinthians 3; 12

During the first century the city of Corinth was one of the most prominent and important cities. Corinth was situated on the coast and was also a center of travel and commerce. Corinth had two seaports and was the second largest city in the known world at that time; only Rome was bigger. Corinth, as with many other larger cities of its time, was filled with wickedness and evil. The church at Corinth needed to be encouraged by Paul and that is why he sent this first letter to them.

Paul had spent more than a year in Corinth teaching converts the ways of Christ. When Paul left Corinth, he left capable men in charge of the church. Over time, Paul would check in on churches to see how they were doing. The church at Corinth was having many issues and actually had sent Paul a letter asking him to help them answer some of their more confusing questions. The Book of 1 Corinthians is Paul's response.

Paul began his answer by reminding the believers that they were still young in the faith. As a matter of fact, Paul shared that the Corinthians were still spiritual infants and were still drinking milk. The Corinthian believers were not acting like they had received the Holy Spirit; instead they continued to quarrel with one another over issues that had no bearing on true spiritual matters. Paul wanted the church to cease arguing and get along with one another. If the church was to complete its mission, the church would need to be unified in purpose.

Paul's letter to the Corinthians also focused their attention on the fact that God had given each of them spiritual gifts to be used, in unity, to further the kingdom of God. Paul acknowledged for the church that God had gifted individuals with certain gifts that suited their strengths and abilities. Not everyone would be good at the same things, thus the need for unified work through the church. People have different gifts, but we are all a part of God's church. Work together with your unique gifting to share with others about Christ.

## SESSION FOCUS

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** 1 Corinthians 3; 12

**MEMORY VERSE:** 1 Corinthians 15:58

**TEXT TRUTH:** Everyone has different gifts, but we are all part of God's church.

**CHRIST IN CONTEXT:** The Book of 1 Corinthians records Paul's reminder to believers that Jesus died for sin, was buried, and raised on the third day. Jesus unites believers as one body—the church—and He is the Lord over all.

### GET STARTED TOOLS

(10 MINUTES)

- Bible Skills:** *"Bible Book Cards" (enhanced CD), Bibles*

### BIBLE STUDY TOOLS

(35 MINUTES)

- Jump In:** *"Ancient Ruins of Corinth" (DVD-ROM), blocks*
- Examine the Text:** *"Text Truth Strips" (Poster Pack)*
- Play the Video:** *Explore the Bible on Location video*
- Memory Verse:** *"1 Corinthians 15:58" (Poster Pack)*
- Prayer:** *Family Cards*

### SMALL GROUP TOOLS

(30 MINUTES)

- Explorer Guides:** *Bibles, Explorer Guides, pens*
- Move:** *streamers, balloons, "Allergy Alert" (enhanced CD)*
- Make:** *various art supplies, paper*
- Explore:** *none*

**NOTE:** Downloadable versions of DVD items are available in the Digital Video Bundle. Downloadable versions of enhanced CD items are available in the Music and Print Extras Bundle. For free online training on how to lead a group, visit [ministrygrid.com/web/explorethebible](http://ministrygrid.com/web/explorethebible).

# UNITY IN THE CHURCH

## 1 Corinthians 3; 12

*Paul had visited the city of Corinth. He stayed for a year and a half, then he traveled to other cities. A man named Apollos traveled to Corinth and told many people about Jesus and helped many people grow in their faith.*

*Later Paul heard some bad news, the church in Corinth was having problems. The people were not getting along! Paul wrote a letter to remind the people that God's people should have unity.*

*Paul told the Corinthians that they were baby Christians who were still drinking milk instead of eating real food. The people were full of jealousy and arguing.*

*One of the things the people were arguing about was whether they followed Paul or Apollos. Paul reminded the believers that both he and Apollos were servants of Jesus. God used both men to help people learn about Jesus. Paul said, "I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth." Paul wanted the people to understand that God gives His people different gifts, and God uses all of them to help people grow in their faith. Paul reminded the people that all believers are united by being connected to Jesus Christ.*

*Later in his letter, Paul explained that God has given each believer unique gifts. While everyone is different and has different ways to serve God, all believers serve the same God.*

*Paul gave the believers an idea to think about. He said that God's people are like a body. There are many parts to the body, but they are all a part of the same body. Your foot doesn't say, "I am not a hand so I am not part of this body." Your eye doesn't say, "I don't need the hand." God made the body and gave each part a special purpose and they all work together. Paul wrote, "You are the body of Christ."*

*Each person in the church is different. God has given everyone different abilities and talents and gifts. But we are a part of God's family—the church.*

### KEY POINTS

- God's people are individual parts of the entire body of Christ.
- We do not have to try to be like others or make others be like us.
- Each person is unique and uniquely accountable to God.
- **Everyone has different gifts, but we are all part of God's church.**

### TEXT CONNECTION

- God uses the skills of people to accomplish His purposes. God has already given Christians different gifts to use for His glory, and for the good of the church.
- Paul had visited the church in Corinth many times. Paul received news from the church that they had some questions concerning their worship and other problems they were having. Paul wrote the church a letter to help answer their questions and solve their problems.
- In his first letter to the Corinthians, Paul told them that God had granted each person in the church a specific gift—God wanted all the members to work together, using their specific gifts to complete the work of the church.
- As Paul wrote in his letter that God had given each person different gifts to serve God, Paul perhaps wrote with David in mind. In 2 Samuel 20, David's kingdom had been attacked and God used the wisdom of a visiting woman and the military skill of Joab and others to accomplish His purposes for Israel.

### EXPLORE THE BIBLE AT HOME

See the enhanced CD for additional family resources.

## GET STARTED (10 MINUTES)

### TOOLS:

- Bible Skills: “Bible Book Cards” (enhanced CD), Bibles

### BIBLE SKILLS

- Distribute the “Bible Book Cards” as evenly as possible.
- Direct the kids to place their Bibles in front of them so they can be prepared to search for the selected book each time.
- Say someone’s name. That kid will look at her “Bible Book Cards” to select a book for everyone to find. She must use one of her cards, and unless she only has one card, she cannot use the same one two times in a row.
- When the book is announced, all the other kids will hurry to search for it in the Bible.
- The first one to reach that book wins that round.
- Repeat by saying another kid’s name to allow him to select the next book.
- If the kids keep a fast enough pace, there should be sufficient time to search for every book in the Bible.
- Remind the kids of the importance of knowing how to find what they need in Scripture. Encourage them to spend time on their own memorizing and finding all the books in the Bible.
- Dismiss to Bible Study.

## BIBLE SKILLS SPOTLIGHT

- Locates all the books of the Bible in a limited time frame.
- Begins to tell others the meaning of the biblical content of a verse or passage.

## BIBLE STUDY (35 MINUTES)

### JUMP IN

- Greet the kids as they arrive, and hand each of them a block. Instruct the kids to place their blocks on the table. It does not have to be in any particular pattern, but each block should be in contact with at least one other block.
- Say: “We each contributed to this structure. It’s unique, because each block was put in place by a unique person.”
- Display the “Ancient Ruins of Corinth” visual.
- Ask: “Why do you think this is our object? The first people to receive the letter we are studying today lived in this place—the city of Corinth. These are some of the ancient ruins of Corinth.”
- Say: “When Paul wrote to the church in Corinth, he was attempting to help them understand that they were each a unique part of something too. It wasn’t the city of Corinth. It was much more enduring than that.”

### EXAMINE THE TEXT

- Encourage the kids to open their Bibles to 1 Corinthians.
- Say: “In the verses we’re about to read, Paul is using architecture and construction as a metaphor for Christian ministry. He is explaining that people’s individual contributions can be combined for a shared goal. Although each person is accountable for his own work, everyone can join together in the same enduring purpose.”
- Read or invite the kids to help read 1 Corinthians 3:10-15.
- Tell the Bible story in your own words. A Bible story page has been provided for you to use as a guide.
- Read or have the kids help read 1 Corinthians 12:26-27.
- Say: “Every person who shares faith in Christ has a unique role in God’s church. God will help us when we are fulfilling our purpose—what He has called us to do.”
- Ask the kids to share examples of the different ways they see people contributing to the church. Guide them to identify their unique contributions to the group.
- Display the “Text Truth Strip” for everyone to read aloud together: **everyone has different gifts, but we are all part of God’s church.**
- Invite the kids to discuss their individual interests and abilities. Help them to recognize those things as ways they can serve God.

