



EXPLORE PRESCHOOL
the Bible®



Leader Guide > Summer 2018

Robert Sloan, General Editor

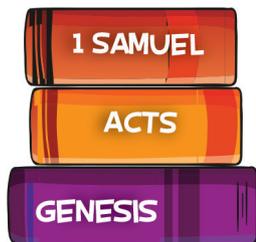
**EXODUS, LEVITICUS, ACTS,
1 & 2 CORINTHIANS**

LifeWay | Preschool

BIBLICAL OVERVIEW 2017-18

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

FALL 2017



WINTER 2017-18



SPRING 2018



SUMMER 2018

EXPLORE THE BIBLE PRESCHOOL LEADER GUIDE



- | | |
|---|---|
| 6 GOD'S PLAN FOR MOSES
Session 1
SUGGESTED FOR THE WEEK OF JUNE 3 | 62 READY TO TELL
Session 8
SUGGESTED FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 22 |
| 14 LEAVING EGYPT
Session 2
SUGGESTED FOR THE WEEK OF JUNE 10 | 70 GO EVERYWHERE
Session 9
SUGGESTED FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 29 |
| 22 THE COMMANDMENTS
Session 3
SUGGESTED FOR THE WEEK OF JUNE 17 | 78 WORK TOGETHER
Session 10
SUGGESTED FOR THE WEEK OF AUG. 5 |
| 30 A PLACE FOR GOD
Session 4
SUGGESTED FOR THE WEEK OF JUNE 24 | 86 HOW TO LOVE
Session 11
SUGGESTED FOR THE WEEK OF AUG. 12 |
| 38 OBEDY AND WORSHIP GOD
Session 5
SUGGESTED FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 1 | 94 DON'T GIVE UP
Session 12
SUGGESTED FOR THE WEEK OF AUG. 19 |
| 46 GOD LOVES EVERYONE
Session 6
SUGGESTED FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 8 | 102 GIVE IN LOVE
Session 13
SUGGESTED FOR THE WEEK OF AUG. 26 |
| 54 LEARN ABOUT JESUS
Session 7
SUGGESTED FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 15 | |

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



Gayle Lintz
Writer, Session Plans
Gayle teaches preschoolers at her church in Waco, TX.

Summer 2018
Volume 4 • Number 4

Eric Geiger
Senior Vice President, LifeWay Resources

Robert Sloan
General Editor

Tim Pollard
Publishing Team Leader

Rachel Coe
Content Editor

Landry Holmes
Manager, Kids Ministry Publishing

Jana Magruder
Director, Kids Ministry

Send questions/comments to: Publishing Team Leader by email to tim.pollard@lifeway.com or mail to Publishing Team Leader, Explore the Bible: Preschool Leader Guide, One LifeWay Plaza, Nashville, TN 37234-0172; or make comments on the Web at lifeway.com.

Printed in the United States of America.

Explore the Bible: Preschool Leader Guide (ISSN 2377-0139; Item Number 005678123) is published quarterly by LifeWay Christian Resources, One LifeWay Plaza, Nashville, TN 37234, Thom S. Rainer, President. © 2018 LifeWay Christian Resources.

For ordering or inquiries, visit lifeway.com, or write LifeWay Resources Customer Service, One LifeWay Plaza, Nashville, TN 37234-0113. For bulk shipments mailed quarterly to one address, email orderentry@lifeway.com, fax (615)251-5933, or write to the above address.

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.

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

Scripture quotations marked CSB® are taken from the Christian Standard Bible®, Copyright 2017 by Holman Bible Publishers. Used by permission.

GET TO KNOW YOUR LEADER GUIDE

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

TERMS TO KNOW

- **BIBLE STORY PASSAGE**
THE FOCAL SCRIPTURE PASSAGE FOR ALL PRESCHOOLERS.
- **TEXT TRUTH**
THE MAIN POINT FROM THE BIBLE STORY PASSAGE TO COMMUNICATE TO CHILDREN.
- **CHRIST IN CONTEXT**
THE MESSAGE OF JESUS IN A PARTICULAR BIBLE BOOK.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE LEADER GUIDE

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

BACKGROUND STUDY FOR TEACHERS

SESSION FOCUS
God made everything.
Genesis 1:1-2

BIBLE VERSE
Genesis 1:1

CHRIST IN CONTEXT
Genesis is the beginning of the Bible, the beginning of the world, the beginning of a people chosen by God, and the beginning of God's love for all people.

BIBLE SKILLS
• Read and understand the Bible.
• Know the names of the books in the Bible.

ARRIVAL ACTIVITIES ARE INVITED
An arrival activity is an activity of a joyful activity that is fun for the child.