### PLAY THE VIDEO

- Play the Session 10 video.
- Ask: “Where did Kaileigh learn about church unity? How were the churches working together? Is the church just the people in this building with us today?”
- Help kids understand that the term *church* is often used to refer to all believers in Jesus, everywhere in the world.

### TOOLS:

- Jump In: “Ancient Ruins of Corinth” (DVD-ROM), blocks
- Examine the Text: “Text Truth Strips” (Poster Pack)
- Play the Video: Explore the Bible on Location video
- Memory Verse: “1 Corinthians 15:58” (Poster Pack)
- Prayer: Family Cards

## MEMORY VERSE

- Review the previous week's verse, Matthew 28:19-20.
- Display the "1 Corinthians 15:58" poster.
- Offer someone the opportunity to lead the group in reading it aloud together.
- Ask the kids what this verse means and why it matters to them. Allow open discussion of how the application of this verse might look in the lives of people their age, but ensure that they are also specific about how it applies to them personally.
- As the kids discuss the verse, find opportunities to invite volunteers to read or recite the verse so the kids are able to hear it several times throughout the discussion.
- Encourage the kids to practice the Memory Verse this week.

## PRAYER

- Distribute the Family Cards to the kids. Invite a volunteer to read aloud the description on the card.
- Ask: "When you share your cards with your families this week, what do you think our object of the ancient ruins of Corinth will help you remember?" Allow the kids to discuss the things they will remember until someone responds with the Text Truth: **everyone has different gifts, but we are all part of God's church.**
- Ask the kids to take turns announcing their names.
- Say: "Look around at the people in this group. Every person here is completely unique. Not one of us is exactly the same as anyone else, but when we're all together we form one terrific group!"
- Enlist a volunteer to pray for the group. Encourage the kids to pray for each other throughout the week
- Dismiss to Small Group.

## SMALL GROUP (30 MINUTES)

### EXPLORER GUIDES

- Distribute Explorer Guides and assist boys and girls in locating today's pages, "Church Unity."
- Review today's object, "Corinth."
- Select a volunteer to read about "The Corinth Canal."
- Guide kids to choose a partner and complete the activity, "Friend Q & A."
- Direct kids to examine the "Ancient Writing Tools."
- Conclude by inviting kids to spread out and quietly complete the "Reflection" activity.

### TECH CONNECT (OPTIONAL)

- Prior to Bible study, download the Explore the Bible: Kids Family App.
- Use the activity labeled "Explorer Plus" on the app.

### ACTIVITIES

- Select one or more of the activities to complete as time allows.

### TOOLS:

- Explorer Guides: Bibles, Explorer Guides, pens

## BALLOON RAIN

*Tools: streamers, balloons, "Allergy Alert" (enhanced CD)*



- Say: **"Everyone has different gifts, but we are all part of God's church. We have contributions to make, and if we each do our part, we get to participate in amazing things."**
- Explain that working together in this activity will allow everyone to create something fun.
- Direct the kids to stand in two rows facing each other holding the opposite ends of streamers. Begin with them close together, and have them slowly step backwards to stretch the streamers as far as possible while still keeping them high in the air. It might require each person to have several streamers in each hand to create a sturdy enough surface.
- Have the kids stand close to those on their side so there is very little room between the streamers.
- Slowly balance balloons on top of their streamers. If everyone is still, it should be possible to balance several balloons between each pair of kids.
- Once all the balloons are in place the kids can shift the streamers to allow the balloons to fall little by little. It should create an impression that it is raining balloons.
- With a little practice the kids might be able to repeat the process to make it sprinkle, drizzle, downpour, and then storm.
- Discuss: "What would happen if someone didn't do their part during our game? What about in the church? If someone doesn't use the gifts God gives him, what happens?"



## MY ART

*Tools: various art supplies, paper*

- Gather a variety of art supplies including paint, markers, and play dough or clay.
- Say: “According to our Text Truth, **everyone has different gifts, but we are all part of God’s church**. Every person plays an important part in God’s plan. God is able to make everything work together for good.”
- Explain the differences in spiritual gifts, talents, and abilities.
  - 1) Spiritual Gifts: what God gives Christians so they can serve God through the church
  - 2) Talents: natural abilities you have
  - 3) Abilities: being able to do something especially well
- Explain: “Today you are going to create something that represents either a gift God has given you, an ability He has given you, or a talent.” (*Examples: welcome sign for gift of hospitality; soccer ball for sports talent; book for reading ability*)
- Provide supplies for painting, drawing, and sculpting. Provide enough supplies for each kid to create her own version of her gift, talent, or ability.
- If possible, wait until the art is completed before the kids reveal their work. Allow volunteers to share how they can use their gift, talent, or ability to serve God.
- Share: “Each of us has a unique combination of spiritual gifts, talents, and abilities. God has given us those things so we can serve others.”



## CLAPPING CIRCLE

*Tools: none*

- Gather the kids in a circle. Clap on each syllable as you slowly say the Text Truth: **everyone has different gifts, but we are all part of God’s church**. This should establish a basic clapping rhythm. Some groups might want to develop a more advanced rhythm, but this will work for the activity.
- Two kids will begin to clap in rhythm and say the Text Truth. When they reach the end of the Text Truth, the first kid will stop, the second will continue, and a third kid will join the second. This way only two kids are clapping at the same time. To make the transition exact, the first kid’s final clap will be on the last word of the Text Truth, and the third kid’s first clap will be on the first word as the Text Truth starts over.
- It might require a little practice for the kids to understand when to stop and start the clapping.
- The pattern will continue until the clapping has made it all the way around the circle. Once it reaches the original clappers it becomes contagious. That means no one stops as a new clapper joins. By the end the entire group will be clapping in unison while saying the Text Truth.



# THE LOVE CHAPTER

## 1 Corinthians 13

First Corinthians 13 is one of the better known passages in all of the Bible. This chapter focuses on love. Love is one of the gifts God gives to people, Paul spends a great deal of time in this chapter explaining what love is and what love is not. Paul also compares the other gifts God gives to love and concludes that if we employ any of the gifts without love, we are not truly using our gifts as God intended.

Paul told the Corinthians that love is patient—it emulates God’s patience with the people whom He created. Love is kind, which can have many meanings, but essentially means that when humans interact with one another, they do so in kindness. Love does not envy; it does not desire to possess the things that others have or resent others for their good fortunes. Love is not boastful; it does not brag unnecessarily and without any foundation. Love is not arrogant; it shows respect for both God and others. Love is not rude; it respects the likes and dislikes of fellow human beings. Love is not self-seeking; it prefers others above oneself. Love is not irritable; it does not hold wrong against those who do it. Love does not keep a record of wrongs; it forgives. Love finds no joy in unrighteousness; it delights in God’s truth. Love bears all things; it endures the continuous failings of man. Love believes all things; it trusts in the eternal Word of God. Love hopes all things; it remains optimistic that Christ is Lord and will save. Love endures all things; it remains faithful even during trials.

This list of qualities of love, in context with the rest of the Book of 1 Corinthians, shows us that Paul’s audience was living the opposite of his current teaching. The Corinthians did need Paul’s help to understand their trials, but his discourse on love helped them truly see that love is the key to a Christ-centered life. As Paul told the Corinthians, we, too, must know that love is the greatest of the gifts given by the Holy Spirit. All we do should be done in love.

## SESSION FOCUS

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** 1 Corinthians 13

**MEMORY VERSE:** John 13:34b

**TEXT TRUTH:** The greatest gift of the Holy Spirit is love, so do everything with love.

**CHRIST IN CONTEXT:** The Book of 1 Corinthians records Paul’s reminder to believers that Jesus died for sin, was buried, and raised on the third day. Jesus unites believers as one body—the church—and He is the Lord over all.

### GET STARTED TOOLS

(10 MINUTES)

- Bible Skills: *Bibles*

### BIBLE STUDY TOOLS

(35 MINUTES)

- Jump In: “Envelope” (DVD-ROM), paper, pen, “Christ in Context: 1 Corinthians” (Poster Pack)
- Examine the Text: “Text Truth Strips” (Poster Pack), Bibles, “The Gospel” (enhanced CD)
- Play the Video: *Explore the Bible on Location* video
- Memory Verse: “John 13:34b” (Poster Pack)
- Prayer: *Family Cards*

### SMALL GROUP TOOLS

(30 MINUTES)

- Explorer Guides: *Bibles, Explorer Guides, pens*
- Move: *stuffed animals*
- Make: *puzzle, markers, tape, picture frame, cardboard*
- Explore: *none*

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# PAUL TAUGHT ABOUT LOVE

## 1 Corinthians 13

*The church in Corinth was having some trouble. The people were not getting along, so Paul wrote them a letter. Paul wanted the church to be unified and to focus on God. Paul explained to the believers that God, through the Holy Spirit, gives His people different gifts. The greatest gift God gives His people is love.*

*Paul wrote that it didn't matter what gifts he had, if he did not have love, his gifts meant nothing. Then Paul told the people about love.*

*“Love is patient.*

*Love is kind.*

*Love does not envy.*

*Love does not boast.*

*Love is not proud.*

*Love is not rude.*

*Love is not selfish, insisting on having its way.*

*Love does not get angry easily.*

*Love does not keep track of when someone does wrong.*

*Love does not like evil because love rejoices in the truth.*

*Love bears all things.*

*Love believes.*

*Love hopes.*

*Love endures.*

*Love doesn't end or give up.*

*The greatest gift is love.”*

### KEY POINTS

- The Bible tells us how to love.
- Love is more than emotion. It is also the way we think and treat others.
- We honor God by living a life of love.
- **The greatest gift of the Holy Spirit is love, so do everything with love.**

### TEXT CONNECTION

- One of the many things the church in Corinth struggled with was showing love to others. Jesus emphasized the commandment to first love God with all your heart, soul, and mind, and then to love others as you love yourself.
- Paul taught that using any of the gifting God had given the members of the church without doing it in love would not honor God or bring about the full effect of the gifts employed.
- Paul described for the people what love looked like, and what love did not look like. Love treats others the way someone would want to be treated.
- An evidence of love is that love does not like evil; love rejoices in truth. In 2 Samuel 21, David recognized through God's leading, that Israel had treated the Gibeonites harshly under Saul's reign. David sought to make things right.
- David honored God with his choice and God provided relief from a famine that had struck the land.

### EXPLORE THE BIBLE AT HOME

See the enhanced CD for additional family resources.

## GET STARTED (10 MINUTES)

**TOOLS:**

- Bible Skills: Bibles

**BIBLE SKILLS**

- Invite the kids to share examples of different situations that might create conflict. Include in the discussion a wide range of topics. For example, the kids might think of frustrating circumstances with a sibling or peer, but they might also mention seeing people argue on television.
- Rather than discussing the specific problems, focus instead on appropriate ways to communicate about the problems.
- Encourage the kids to consider things such as tone of voice, insults, respect, or general kindness. Because it is easy to lose patience during a frustrating situation, discuss how to maintain focus and not react inappropriately.
- Mention hypothetical situations and encourage kids to suggest how God would want them to respond in each situation.
- Ask the kids to consider whether people would have more success communicating if they did things God's way.
- Spend time sharing examples of ways the people in the Bible handled conflict. Help them understand how Bible stories and Bible verses can help us understand how God wants us to live.
- Invite kids to examine some verses and discuss how they could apply to various life situations: Matthew 5:43-44; Micah 6:8; John 13:34; John 15:13; Ephesians 4:32.
- Dismiss to Bible Study.

### BIBLE SKILLS SPOTLIGHT

- Applies biblical principles to personal and social issues.
- Memorizes Bible passages and quotes individual verses when given the reference.
- Begins to tell others the meaning of the biblical content of a verse or passage.

## BIBLE STUDY (35 MINUTES)

### JUMP IN

- Greet the kids as they arrive, and hand them a small note with *love one another* written inside.
- Display the “Envelope” visual.
- Ask the kids if they have ever sent or received letters in the mail. Allow them to describe the reasons for their letters.
- Say: “Today, we’re going to talk about a letter that was written to help the church in Corinth become a stronger group of believers. Did Paul’s letter to Corinth look like this? It would have been written on parchment.”
- Continue: “Paul sent the letter to address things he thought would be helpful to them. One of the subjects he mentioned in the letter is what we’ll talk about today—love.”
- Display the “Christ in Context: 1 Corinthians” poster. Invite kids to share how they have seen the truth of this statement in their study of 1 Corinthians.

### EXAMINE THE TEXT

- Encourage the kids to open their Bibles to 1 Corinthians.
- Say: “The Bible tells us to love God and love others. In this passage, Paul helps define love by giving examples of behaviors that represent love.”
- Read or invite the kids to help read 1 Corinthians 13.
- In addition to or instead of reading the story directly from the Scripture, tell the Bible story in your own words. A Bible story page has been provided for you to use as a guide.
- Say: “Love is not just a feeling. It’s the way we interact with others. It’s the way we manage our thoughts. It’s the way we speak. Love is an action. Love is an attitude. Love honors God.”
- Display the “Text Truth Strip” for everyone to read aloud together: **the greatest gift of the Holy Spirit is love, so do everything with love.**
- Guide the kids in a discussion about the things they see other people do out of love. Encourage them to give specific examples of loving qualities they see in others.
- Ask: “What would people in your life say are examples of the ways that you show love?”
- Conclude by reminding the kids of God’s love. If time allows, briefly review “The Gospel” to emphasize the love expressed when Jesus died on the cross for our sins.

### PLAY THE VIDEO

- Play the Session 11 video.
- Discuss: “What question was Joel trying to find the answer to?” (*What is love?*) “How would you answer that question? Name something the Bible teaches about love.”

### TOOLS:

- Jump In: “Envelope” (DVD-ROM), paper, pen, “Christ in Context: 1 Corinthians” (Poster Pack)
- Examine the Text: “Text Truth Strips” (Poster Pack), Bibles, “The Gospel” (enhanced CD)
- Play the Video: Explore the Bible on Location video
- Memory Verse: “John 13:34b” (Poster Pack)
- Prayer: Family Cards

### JUMP IN PREPARATION:

- Write *love one another* on a piece of paper for each kid. Fold the paper to hide the message until kids reveal it.

**MEMORY VERSE**

- Review the previous week's verse, 1 Corinthians 15:58.
- Display the "John 13:34b" poster, and lead the group in reading it aloud together.
- Repeat the verse several times until some of the kids are able to say it without looking at the words.
- Tell the kids to pretend that the Memory Verse is a common greeting. Demonstrate by selecting a volunteer who has already gotten comfortable saying the verse. Shake hands as both of you attempt to say it to one another simultaneously.
- Direct the kids to walk around the room greeting one another with the verse. Allow them to read it, if necessary.
- Encourage the kids to practice the Memory Verse throughout the week and think of what it means to apply it to their lives.

**PRAYER**

- Distribute the Family Cards to the kids. Invite a volunteer to read aloud the description on the card.
- Ask: "When you share your cards with your families this week, what do you think our object will help you remember?" Allow the kids to discuss the things they will remember until someone responds with the Text Truth: **the greatest gift of the Holy Spirit is love, so do everything with love.**
- Invite the kids to talk about people they love. Encourage them to share examples of those relationships and why they are important to them.
- Allow the kids to take a minute to silently pray for those people. Close the prayer by asking God to strengthen the loving relationships in the kids' lives to help them understand the love of Christ.
- Dismiss to Small Group.