QUICK OVERVIEW AND EARLY ARRIVAL ACTIVITIES

OVERVIEW

SESSION FOCUS
God made everything.
Genesis 1:1-2

BIBLE VERSE
Genesis 1:1

ARRIVAL ACTIVITIES ARE INVITED
An arrival activity is an activity of a joyful activity that is fun for the child.

STEP-BY-STEP PROCEDURES FOR LARGE GROUP EXPERIENCES

CHECK OUT LEADER TIPS!
QUICK "DID YOU KNOWS?"
• HOW CHILDREN LEARN
• TIMESAVER TIPS
• ORGANIZATIONAL IDEAS
• PREP STEPS
• GENTLE REMINDERS

EXPLORATION STATIONS

TEXT TRUTH
God made everything.
Genesis 1:1-2

BIBLE VERSE
Genesis 1:1

PRETEND TO CAMP
• Lay out a tent.
• Lay out a sleeping bag.
• Lay out a blanket.
• Lay out a pillow.
• Lay out a flashlight.

READ AND MATCH
• Read the Bible story.
• Match the words to the pictures.

FEEL AND GUESS
• Feel the words.
• Guess the meaning.

EXPLORATION STATIONS

TEXT TRUTH
God made everything.
Genesis 1:1-2

BIBLE VERSE
Genesis 1:1

PLAY WITH SHAPES
• Cut out shapes.
• Play with shapes.

HAVE A CREATION QUIZ
• Answer questions.
• Learn about creation.

MORE BIBLE EXPLORATIONS FOR THE NEXT HOUR

FUN BIBLE-RELATED ACTIVITIES

FOCUS ON HANDS-ON BIBLE DISCOVERY AND EXPLORATION

EXPLORATION STATIONS

TEXT TRUTH
God made everything.
Genesis 1:1-2

BIBLE VERSE
Genesis 1:1

WASH VEGETABLES
• Wash vegetables.
• Learn about health.

ENJOY PLAY DOUGH
• Make play dough.
• Learn about colors.

DECORATE GARDEN POTLIES
• Decorate potlies.
• Learn about plants.

WORK CREATION PHILLES
• Work with clay.
• Learn about creation.

EXPLORATION STATIONS

TEXT TRUTH
God made everything.
Genesis 1:1-2

BIBLE VERSE
Genesis 1:1

WASH VEGETABLES
• Wash vegetables.
• Learn about health.

ENJOY PLAY DOUGH
• Make play dough.
• Learn about colors.

DECORATE GARDEN POTLIES
• Decorate potlies.
• Learn about plants.

WORK CREATION PHILLES
• Work with clay.
• Learn about creation.

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

TEACHING TIPS

PREPARE FOR TEACHING

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

FOCUS ON BIBLE EXPLORATION

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

SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

• ARRIVAL-5 MINUTES

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

• EXPLORATIONS-45-60 MINUTES

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

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

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

• NEXT HOUR-60 MINUTES

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

DON'T FORGET!

Label children's belongings.

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

Keep the classroom door closed for the safety of children.

Focus on the children and your Bible-teaching goals.



AT-A-GLANCE



SESSION	SUGGESTED FOR THE WEEK OF	SESSION TITLE	TEXT TRUTH
1	June 3	God's Plan for Moses	God chose Moses to help His people.
2	June 10	Leaving Egypt	God helped His people leave, and He took care of them.
3	June 17	The Commandments	God's rules help us know how to love God and others.
4	June 24	A Place for God	God told the people to build a place for Him.
5	July 1	Obey and Worship God	God wanted people to know how to live.
6	July 8	God Loves Everyone	God loves every person.
7	July 15	Learn About Jesus	Listen and learn about Jesus.
8	July 22	Ready to Tell	Help other people know about Jesus.
9	July 29	Go Everywhere	Go everywhere to tell about Jesus.
10	Aug. 5	Work Together	God said people at church should work together.
11	Aug. 12	How to Love	The Bible tells how to love others.
12	Aug. 19	Don't Give Up	Church friends help one another.
13	Aug. 26	Give in Love	Giving to others shows God's love.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE: PRESCHOOL SUMMER 2018

	BIBLE STORY	BIBLE VERSE
	God Helped Moses (based on Exodus 2:1-10; 3:12)	Exodus 3:12
	The People Left Egypt (based on Exodus 3:16-19; 6:1-12:35)	Exodus 6:7a
	God Talked to Moses (based on Exodus 19:3-6; 20:1-17)	Psalms 119:138
	People Built the Tabernacle (based on Exodus 35:1,10-20; 36:1-38; 37:10; 38:1,17)	Psalms 26:8
	God Gave Laws to the People (based on Leviticus 18:1-5; 19:1-4; 26:1-13)	Leviticus 18:4
	Peter's Visit to Cornelius (based on Acts 10:9-43)	Acts 10:34
	Paul Talked to Lydia (based on Acts 16:11-15)	1 John 3:23
	Paul Told About Jesus (based on Acts 16:16-32)	Acts 16:31
	Paul's Stormy Journey (based on Acts 27-28)	Matthew 28:19-20
	Paul Helped People at Church (based on 1 Corinthians 1; 3; 4; 12)	1 Corinthians 15:58
	A Letter About Love (based on 1 Corinthians 13)	John 13:34
	Paul Told About His Work (based on 2 Corinthians 1-7)	2 Corinthians 5:20
	Paul Taught About Giving (based on 2 Corinthians 8-9)	2 Corinthians 9:7