## SMALL GROUP (30 MINUTES)

### EXPLORER GUIDES

- Distribute Explorer Guides and help kids find today's pages, "The Love Chapter."
- Invite a volunteer to read "It's All Greek to Me."
- Select another kid to read "Cursus Publicus."
- Guide kids to review what they learned from 1 Corinthians 13 as they solve the "Word Search."
- Help kids learn what else the Bible says about love in the "What Does the Bible Say?" activity.
- Review today's object, the "Envelope."
- Close in prayer, thanking God for His greatest gift of love—Jesus.

### TECH CONNECT (OPTIONAL)

- Prior to Bible study, download the Explore the Bible: Kids Family App.
- Use the activity labeled "Explorer Plus" on the app.

### ACTIVITIES

- Select one or more of the activities to complete as time allows.

### TOOLS:

- Explorer Guides: Bibles, Explorer Guides, pens

## TEAM CATCH

*Tools: stuffed animals*

- This activity will work best with teams of three. One player is responsible to catch and throw a stuffed animal or other soft object. That player must rely on his teammates to be able to accomplish the task, because they will be responsible for moving his arms. One teammate will stand to his right, the other will stand to his left, and they will raise or lower his arms as it is necessary to catch the stuffed animal.
- The teammates will also determine whether he can move forward or backward.
- For added difficulty, consider having the one catching the stuffed animal close his eyes.
- The teams can face another team directly or stand in a circle around the room and alternate throws.
- Challenge the kids to work together to complete the Text Truth: **the greatest gift of the Holy Spirit is love, so do everything with love.** Each time someone catches the stuffed animal, it counts for one word of the Text Truth.
- This activity depends on the kids working together. It will be difficult for them to rely entirely on their teammates. Take the opportunity to commend the kids who are courteous and patient.
- Ask: "What does it look like for you to do everything with love?"
- Help kids personalize the Text Truth and apply it to their daily lives.



## COLLABORATIVE PUZZLE



*Tools: puzzle, markers, tape, picture frame, cardboard*

- Find a puzzle that will fit inside a picture frame.
- Turn the pieces of a puzzle over, and have the kids use markers to make designs on the back. Do not put the puzzle together until all the pieces have been colored. Encourage the kids to completely cover each piece with unique looks.
- Instruct the kids to turn the pieces back over to the original image side to put the puzzle together. Once it is complete, tape the pieces to hold them together. If the puzzle is put together on top of a large piece of cardboard, another can be placed on the back and a careful flip will turn it over to reveal the group's collaborative puzzle.
- Place the puzzle in the frame as a gift to the children's ministry leader or someone who fills a similar role to thank them for teaching everyone about God's love. Review the Text Truth: **the greatest gift of the Holy Spirit is love, so do everything with love.**
- If the puzzle used is missing pieces, consider adding colored paper to those spaces then raising other pieces with foam or cardboard to create an intentional three-dimensional effect.
- Allow the kids to present their gift at an appropriate time.

## GROUP EXPRESSION



*Tools: none*

- Say: "Our Text Truth is very important. Let's say it together. **The greatest gift of the Holy Spirit is love, so do everything with love.** The things we learn about God are always important, but even when the information is serious, we can sometimes be silly."
- Invite the kids to prepare for the activity by practicing their silliest facial expressions.
- Have the group sit in a circle. One person will say the first word of the Text Truth. The next person will say that word and make a silly expression. The next person will say the word, mimic the expression, then add the next word. It will go around the circle until the entire Text Truth is complete and each word has a corresponding expression.
- The activity is complete when someone is able to say the entire Text Truth and make all corresponding expressions. Some groups might want to allow each kid to complete the task before ending the game.
- Remind the kids that sometimes helping others laugh can be a way of showing love. Discuss ways that God can be honored through laughter, such as when we enjoy life or encourage others.



# Session 12



## NEW CREATIONS IN CHRIST

### 2 Corinthians 4:7-18; 5:16-21

Paul penned another letter to the church at Corinth to continue his teaching of what their lives should reflect as they grew closer to God. Problems still existed in the Corinthian church and they needed more answers. Paul began by explaining the necessity of the Law to the early Israelites, and why the law was necessary.

Second Corinthians 3 tells us that the Law was chiseled in stone, and the face of Moses—after he met with God—radiated in such a way that the people could not even look at Moses' face because of the glory that surrounded him. Paul said that the Law, though worthwhile to the Israelites, was merely a way to help them remain in their faithful covenant to God. However, the Israelites were not able to keep the Law and needed a savior.

A new covenant came with the sacrifice of Christ and that covenant is an everlasting covenant sealed with the blood of Christ. Paul compared the veil that Moses wore to a veil that covers the hearts of men that cannot be lifted until a person trusts in Christ and is made a new creation. Moses' covenant brought with it death, condemnation, and a fading glory. The new covenant in Christ brings with it righteousness and greater glory.

Paul told the Corinthians that this new covenant should drive our desires and goals as we share the gospel with those around us. Christians possess a treasure that they should not hide in jars and put on a shelf, but should open to everyone so all may benefit from the treasure. The treasure we share is the hope that comes through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Our faith in Christ keeps us focused on Christ and allows us to not be downtrodden and distraught when troubles come our way. Christ in us should give us the boldness we need to share with joy even through suffering. We have been made ambassadors for Christ, and our duty is to share His message and represent Him as we tell others how they can also have a relationship with the one true and living God.

## SESSION FOCUS

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** 2 Corinthians 4:7-18; 5:16-21

**MEMORY VERSE:** 2 Corinthians 5:20

**TEXT TRUTH:** We are ambassadors of Jesus, who tell others how to have a relationship with God.

**CHRIST IN CONTEXT:** The Book of 2 Corinthians describes God's reconciling work through Christ, whom God, in His sovereignty, sent as a gift to the world. Jesus' followers, who are His new creations, are commissioned to serve others and to tell the world the good news of salvation through Jesus.

### GET STARTED TOOLS

(10 MINUTES)

- Bible Skills: pens, index cards, tape, music, Bibles

### BIBLE STUDY TOOLS

(35 MINUTES)

- Jump In: "Butterfly" (DVD-ROM)
- Examine the Text: "Text Truth Strips" (Poster Pack), Bibles
- Play the Video: Explore the Bible on Location video
- Memory Verse: "2 Corinthians 5:20" (Poster Pack), beach ball
- Prayer: "Christ in Context: 2 Corinthians" (Poster Pack), Family Cards

### SMALL GROUP TOOLS

(30 MINUTES)

- Explorer Guides: Bibles, Explorer Guides, pens
- Move: buttons, chairs
- Make: "Paper Block" and "The Gospel" (enhanced CD), heavyweight paper, tape, scissors, markers
- Explore: index cards, pens

**NOTE:** Downloadable versions of DVD items are available in the Digital Video Bundle. Downloadable versions of enhanced CD items are available in the Music and Print Extras Bundle. For free online training on how to lead a group, visit [ministrygrid.com/web/explorethebible](http://ministrygrid.com/web/explorethebible).

## THE MINISTRY OF A BELIEVER

### 2 Corinthians 4:7-18; 5:16-21

*Paul wrote another letter to the church in Corinth. Paul had heard good news from Timothy. Most of the church had finally repented of following false prophets and rejecting Paul. Paul decided to write a letter to help the believers understand true ministry.*

*Paul shared that believers have a special treasure. We have salvation from faith in Jesus Christ. Because of Jesus, we can experience tough times, but we are not destroyed. We know that our focus is on what is unseen, because that is what is eternal.*

*Paul had some exciting things to tell the Corinthians. Paul said, “Anyone who believes in Jesus is a new creation. His old ways have gone away and a new way has come. God reconciled us to Himself through Jesus. Now we have a ministry of reconciliation.”*

*Paul explained more, “Through Christ, God is reconciling the world to Himself instead of counting their sins against them. Now, God has given us this message. We are ambassadors for Jesus. We share the good news of Christ with others. We plead with people, ‘Be reconciled to God.’ God gave our sin to Jesus so that we could become right with God.”*

*Paul wanted the believers to understand that they have a special ministry—to tell others the good news of Jesus Christ.*

#### KEY POINTS

- Because we have the Bible, we know that people are saved by God’s grace through faith in Jesus.
- We are privileged to know the message of salvation.
- **We are ambassadors of Jesus, who tell others how to have a relationship with God.**

#### TEXT CONNECTION

- Paul wrote another letter to the church in Corinth as they were still struggling with living in ways that followed God’s commands.
- Paul told the Corinthians that God was bringing believers to Himself through Jesus Christ. Because of the sacrifice of Jesus, God did not hold the sins of the people against them. He forgave the people’s sin.
- Paul encouraged the believers to be ambassadors for Christ. Christ’s ambassadors would spread the message of hope that comes through Jesus, offering praise and thanksgiving to God for the gift He had given.
- David offered God praise and thanksgiving for the gift God had given him by choosing him to be king. David was honored that God would choose him. Like David, we should praise and thank God for His gifts.
- Second Samuel 22 shares David’s impassioned speech that showed God’s people that God—and God alone—was responsible for salvation.

#### EXPLORE THE BIBLE AT HOME

See the enhanced CD for additional family resources.

## GET STARTED (10 MINUTES)

### TOOLS:

- Bible Skills: pens, index cards, tape, music, Bibles

### PREPARATION:

- Write the reference for the Memory Verse from each session on individual index cards.
- *Exodus 3:12*
- *Exodus 6:7a*
- *Psalms 119:138*
- *Exodus 25:8*
- *Leviticus 18:4*
- *Acts 10:34*
- *1 John 3:23b*
- *Acts 16:31*
- *Matthew 28:19-20*
- *1 Corinthians 15:58*
- *John 13:34b*

### BIBLE SKILLS

- Place a long line of tape on the floor.
- Beginning at one end, secure the index cards in random order on alternating sides of the tape.
- Play music and instruct the kids to slowly walk in the same direction along the line of tape. Space the kids out so that some are on one side and some are on the other. As a kid gets to the end of the tape, he will turn around and walk along the other side.
- Consider having the kids greet one another every time they pass someone in order to distract them from where they are standing.
- When the music stops, select the reference for the first Memory Verse. The kid standing closest to that one will attempt to recite the verse.
- Because the index cards are in random order, the kids will only know which verse is next if they remember from the study.
- Repeat it until all verses have been recited. If a verse is not known by the person standing closest, allow another kid to recite the verse. If no one is able to recite it, either challenge the kids to find it in the Bible or ask a volunteer to read it to the group.
- Dismiss to Bible Study.

## BIBLE SKILLS SPOTLIGHT

- Memorizes Bible passages and quotes individual verses when given the reference.
- Learns the Bible teaches people how to live a Christian life by following Jesus.

## BIBLE STUDY (35 MINUTES)

### JUMP IN

- Greet the kids as they arrive. Invite them to cross their wrists and wave their hands to imitate butterflies.
- Display the “Butterfly” visual. Talk about the process of a caterpillar emerging from the chrysalis as a butterfly. If the kids have studied the science of butterflies, allow them to contribute whatever information they consider interesting to the discussion. Direct their focus to the change from one creature to another.
- Say: “Inside the chrysalis, the body of the caterpillar slowly transforms into a butterfly. It doesn’t simply grow wings and new legs. It breaks down from one form and builds to another. It’s entirely different from before.”
- Continue: “The same is true when people are transformed by God grace. Butterflies are sometimes used to symbolize when someone is changed by Jesus. That is why it is our object today. Let’s talk about how lives are changed by Jesus.”

### EXAMINE THE TEXT

- Encourage the kids to open their Bibles to 2 Corinthians.
- Say: “We have the opportunity to do things for God that will change people’s lives forever.”
- Read or invite the kids to help read 2 Corinthians 4:7-18.
- Say: “There is nothing more life-altering than being reconciled to Christ.”
- Read or have the kids help read 2 Corinthians 5:16-21. The use of the word *reconciled* in the passage might offer an opportunity to explain that we are all separated from God by our sin. It is through the sacrifice of Jesus’ death on the cross that we are able to be reconciled to Him. (*To be reconciled to Jesus is to be brought together with Him in unity, agreement, and harmony.*)
- Tell the Bible story in your own words. A Bible story page has been provided for you to use as a guide.
- Instruct the kids to hold their Bibles.
- Say: “You are holding God’s message to us. Not everyone knows God or understands how He makes people new creations. You are privileged. You have the opportunity to share the gospel. It is a special honor to be able to pass this gift along to others.”
- Display the “Text Truth Strip” for everyone to read aloud together: **we are ambassadors of Jesus, who tell others how to have a relationship with God.**

### PLAY THE VIDEO

- Play the Session 12 video.
- Ask: “What did Kaileigh learn about being an ambassador? What does an ambassador for Jesus do?”

### TOOLS:

- Jump In: “Butterfly” (DVD-ROM)
- Examine the Text: “Text Truth Strips” (Poster Pack), Bibles
- Play the Video: Explore the Bible on Location video
- Memory Verse: “2 Corinthians 5:20” (Poster Pack), beach ball
- Prayer: “Christ in Context: 2 Corinthians” (Poster Pack), Family Cards

**MEMORY VERSE**

- Review the previous week's verse, John 13:34b.
- Display the "2 Corinthians 5:20" poster, and offer someone the opportunity to lead the group in reading it aloud together.
- Give one of the kids a beach ball. That kid will begin to recite the verse but only say the first three to five words. She will then toss the ball to someone else in the group who will continue the verse where she left off. That person will also say only three to five words before tossing it to another person.
- If the kids are not yet ready to recite the verse, allow them to read throughout the first few rounds. Once they have had a little time to practice, encourage them to attempt to recite rather than read.
- Remind the kids to continue practicing the Memory Verse during the week.

**PRAYER**

- Display the "Christ in Context: 2 Corinthians" poster and discuss the statement with boys and girls.
- Distribute the Family Cards to the kids. Invite a volunteer to read aloud the description on the card.
- Ask: "When you share your cards with your families this week, what do you think our object, the butterfly, will help you remember?" Allow the kids to discuss the things they will remember until someone responds with the Text Truth: **we are ambassadors of Jesus, who tell others how to have a relationship with God.**
- Invite the kids to share ways that God helps them live for Him. If they have trouble responding, ask leading questions about how they think of sin and what sort of things they want to do for God.
- Pray that the kids have a genuine relationship with God and are able to share the gospel and their testimonies with others.
- Allow the kids who are comfortable praying to spend a minute praying specifically for everyone in the group to be made new and grow in faith through what they have learned.
- Dismiss to Small Group.

## SMALL GROUP (30 MINUTES)

### EXPLORER GUIDES

- Distribute Explorer Guides and help boys and girls find today's pages, "New Creations in Christ."
- Ask a volunteer to read "What Is an Ambassador?"
- Review today's object, the "Butterfly."
- Invite kids to solve the puzzle in "Find the Treasure."
- Choose another volunteer to read "Aye, Matey!"
- Guide kids to quietly record their thoughts in "New Creations."

### TECH CONNECT (OPTIONAL)

- Prior to Bible study, download the Explore the Bible: Kids Family App.
- Use the activity labeled "Explorer Plus" on the app.

### ACTIVITIES

- Select one or more of the activities to complete as time allows.

### TOOLS:

- Explorer Guides: Bibles, Explorer Guides, pens

## THAT'S MY SEAT

*Tools: buttons, chairs*

- The kids will sit in chairs in a circle with one person in the center of the circle.
- Each kid will get one button to use for each round of the game.
- The kids sitting in the circle will decide whether to hide their buttons in their right hands or left hands. They will hold up whichever hand holds the button. It is not critical to use the buttons, but having an item in their hands helps the kids to avoid being tempted by last second denials about their choices.
- After everyone has made their decisions, the kid in the center will read or recite the Text Truth: **we are ambassadors of Jesus, who tell others how to have a relationship with God.** At the end of the Text Truth, she will announce right or left.
- If she says right, all the kids who held up their right hands must rush to a different seat. They cannot choose a seat immediately beside theirs. The person in the center can choose a seat.
- The last person will be left without a seat and will be the one who stands in the center of the circle.
- If this game must be played without chairs, consider how to designate the spaces to avoid confusion.
- Discuss: "What does an ambassador do? Does knowing you are an ambassador for Jesus change any of your thoughts or actions? Why or why not?"