Session 1



GOD'S PLAN FOR MOSES

Exodus 2:1-10; 3:12

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 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 eventually 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

TEXT TRUTH

God chose Moses to help His people.

BIBLE STORY

Exodus 2:1-10; 3:12

BIBLE VERSE

Exodus 3:12

CHRIST IN CONTEXT

The Book of Exodus is the story of God at work through Moses to rescue His people. In a greater way, Jesus was sent to rescue us from the bondage of sin.

BIBLE SKILLS

- Begin to recognize names of books in the Bible. Know that Genesis is the first book of the Bible.
- Know that the Bible is a book that people use at church and home.

ARRIVAL ACTIVITIES (5 MINUTES)

As preschoolers arrive, offer choices of self-guided activities that set the stage for Bible explorations.

► Draw a picture of your family.

Tools: Bible, paper, crayons or colored pencils

► Match letters in Moses' name.

Tools: Bible, Moses Sign & Letters (Pack Item 17)

► Feel and identify baby-care items in a diaper bag.

Tools: Bible, small diaper bag, 3-5 items that a baby would use or need

- After everyone has had an opportunity to do one or more arrival activities, direct preschoolers to Exploration Stations. (See next page.)



EXPLORE THE BIBLE 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.

FAMILY AT HOME

Print this week's devotional page (Enhanced CD) to give to families.

TEXT TRUTH

God chose Moses to help His people.

BIBLE VERSE

Exodus 3:12

LEADER TIP!

Children in your class are older now and probably more able to sit and listen longer, and think a little more deeply, than they did back in September.

LEADER TIP

You choose! Are your preschoolers ready to learn memory verses? Decide which wording of the Bible verse you want to use with your group.

GOD HELPED MOSES

Exodus 2:1-10; 3:12

The Bible tells about a man named Moses. Moses was a great leader and helped God's people escape from Egypt.

Moses was born to a Hebrew family who lived in Egypt. Moses was a beautiful baby and his family loved him.

The king in Egypt did not like the Hebrews. But Moses' mother loved her son and made a plan to keep Baby Moses safe from the king. At just the right time, Moses' mother put Moses in a basket. She set the basket near the place where the king's daughter bathed at the river.

When the king's daughter saw baby Moses, she felt sad. She knew her father the king did not like Hebrew boys.

Miriam, Moses' big sister, watched, then she spoke to the king's daughter. "Should I get a Hebrew woman to care for the baby?"

And that is exactly what happened! Moses went to live in his Hebrew home with his family. Moses' mother taught him about God and His people.

When Moses grew older, he went to the king's house to live. He learned many things that would help him become a great leader for God's people.

God helped Moses. God said, "I will be with you."

BIBLE VERSE

From the Bible text:

I will be with you, and you will worship God. Exodus 3:12

Paraphrase:

God said, "I will be with you." Exodus 3:12



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

GATHER

- Give children involved in Arrival Activities or Exploration Station activities a warning to prepare for Circle Time. Say: “You may work for two more minutes, then it will be time to put things away.” Set a timer on your smart phone or watch. (Or use a kitchen timer.)
- Play the Enhanced CD as children come to the circle. Ask questions, such as: “What did you have for breakfast today? What color is the vehicle you rode in to come to church? How many people are in your family?”

HEAR THE BIBLE STORY

- Say: “I wonder what your favorite toy was when you were a baby.” Some children may give an answer; others may not.
- Continue: “Parents want their babies to be happy and warm and safe. A story in the Bible is about a family who found an unusual way to keep their baby safe.”
- Open the Bible to Exodus 2 and hold it in your lap as you tell the Bible story in your own words.
- Put the Story Picture (Pack) on the floor. Ask: “How did Moses’ family keep him warm and safe?” (Some children may suggest ideas that are not part of the Bible content. Say something like: “I’m sure sister Miriam or mother Jochebed did feed baby Moses. That’s something families do for their babies.”)

PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Place a green ribbon at the beginning of Exodus and a red ribbon at the end of Exodus.
- Show children that the Book of Exodus is very close to the front of the Bible. Tell them that it is the second book of the Bible. Only one book, Genesis, comes before Exodus.
- Ask teachers to help preschoolers find the Book of Exodus in their own Bibles or in classroom Bibles.