## GOSPEL BLOCKS



*“Paper Block” and “The Gospel” (enhanced CD), heavyweight paper, tape, scissors, markers*

- Print copies of “Paper Block” on heavyweight paper.
- Review the Text Truth: **we are ambassadors of Jesus, who tell others how to have a relationship with God.**
- Say: “As an ambassador, we need to know what our message about Jesus is. We are going to make a tool that will help us share about Jesus.”
- Distribute copies of the “Paper Block” printout to the kids.
- Display “The Gospel.” Consider printing enough copies for kids to share one with a partner.
- Encourage kids to use “The Gospel” as a guide to print information on each square of their gospel blocks. They may wish to write each statement on a square or draw each symbol and write one of the Scripture references. Allow them to be creative.
- Guide the kids to cut out their cube patterns, fold, and tape them to make paper blocks. They might need assistance, since this part can be time-consuming.
- Help kids use the blocks to practice explaining the gospel to someone. Assist kids in looking up the different Bible verses and explaining them.
- Remind kids that talking about Jesus is not a performance. You are learning the information and developing the skills to share the information, so that God might use them in the lives of others.
- Challenge boys and girls to pray about who they can tell about Jesus and give their gospel blocks to.

## ELECTRIC TEXT TRUTH



*Tools: index cards, pen*

- Write the word *zap* on one index card.

- Review the Text Truth: **we are ambassadors of Jesus, who tell others how to have a relationship with God.**
- Guide the kids to sit in a circle, and give them each an index card. One index card has the word *zap* written on it. More than one zap card can be used for larger groups. The person holding the zap card keeps it a secret until it is time to use it.
- Create a rhythm for the kids to follow. It can be with a small drum or by having everyone clap in unison. Make sure it does not speed up as they go. Practice a few times by saying the Text Truth along with the rhythm.
- To begin the game, one person will say the first word of the Text Truth. After she says it, she will then point to someone else in the group. It can be anyone in the group, but no one can be selected twice until everyone has been involved. The person selected must say the next word on the Text Truth. This continues as long as everyone is in rhythm and says the correct word.
- If anyone makes a mistake, that person is out. The only other way to be put out of the game is to select the person holding the zap card.
- The last kid or pair of kids able to stay in rhythm, keep the Text Truth in order without a mistake, and avoid the zap card wins.



# Session 13



## A CHEERFUL GIVER

### 2 Corinthians 8–9

Paul began his message about giving by praising the Corinthians for the job they had already done. The Corinthian believers had been the first church to joyously give of their excess to help another church that had suffered a devastating famine. The church in Jerusalem was struggling under the famine and desperately needed help. Paul encouraged the believers to continue in collecting the offering so the church in Jerusalem would be well situated for sharing the gospel without worry.

Christians sometimes loathe the week the pastor gets up to preach on giving, but giving is a very important aspect of our faithfulness and reliance on God and His work. In this text we see that Paul did not intend to create a hardship, or set a specific amount the Corinthians should give. Paul's admonition was to give as their means allowed. If God had blessed the people above measure and they were able to contribute more, that was fine; if not, they were to give as their means allowed. Paul shared as a way of encouragement the excitement felt by those who were involved both in the collecting of the funds and the distribution of the funds. Paul was excited to share how much had been done and how excited he would be when the final amount was tallied and taken to the church in Jerusalem.

Once Paul concluded this portion of his encouragement to the people he began to give the people motivations for their desire to give. Paul shared that the people should be motivated by a desire to worship and honor God for the things He had given. The faithful, joyful giver, as Paul described him, was one who would receive God's blessing. Paul reminded the people of God's enduring faithfulness and righteousness.

Jesus Christ gave the ultimate sacrifice for us; in turn, we should be motivated by Christ's sacrifice to give sacrificially to those in need. The Corinthians gave joyfully and we should give joyfully to show God's love to others.

## SESSION FOCUS

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** 2 Corinthians 8–9

**MEMORY VERSE:** 2 Corinthians 9:7

**TEXT TRUTH:** Jesus gave the ultimate sacrifice. We can give sacrificially to help those in need.

**CHRIST IN CONTEXT:** The Book of 2 Corinthians describes God’s reconciling work through Christ, whom God, in His sovereignty, sent as a gift to the world. Jesus’ followers, who are His new creations, are commissioned to serve others and to tell the world the good news of salvation through Jesus.

### GET STARTED TOOLS

(10 MINUTES)

- Bible Skills: *Books of the Bible Posters, tape*

### BIBLE STUDY TOOLS

(35 MINUTES)

- Jump In: *“Diolkos and Corinth Canal” (DVD-ROM)*
- Examine the Text: *“Text Truth Strips” (Poster Pack), Bibles*
- Play the Video: *Explore the Bible on Location video*
- Memory Verse: *“2 Corinthians 9:7” (Poster Pack)*
- Prayer: *Family Cards*

### SMALL GROUP TOOLS

(30 MINUTES)

- Explorer Guides: *Bibles, Explorer Guides, pens*
- Move: *none*
- Make: *plastic cups, stickers, felt, scissors, rubber bands, permanent markers*
- Explore: *grid paper, stickers, colored pencils, pens*

**NOTE:** Downloadable versions of DVD items are available in the Digital Video Bundle. Downloadable versions of enhanced CD items are available in the Music and Print Extras Bundle. For free online training on how to lead a group, visit [ministrygrid.com/web/explorethebible](http://ministrygrid.com/web/explorethebible).

# GOD'S PEOPLE SHOULD GIVE

## 2 Corinthians 8–9

*Paul wanted to encourage the Corinthians and help them grow in their faith. He wrote them letters to teach them more about Jesus and how to love and obey God. Paul wrote to the Corinthians to encourage them to continue giving as God guided them to give. Paul gave them an example. The churches in the Macedonia area faced a very difficult time. The churches had limited resources, but an abundance of joy. As a result, they were generous and gave. They gave what they could give, and then they gave more! The believers were committed to God and asked to be able to give without anyone telling them to give.*

*Paul told the Corinthians, “You are excellent at many things—faith, speech, knowledge, diligence, love. Now, be excellent in following God’s grace of giving.”*

*Paul did not want to order the Corinthians to give. Instead he wanted them to understand that because Jesus has given so much for us, we can give.*

*Paul wrote, “Each person should give based on what God tells him in his heart to give. No one should give reluctantly. God loves someone who gives cheerfully. Remember, God is able to provide everything you need so you can focus on obeying His commands.”*

*Finally, Paul reminded the believers that their giving would impact more than just people they were helping. Other churches would hear of their giving and praise God. They would pray for the Corinthians. This thought made Paul so excited that he praised God for giving us Jesus, “Thanks to God for His indescribable gift.”*

### KEY POINTS

- It is important for Christians to give to others.
- Giving is more than a kind act—it is also a way to honor Jesus.
- **Jesus gave the ultimate sacrifice. We can give sacrificially to help those in need.**
- We can ask God to help us recognize opportunities to give.

### TEXT CONNECTION

- Paul encouraged the Corinthians to give their gifts to help others in need. The church was known to be generous, and Paul wanted the people to know that they should give according to their means.
- Paul wanted the people to know that they should not give more than what they were capable of, because God wanted their gifts to be helpful to the people and not bring unnecessary burden.
- Paul used words that meant the people should be hilarious givers, encouraging them to give their gifts with joy instead of feeling required to give.
- Believers offer their best to God out of gratitude for what Christ did on the cross, paying the penalty for sin.
- David spoke of sin and reminded the people of Israel that sin had consequences. Second Samuel 24 recalls David’s sin and his repentant heart when David experienced the consequences of his sin.

### EXPLORE THE BIBLE AT HOME

See the enhanced CD for additional family resources.

## GET STARTED (10 MINUTES)

### TOOLS:

- Bible Skills: Books of the Bible Posters, tape

### BIBLE SKILLS

- Attach the Books of the Bible Posters in a large group along one wall. If the kids are not familiar with all of the posters, consider only displaying the following ones: Exodus, Leviticus, Acts, 1 Corinthians, and 2 Corinthians.
- Roll tape into balls that will stick to the posters when thrown from several feet away. If the posters are not laminated, consider using regular paper to represent the posters instead.
- When a kid has a turn he will throw the tape ball at the poster. Whichever poster it hits will be the source for his question.
- He will select someone from the group and ask one of the following questions:
  - ▶ Who wrote the text?
  - ▶ Who is the audience?
  - ▶ What was happening in the world?
  - ▶ When was the book written?
  - ▶ When did the events of the book take place?
  - ▶ Where was the book written?
  - ▶ Why was the book written?
- Repeat as many times as possible allowing each kid to select a poster and a question.
- Remind the kids that this is the way they began the summer study to help them recognize all that they have learned. Help them to remember that what they are learning about the Bible will guide them throughout their lives.
- Dismiss to Bible Study.

## BIBLE SKILLS SPOTLIGHT

- Understands the truths in the Bible are without error and will last forever.
- Applies biblical principles to personal and social issues.
- Uses Bible study resources to gather information about Bible writers.

## BIBLE STUDY (35 MINUTES)

### JUMP IN

- Greet the boys and girls as they arrive.
- Say: “I’m going to show you a comparison of two different ways to get ships across the Isthmus of Corinth. One option was to drag the ships on land and transport them by wheeled vehicles. The other option was to dig through the land to create a path the ships could sail through. Which option do you think is being used today? Which one do you think was used in Bible times?”
- Display the “Diolkos and Corinth Canal” visual, and allow the kids to discuss their observations.
- Ask: “What city are these two places in?” (*Corinth*) “Paul wrote more than one letter to the church in Corinth. In our Bible study today, we’re going to talk about the useful and helpful guidance Paul gave to the believers in the church of Corinth. We can still use the same guidance today.”

### EXAMINE THE TEXT

- Tell the Bible story in your own words. A Bible story page has been provided for you to use as a guide.
- Invite the kids to express their observations of the story. Ask them to explain what they learned, and if it is different than the way they thought of giving in the past.
- Say: “We give to others to provide for needs. That is the practical reason to give. The motivation for a Christian is more than simply serving practical needs. We are able to give as a way to honor Christ.”
- Encourage the kids to open their Bibles to 2 Corinthians.
- Read or invite the kids to help read 2 Corinthians 8:7-9.
- Say: “Jesus is our example. How did Jesus give?”
- Read 2 Corinthians 9:7-8.
- Display the “Text Truth Strip” for everyone to read aloud together: **Jesus gave the ultimate sacrifice. We can give sacrificially to help those in need.**
- Ask: “What does it mean to give sacrificially?” Allow the kids to respond in their own words, but encourage them to include their own personal or hypothetical examples.
- Challenge the kids to look for ways to give sacrificially during the week. Remind them that the highest priority is not what they are able to give, but their attitude and willingness to give.

### PLAY THE VIDEO

- Play the Session 13 video.
- Ask: “What did Joel learn about giving? What does it really mean to be a cheerful—hilarious—giver? What type of giver do you think God is?”

### TOOLS:

- Jump In: “Diolkos and Corinth Canal” (DVD-ROM)
- Examine the Text: “Text Truth Strips” (Poster Pack), Bibles
- Play the Video: Explore the Bible on Location video
- Memory Verse: “2 Corinthians 9:7” (Poster Pack)
- Prayer: Family Cards

**MEMORY VERSE**

- Review the previous week's verse, 2 Corinthians 5:20.
- Display the "2 Corinthians 9:7" poster, and offer someone the opportunity to lead the group in reading it aloud together.
- Invite the kids to repeat the verse together several times, then allow them to discuss the different ways they can apply it to their lives.
- Review the different Memory Verses that have been learned throughout the summer sessions. Ask the kids to share examples of how the verses have helped them and when they have referred to them in everyday life.
- Encourage the kids to practice the Memory Verse this week.

**PRAYER**

- Distribute the Family Cards to the kids. Invite a volunteer to read aloud the description on the card.
- Ask: "When you share your cards with your families this week, what do you think our object of the Diolkos and the Corinth Canal will help you remember?" Allow the kids to discuss the things they will remember until someone responds with the Text Truth: **Jesus gave the ultimate sacrifice. We can give sacrificially to help those in need.**
- Say: "It's nice to give, but it's particularly nice to give in a way that honors God."
- Pray that the kids recognize opportunities to give and keep Christ as the highest motivation for everything they do.
- Encourage the kids to continue praying for each other throughout the week.
- Dismiss to Small Group.

## SMALL GROUP (30 MINUTES)

### EXPLORER GUIDES

- Distribute Explorer Guides and assist kids in locating today's pages, "A Cheerful Giver."
- Guide kids to solve the "Name That Picture" puzzle to reveal a question and answer from today's Bible story. (*Answers: Why should we give cheerfully? Jesus gave the ultimate sacrifice to save us.*)
- Ask a volunteer to read "Giving Cheerfully."
- Invite kids to review the object in "Corinth Then and Now."
- Lead girls and boys to study the information in "Money Around the World."
- Encourage kids to spread out and quietly complete their responses in the "Face Scale" activity.

### TECH CONNECT (OPTIONAL)

- Prior to Bible study, download the Explore the Bible: Kids Family App.
- Use the activity labeled "Explorer Plus" on the app.

### ACTIVITIES

- Select one or more of the activities to complete as time allows.

### TOOLS:

- Explorer Guides: Bibles, Explorer Guides, pens

## IMAGINARY BALL

*Tools: none*

- For this activity, the kids can be in random places around the room or standing in a circle. They will work together to pretend to throw a ball to one another.
- The imaginary ball is made large or small by the handler. It will be tossed from one kid to another and must be treated how it is received. For example, if the person throwing the ball pretends that it is large, the person catching the ball must also pretend it is large.
- Once the ball is caught, however, it can transform into whatever the holder decides. So, instead of the ball still being large, it might become sticky or hot or so heavy it needs to be rolled instead of thrown. Encourage them to be creative, but make suggestions if necessary.
- The game can be performed in slow motion, or that can simply be an option for the kids.
- To end the game, gather the kids in close together and have them slowly pretend to hand the ball to one another as you focus their attention on the Text Truth: **Jesus gave the ultimate sacrifice. We can give sacrificially to help those in need.** Tell the kids that being attentive made a difference in the game, and being attentive can make a difference in life. Encourage them to notice where they can meet others' needs.





## GIVING BANK

*Tools: plastic cup, stickers, felt, scissors, rubber bands, permanent markers*

- Review the Text Truth: **Jesus gave the ultimate sacrifice. We can give sacrificially to help those in need.**
- Discuss ways the kids can help those in need. Allow the kids to make their own suggestions for one another, to assess their awareness of different types of needs, and how they can contribute.
- Guide the kids to pick a specific need that they want to help meet. Invite kids to decide how long they want to collect their money and when everyone needs to bring their giving banks back to church.
- Distribute the supplies and help kids make a bank that they can collect money in.
- Guide kids to decorate their banks with the permanent markers and stickers.
- Help kids measure and cut a piece of felt to stretch over the top of their cups.
- Lead kids to stretch the felt over the cup and secure it with a rubber band. Assist kids in cutting a slit in the felt to slide money through.
- Challenge kids to pray about how they can give sacrificially. Emphasize that sacrificial giving is unique to each person. Remind kids that it is not about the amount of money given, it is about the heart attitude of everyone who gives.