PRAY

- Say a brief prayer, thanking God for loving families and for always being with us.

OPTIONS

1. Arrival Activities
2. Circle Time
3. Exploration Stations

OR

1. Arrival Activities
2. Exploration Stations
3. Circle Time

TOOLS

- Bibles
- Enhanced CD
- kitchen timer (opt.)
- red ribbon and green ribbon (or colored paper strips)

PACK ITEM

- 1 Story Picture: God Helped Moses

TEXT TRUTH

God chose Moses to help His people.

BIBLE STORY

God Helped Moses
Exodus 2:1-10; 3:12

BIBLE VERSE

Exodus 3:12

PACK ITEMS

- 1 Story Picture: God Helped Moses
- 16 Old Testament Story Markers
- 32 Book: *God's Gifts*

LEADER TIP!

Check ahead of time about allergies to grasses. As an alternative activity, provide soft fabric pieces for children to create a collage. Relate the fabric to a baby blanket or baby clothing a family would use. Say: "God cares for babies and their families. God cared for Moses."

EXPLORATION STATIONS (45-60 MINUTES)

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

GLUE BLADES OF GRASS



Tools: Bible, blades of grass, large paper plates, washable marker, white glue, Allergy Sign (Enhanced CD), Picture: Reeds & Grasses (Enhanced CD)

- Write today's Bible verse on each plate. Prop the picture near the art supplies.
- Direct a child to apply dots of glue to a paper plate, then arrange blades of grass to make a design.
- While the child works, talk about the reeds (tall grass) that grew close to the edge of the river where Moses' sister put his basket.
- Say: "God helped Moses' family keep him safe. God helped Moses when he was a baby and when he grew to be a man."
- Turn to Exodus 2 and tell today's Bible story.

WRITE BIBLE WORDS



Tools: Bible, Bible Words (Enhanced CD), crayons or colored pencils

- Print the Bible Words pages for *God*, *Exodus*, *Moses*, and *Egypt*. Make several copies of each word.
- Read the words to the children, then invite children to trace the letters to "write" the Bible words.
- While children work, open the Bible to the Book of Exodus. Point to some of the words in chapters 1-3 that are the same as those the children are "writing."
- Say: "The Book of Exodus tells about Moses. God chose Moses to help the Hebrew people."

PLAY SCHOOL

Tools: Bible, child's lunch box, paper, crayons, washable markers, dry erase board and markers, paper towels or eraser, 1 or 2 puzzles, plastic interlocking blocks

- Some preschoolers may attend a weekday program or have siblings who attend school. Talk with the children about things children do and learn at school.
- Relate learning to the life of Moses. Say: "Moses grew and learned. His mother taught him about the Hebrew people and God. Teachers at the king's palace taught Moses, too."
- Encourage the children to use the supplies to pretend to be teachers and children at school. Thank God for people who help us learn about Him.

ENJOY WATER PLAY

Tools: Bible, large plastic dishpan, smaller pan, large towel, measuring cups, clean turkey basters, funnels, small plastic pitchers, paper towels, Activity Page

- Spread the towel on a table and put the dishpan on it. Fill the dishpan half full of water. Put the water play items in the smaller pan.
- Invite a child to pour and scoop water. Remind the child that water must stay in the dishpan and not be carried around the room.
- Turn to Exodus 3:12 and point to the verse. Say the Bible verse, then lead the child to say it.
- Comment: "God was always with Moses, even when he was in the basket in the water."
- Ask the child to hold the Activity Page as you tell the Bible story.

READ TO BABY DOLLS

Tools: Bible, Old Testament Story Markers (Pack), Story Picture: God Helped Moses (Pack), 2 baby dolls, 2-3 baby books, Book: God's Gifts (Pack), child's rocking chair, 2 baby blankets

- Open the Bible to Exodus 2 and lay the Bible next to the rocking chair.
- Show a baby book to a child and talk about families reading to babies. Ask the preschooler if she would like to read to a baby doll.
- Another child may sit in the chair and read to a doll.
- Show the children the Story Picture and point to Moses' mother. Say: "God loved Moses and helped Moses' family know what to do. God helps your family know what to do, too, to take care of you."
- Find the Story Marker in the Bible. Say: "The story about Moses is here in the Book of Exodus."

NEXT HOUR (MORE EXPLORATIONS FOR PRESCHOOLERS)

OPTIONS

1. Continue activities from the first hour. (Kids learn through repetition.)
2. Try something different. Choose two or three new activities.

TEXT TRUTH

God chose Moses to help His people.

BIBLE STORY

God Helped Moses
Exodus 2:1-10; 3:12
The Bible story is printed on the back of the Story Picture.

BIBLE VERSE

Exodus 3:12

LEADER TIP!

Look for a picture of a Bible times house in an atlas, picture Bible, or online.

PASS THE BIBLE

Tools: Bible, ribbon placed at Exodus 2, Enhanced CD

- Play the CD and invite children to stand in a circle. Tell preschoolers to pass the Bible to one another while the music plays.
- Stop the music and ask the child to open the Bible to the ribbon. Comment that the ribbon marks the page where we read the Bible story.
- Resume play until every child gets a turn to open the Bible.
- Lead children to say the Bible verse together.

TAKE A WALK OUTDOORS

Tools: Bible, Activity Page

- If you have a safe area outside your church building, take preschoolers for a walk. Be sure to leave a note outside the door to let parents and leaders know where to find you if needed.
- Walk for a few minutes and talk with the children about things or people they see. Comment that God loves people and helps them.
- Remark: “God helped Moses’ mother know what to do. God took care of Moses. God chose Moses to help His people, the Hebrews.”
- Return to the room, wash hands, and sit down to rest. Show preschoolers the picture on the Activity Page as you recall the Bible story.

BUILD HOUSES

Tools: Bible, wooden blocks, toy family figures, picture of a Bible times house

- As children show interest in blocks and figures, comment: “You live at home with your family. Moses lived with his family when he was young, but then he went to live at the king’s house.”
- Ask children to describe different types of homes. Suggest that they work together to build a house for the family figures. Children can build cooperatively on one large house, or they may want to construct individual houses.

GLUE GIFT WRAP SHAPES

Tools: Bible, Story Picture: God Helped Moses (Pack Item 1), light blue construction paper, baby design gift wrap paper cut into geometric shapes, glue sticks, sticky labels with today's Bible verse written or printed on them

- Show children the Story Picture and recall how Moses' mother and sister helped take care of him when he was a baby. Relate their care to things the children's families do to care for them.
- Invite children to glue gift wrap pieces on their paper to make a collage. Give each child a label to place on his paper. Read the verse to the children and help them say it.
- Say: "Thank You, God, for helping babies grow and learn. Thank You for helping us learn verses from the Bible that tell about You."

LEADER TIP!

Form groups of two or three preschoolers and a teacher. Look at the Activity Page, review the Bible story, and say the Bible verse.

CIRCLE TIME

GATHER

- Ask children to go to the circle.
- Play the Enhanced CD. Invite preschoolers to listen for songs about God and sing along.

REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

- Put this week's Old Testament Story Marker (Pack Item 16) at Exodus 2.
- Ask a child to hold the Story Picture (Pack Item 1). Ask another child to open the Bible to the Story Marker and compare the picture on the marker with the Story Picture.

- Review the Bible story while another child holds the open Bible.

PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Distribute Bibles to the children.
- Ask teachers to help children find the Book of Exodus. Look for Moses' name.

PRAY

- Pray, thanking God for His love and care.
- Thank God for giving us the Bible to help us learn about Him.

DON'T FORGET!

Give every child this week's Activity Page and Preschool Family Card.



Look for printable Next Hour helps on the Preschool Enhanced CD.



Session

2



LEAVING EGYPT

Exodus 3:16-19; 6:1–12:35

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's first visit to the palace, Pharaoh 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

TEXT TRUTH

God helped His people leave, and He took care of them.

BIBLE STORY

Exodus 3:16-19; 6:1–12:35

BIBLE VERSE

Exodus 6:7a

CHRIST IN CONTEXT

The Book of Exodus is the story of God at work through Moses to rescue His people. In a greater way, Jesus was sent to rescue us from the bondage of sin.

BIBLE SKILLS

- Remember and say simple Bible words, phrases, and verses with Bible references.
- Begin to understand that a Bible reference includes a book, chapter, and verse.

ARRIVAL ACTIVITIES (5 MINUTES)

As preschoolers arrive, offer choices of self-guided activities that set the stage for Bible explorations.

► Search for Bible words.

Tools: Bible; index cards with words printed on them (God, Moses, Pharaoh, people); colorful sticky flags

► Make tire tracks in play dough.

Tools: Bible, fresh play dough, toy cars with treaded wheels

► Design a Bible marker.

Tools: Bible, wide strips of paper with today's Bible verse printed on them, colorful stickers, hole punch, strips of ribbon

- After everyone has had an opportunity to do one or more arrival activities, direct preschoolers to Exploration Stations. (See next page.)



EXPLORE THE BIBLE 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 demanded 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, and both men followed the leading of the one true God.

FAMILY AT HOME

Print this week's devotional page (Enhanced CD) to give to families.

TEXT TRUTH

God helped His people leave, and He took care of them.

BIBLE VERSE

Exodus 6:7a

LEADER TIP

Explain to preschoolers that “miraculous things” are things only God can do.