## GIVING GRID

*Tools: grid paper, stickers, colored pencils, pens*

- Discuss the Text Truth: **Jesus gave the ultimate sacrifice. We can give sacrificially to help those in need.** Remind the kids that there are many ways to give to help others. Invite them to share examples of ways they might be able to give sacrificially.
- Provide grid paper and colored pencils to each kid. Instruct the kids to use the grid lines to color nine, twelve, or sixteen large sections. Each section can be outlined or filled it with the colored pencils. The kids can decide the number of sections.
- Once the sections have been designated, help kids think of different ideas of how to give to others. If necessary, suggest realistic options, such as allowing someone to go first in line, picking up something for someone else, or sharing a snack with someone who does not have one. It is certainly appropriate to discuss giving things such as money, clothing, and toys. However, not every kid will have that option, so make sure to keep the discussion focused on generous and sacrificial acts rather than specific items.
- Allow the kids to select one sticker for every section they created on their grids. Encourage them to use the stickers to mark off the sections as they are able to give or do for others in the coming weeks.

# GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Each of these terms will help you as you delve into teaching Explore the Bible: Kids.

- **BIBLE SKILLS SPOTLIGHT**

The specific Bible skills practiced in the session.

- **CHRIST IN CONTEXT**

The message of Jesus in a particular Bible book.

- **CONTEXT**

The words or environment around what you are studying that help you understand what it means.

Examples of types of context: historical context, cultural context.

- **CROSS-REFERENCING**

Examining a second (*third, fourth, and etc.*) biblical text to gain greater understanding of the first biblical text.

- **GENRE**

A specific form or type of writing or literature. Each form has rules or basic features. In the Bible, there are six genres: Law, History, Poetry and Wisdom, Prophecy, Gospel, and Letters.

- **ORIGINAL AUDIENCE**

The author of each Bible book wrote to a specific audience. The original audience is the first audience to receive the Bible book. All other readers, including today's readers, are not the original audience. The original audience is key to understanding the author's purpose for the Bible book or text.

- **TEXT CONNECTION**

Connects kids to what their parents are studying in Explore the Bible: Adults.

- **TEXT TRUTH**

The main point of the Bible Passage to communicate to children.

# COMING NEXT QUARTER

## FALL 2018

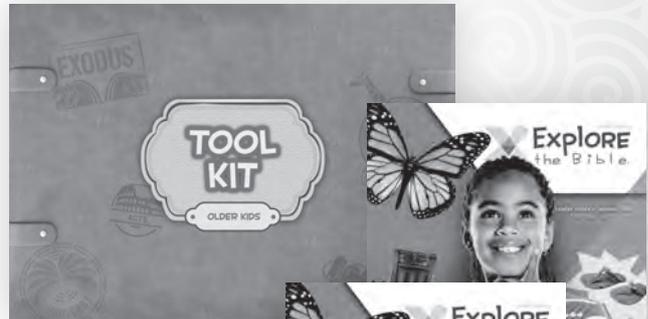
DATE	BIBLE STORY	BIBLE PASSAGE	MEMORY VERSE
Sept. 2	God's Covenant with David	2 Samuel 7	2 Samuel 7:28
Sept. 9	David and Mephibosheth	2 Samuel 9	Ephesians 4:32
Sept. 16	David's Praise for God	2 Samuel 22:1-23:5	2 Samuel 22:31
Sept. 23	The Ark Moved to Jerusalem	1 Chronicles 15:1-4,11-12, 14-16,25-29; 16:1-3,7-36	1 Chronicles 16:34
Sept. 30	David Prepared for the Temple	1 Chronicles 22:2-19; 28	1 Chronicles 28:9b
Oct. 7	God's Covenant with Abraham	Genesis 15:1-6; 17:1-9,15-22; 21:1-7	Genesis 17:7
Oct. 14	God Blessed Isaac	Genesis 26:1-6,12-33	Genesis 26:24b
Oct. 21	God's Plan for Jacob	Genesis 32:1-32; 33:1-4	Jeremiah 29:11
Oct. 28	Joseph Sent to Egypt	Genesis 37:1-36; 41	Genesis 50:19-20
Nov. 4	Joseph Forgave His Brothers	Genesis 42-45	Genesis 50:19-20
Nov. 11	The Book of Galatians	Galatians 2:15-21; 3:1-29; 5:13-26; 6:1-10	Galatians 6:9a
Nov. 18	The Book of James	James 1:2-8,19-27; 2:14-26; 3:1-18	James 1:22
Nov. 25	Live to Honor God	James 4:1-17; 5:7-18	James 4:8a

# TOOLS FOR DIGGING DEEP!

## OLDER KIDS TOOL KIT

**The resources you need to lead one Bible study:**

- One Older Kids Leader Guide
- One Older Kids Explorer Guide
- One pack Kids Family Cards
- One Older Kids Poster Pack
- One Kids Enhanced CD
- One Kids DVD



## OLDER KIDS LEADER GUIDE

**Helps older kids connect the Bible to present day**

- Leader-friendly session plans for small- and large-group learning
- Activities to encourage kids to dig, explore, and discover the Bible

## OLDER KIDS EXPLORER GUIDE

**Engage older kids with a colorful, fact-filled magazine.**

- Identifies each object that reminds kids of the Bible story and Text Truth
- Weekly pages with colorful illustrations, info-graphics, and photos
- Fun-to-do Bible-focused activities relate to the Bible content and application
- Send home at the end of the quarter for kids to keep



## OLDER KIDS POSTER PACK

**Filled with leader-friendly resources that make teaching easy**

- Christ in Context poster(s)
- Text Truth statements
- Memory Verse posters (*CSB, ESV, KJV, NIV*)
- Additional visual aids and resources

## KIDS FAMILY CARDS

- Equip parents with discussion questions that relate to each session

## KIDS ENHANCED CD

- Bible-related music
- Printable teacher tools and session helps

## KIDS DVD

- Includes a video for each session to help kids connect the biblical text to the cultural and historical context of the session

## KIDS TOOL KIT WITH WORSHIP

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



# 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)

**PICTURE THIS: EVERY KID IN YOUR MINISTRY NAVIGATES THE BIBLE WITH EASE AND EXCITEMENT.**



That's what happens when you hang up *Explore the Bible: Kids Books of the Bible Posters* in your ministry area. As kids walk past these color-coded posters full of fun facts, they will begin to soak in the structure of the Word of God. Order your posters today and watch kids' Bible skills grow.

**ORDER NOW.**  
**LIFEWAY.COM/EXPLORETHEBIBLE**  
**1.800.458.2772**



## EXPLORE THE BIBLE

### ***Book-by-book studies for groups of all ages.***

Want to use Explore the Bible with other age groups?

Preview Explore the Bible for students and adults at [LifeWay.com/ExploreTheBible](http://LifeWay.com/ExploreTheBible)

Now you can choose the Bible translation that appears in your study!

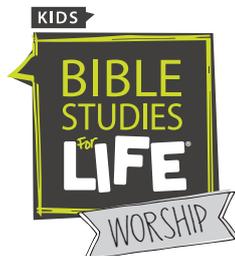
**CHECK OUT THESE ADDITIONAL STUDY OPTIONS TO MEET ALL OF YOUR PROGRAMMING NEEDS THROUGHOUT THE WEEK:**



### **BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE: KIDS**

Combine creative teaching elements and hands-on learning to teach kids Bible truth and give them specific ways to apply it to their lives. Age-specific content is based on the Levels of Biblical Learning and packaged in a way that helps you disciple kids and strengthen families.

[biblestudiesforlife.com](http://biblestudiesforlife.com)



### **BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE: KIDS WORSHIP**

Solid biblical teaching, engaging worship, group games, and take-home family resources—all wrapped in a fun, energetic experience that your kids will love!

Use it as a stand-alone large group program or hand-in-hand with Bible Studies for Life: Kids.



### **THE GOSPEL PROJECT FOR KIDS**

The entire gospel story like kids have never seen it before! Each week, through videos, music, activities and more, kids connect biblical events to God's ultimate plan of redemption through Christ.

[gospelproject.com/kids](http://gospelproject.com/kids)