THE PEOPLE LEFT EGYPT

Exodus 3:16-19; 6:1–12:35

For many years the Hebrew people were slaves in Egypt. They worked long and hard all day, every day. God saw all the ways the people were mistreated in Egypt.

God told Moses He would help the people leave Egypt and go home to their land. God said He would do miraculous things for His people, then the king of Egypt would let the people go.

So Moses listened to God’s instruction. God told Moses to go see Pharaoh, a leader in Egypt. Moses was afraid at first, but God helped Moses be brave.

Moses told Pharaoh to let God’s people go. But Pharaoh said no. This happened over and over.

So God made bad things happen to Pharaoh and the land of Egypt. God sent diseases, insects, storms, and many more things to hurt the Egyptians. But God kept His people safe from the bad things.

Moses kept telling Pharaoh: “God said, ‘Let My people go.’”

Finally, Pharaoh was tired of all the bad things happening to his family and all of Egypt. Pharaoh said, “Get up! Leave! Go worship your God. Take your animals and families!”

So Moses led the Hebrews out of Egypt. God took care of His people and provided everything they needed.

LEADER TIP

You choose! Are your preschoolers ready to learn memory verses? Decide which wording of the Bible verse you want to use with your group.

BIBLE VERSE

From the Bible text:

I will be your God. You will know I am your God. Exodus 6:7a

Paraphrase:

You will know I am your God. Exodus 6:7a



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

GATHER

- Walk around the room and ask the children to complete what they are working on and begin cleaning up.
- Softly play the Enhanced CD while children clean up and move to the Circle Time area.
- When children are seated, open the suitcase and say: “This is what I packed for us.” Hold the suitcase so children can see the instruments.
- Ask each child to choose an instrument to play as the CD plays. If there aren’t enough instruments for all the children, lead some children to clap their hands or wave. Play one or two songs so everyone can participate.

HEAR THE BIBLE STORY

- Ask children questions about trips they may be planning or have taken. For example, ask: “What did you or your parents pack for your trip? Did you drive or ride in an airplane or train? Did you visit a special place or visit people?”
- Remark: “A story in the Bible tells about some people who took a long trip. Listen to find out more.”
- Open your Bible to Exodus 6 and use your own words to tell the Bible story. After the story, show children the Story Picture (Pack). Point to Pharaoh and to Moses.

PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Show children the Bible Verse Marker (Pack) for today. Comment: “Sometimes I read a Bible verse. Sometimes I sing a Bible verse. Let’s look for a Bible verse together.”
- Help children open their Bibles (or classroom Bibles) to Exodus 6:7a. To the tune “Mary Had a Little Lamb,” sing the words:
You will know I am your God, I am your God, I am your God.
You will know I am your God. Exodus 6:7.
- Sing the song again, leading the children to sing the Bible verse with you.

PRAY

- Pray, thanking God for giving us the Bible to help us learn about Him.

OPTIONS

1. Arrival Activities
2. Circle Time
3. Exploration Stations

OR

1. Arrival Activities
2. Exploration Stations
3. Circle Time

TOOLS

- Bible
- small suitcase and several musical instruments
- Enhanced CD

PACK ITEMS

- 2 Story Picture: The People Left Egypt
- 23 Bible Verse Markers 1

TEXT TRUTH

God helped His people leave, and He took care of them.

BIBLE STORY

The People Left Egypt
Exodus 3:16-19; 6:1-12:35

BIBLE VERSE

Exodus 6:7a

PACK ITEMS

- 2 Story Picture: The People Left Egypt
- 16 Old Testament Story Markers
- 18 Exodus Map
- 23 Bible Verse Markers 1

EXPLORATION STATIONS (45-60 MINUTES)

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

PACK A SUITCASE

Tools: Bible, small suitcase or child's backpack, doll clothes, items of children's clothing, laundry basket, Story Picture: The People Left Egypt (Pack)

- Invite a preschooler to choose clothing from the basket to fold and pack in the suitcase.
- Comment: "Today's Bible story is about a long journey for Moses and the Hebrews. God helped Moses and the people know what to do."
- Show the child the Story Picture as you tell the Bible story.
- After the story, ask questions such as: "Who were slaves who worked hard? Who went to talk to Pharaoh? Who led the people out of Egypt on the journey?"

GO AROUND OBSTACLES

Tools: Bible, traffic cones or cardboard blocks, plastic hoop, large box lid, basket, chair, table, masking tape, Exodus Map (Pack)

- Arrange the objects in one area of the room. Use tape to make directional arrows pointing which way to go. Put the Exodus Map at the end of the path.
- Guide children to go through, under, and over objects. When they reach the end and notice the map, show the children the path of Moses' journey away from Egypt.
- Say: "Moses led the people to the land God promised would be their new home."

SPELL A BIBLE BOOK

Tools: Bible, strips of paper with the words Exodus and Moses printed on them, letter tiles or magnetic board and magnetic letters, Activity Page

- Invite a child to get a word strip. Say: "That is the word *Exodus*. It is the name of a book in the Bible."
- Suggest that the child look for letter tiles to spell the word. Then get the Bible and help the preschooler locate the Book of Exodus.
- Show the picture on the Activity Page. Remark: "Exodus is where we read about Moses talking to Pharaoh. Moses told Pharaoh that God said to let His people, the Hebrews, leave Egypt. But Pharaoh did not want to do that."
- Lead the child to spell Moses' name and locate it in the Bible.

MAKE A BIBLE VERSE MARKER

Tools: Bible, Bible Verse Markers 1 (Pack), wide paper strips, washable markers, small star stickers

- Put today's marker in the Bible at Exodus 6:7.
- Open the Bible to the verse and read it to the children. Point to the words and lead children to say the verse with you a few times.
- Comment: "God wanted the people to know He was their God and would always take care of them."
- Invite children to design markers to put in their Bibles.
- While children work, sing this song (tune "Mary Had a Little Lamb"):
*You will know I am your God;
I am your God; I am your God;
You will know I am your God. Exodus 6:7.*

PAINT WITH CARS

Tools: Bible, large pieces of paper, washable paint, heavy-duty paper plates, plastic drop cloth, paint smocks, small plastic cars

- Cover a table with the drop cloth for easier cleanup. Pour a puddle of paint into each paper plate.
- After a child puts on a smock, guide him to roll a car in the paint two or three times, then place the car on a piece of paper.
- Next tell the child to roll the car slowly across the paper to make tire tracks.
- While the child paints, comment: "You rode in a car to church, but when the people left Egypt, they walked. Moses helped the people get ready to leave. Then God took care of the people on the long journey. Let's look for that story in the Bible."
- Help the child locate Exodus 3 or 6.

NEXT HOUR (MORE EXPLORATIONS FOR PRESCHOOLERS)

OPTIONS

1. Continue activities from the first hour. (Kids learn through repetition.)
2. Try something different. Choose two or three new activities.

TEXT TRUTH

God helped His people leave, and He took care of them.

BIBLE STORY

The People Left Egypt
Exodus 3:16-19; 6:1-12:35
The Bible story is printed on the back of the Story Picture.

BIBLE VERSE

Exodus 6:7a

PACK DISHES AND TOYS

Tools: Bible, 2 cardboard boxes, newspaper or tissue paper, toy dishes, toys

- Some children’s families may have recently moved or children know of people who have moved. Ask preschoolers what their families did to prepare for the move.
- Say: “Let’s pretend we are moving to a different room at church. We can work together to pack what we need.”
- Lead preschoolers to wrap toys and dishes in paper and pack them into the boxes. As they work, pray, thanking God for taking care of families when they move.
- Relate the children’s activity to Moses and God’s people preparing to leave Egypt.

WORK PUZZLES

Tools: Bible, 1 or 2 puzzles showing families, Wooden Box Puzzle Set: Life of Moses (Lifeway, 001276455)

- At this time of year, most of your children may be able to work the Moses jigsaw puzzles without much help. If younger children need assistance, encourage their older friends to help.
- Talk about the Moses puzzles and remind children about today’s Bible story. As preschoolers work family puzzles, mention that God loves families and helps them.

DECORATE A LETTER

Tools: Bible; large sheet of paper; scissors; masking tape; collage items (pom-poms, paper squares, snips of ribbon and yarn); glue sticks; Moses Sign & Letters (Pack Item 17)

- Before the session, cut a large *M* shape from the paper and attach it to a wall. Put the glue sticks and collage items on a nearby table.
- Invite preschoolers to glue collage items to the *M* shape on the wall. Ask the children if they can think of a Bible person whose name begins with the letter *M*. Show children the Moses Sign and say Moses’ name.

- Comment: “Moses’ name begins with the letter *M*. God chose Moses to lead the people out of Egypt.”

CUT OUT PICTURES

Tools: Bible, magazine pages showing vehicles, 3 or 4 pair of children’s safety scissors

- Tear out magazine pages and put them on a table with the scissors.
- Invite the children to cut out the vehicle pictures. As children work at cutting, talk with them about the vehicles they ride in. Ask: “What do you see as you travel on the road?” Remark that Moses and the Hebrews walked out of Egypt. They did not ride in vehicles.
- Open the Bible to Exodus 3 or 6 and point to Moses’ name. Find the Bible verse (Exodus 6:7a) and help preschoolers say the verse with you.

LEADER TIP!

Form groups of two or three preschoolers and a teacher. Look at the Activity Page, review the Bible story, and say the Bible verse.

LEADER TIP!

Younger preschoolers may not be skilled at cutting with scissors. If children become frustrated, give them pieces of construction paper to tear into strips or pieces. Show the children the vehicle pictures and relate them to Moses and the people leaving Egypt.

CIRCLE TIME

GATHER

- To the tune “The Wheels on the Bus,” sing:
The wheels on the car go ‘round and ‘round, ‘round and ‘round, ‘round and ‘round. The wheels on the car go ‘round and ‘round. All around the town.
- Invite children to sing with you.

REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

- Pass the Story Picture (Pack Item 2) around the circle for children to see.
- Ask children to tell what they remember about the Bible story.

PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Help a child open the Bible at today’s Bible Verse Marker (Pack Item 23).
- Assist all children in looking for Exodus 6:7.
- Say: “God helped the people. He wanted them to know He was their God.”
- Lead preschoolers to say the Bible verse with you.

PRAY

- Thank God for helping us learn about Him through stories in the Bible.

DON’T FORGET!

Give every child this week’s Activity Page and Preschool Family Card.



Look for printable Next Hour helps on the Preschool Enhanced CD.



Session 3



THE COMMANDMENTS

Exodus 19:3-6; 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

TEXT TRUTH

God's rules help us know how to love God and others.

BIBLE STORY

Exodus 19:3-6; 20:1-17

BIBLE VERSE

Psalm 119:138

CHRIST IN CONTEXT

The Book of Exodus is the story of God at work through Moses to rescue His people. In a greater way, Jesus was sent to rescue us from the bondage of sin.

BIBLE SKILLS

- Begin to understand how Bible verses apply to his life.
- Understand the Bible teaches right and wrong.

ARRIVAL ACTIVITIES (5 MINUTES)

As preschoolers arrive, offer choices of self-guided activities that set the stage for Bible explorations.

► Sort plastic eating utensils.

Tools: Bible; plastic knives, forks, and spoons; bowl; plastic cutlery tray (opt.)

► Make a family picture collage.

Tools: Bible, paper, picture cutouts of family groups, glue sticks

► Sculpt and cut play dough.

Tools: Bible, fresh play dough, craft sticks, cookie cutters or other play dough tools

- After everyone has had an opportunity to do one or more arrival activities, direct preschoolers to Exploration Stations. (See next page.)



EXPLORE THE BIBLE 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.

FAMILY AT HOME

Print this week's devotional page (Enhanced CD) to give to families.

TEXT TRUTH

God's rules help us know how to love God and others.

BIBLE VERSE

Psalm 119:138

LEADER TIP!

Tell preschoolers that people often refer to God's rules (laws) in Exodus 20 as The Ten Commandments.

GOD TALKED TO MOSES

Exodus 19:3-6; 20:1-17

Moses was camped in the desert with the people of Israel. Moses was the people's leader. He was guiding the people to a special land God had told them to find.

One day God told Moses to leave the camp and walk up a mountain. God wanted to talk to Moses.

God said: "Moses, tell the people to obey Me." God then gave Moses some instructions so the people would know what to do.

Moses went back and told the people what God said.

Then God talked to Moses again. God gave Moses important rules that would help the people know how to treat one another and love God as they should. God said that if the people would do what He said, He would remember them always and they would be His special people forever.

Moses told the people what God said.

The people listened. Moses told the people God's rules. Some of the rules were: "Love Me. I am God. Love your mother and father and do what they tell you to do. Do not take and keep something that belongs to someone else. Always tell the truth."

The people said, "We will do everything God said."

God loved the people. He gave the rules to Moses so the people would know how to obey God.

LEADER TIP

You choose! Are your preschoolers ready to learn memory verses? Decide which wording of the Bible verse you want to use with your group.

BIBLE VERSE

From the Bible text:

[Your] decrees are righteous and trustworthy. Psalm 119:138

Paraphrase:

God's laws are good. Psalm 119:138



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

GATHER

- Walk around the room, asking children to finish activities and put away supplies and equipment they have been using. As you move through the Exploration Stations, pick up an item and put it in the bag, along with today's Bible Verse Marker (Pack).
- After children are in the Circle Time area, reach in the bag and hold one item without revealing it to the children. Say: "If you think I'm holding a puzzle piece in my hand, wiggle your fingers." Wait for responses.
- Then say: "If you think I'm not holding a puzzle piece in my hand, tap your heads." Pull the item from the bag and show it to the children.
- Continue choosing items and asking for movement responses until all the items except the Bible Verse Marker have been removed.

HEAR THE BIBLE STORY

- Say: "That was a silly game with funny rules, wasn't it?" Open the Bible to Exodus 20 and say: "A place in the Bible tells us about some very important rules. They were not silly."
- Tell the Bible story with enthusiasm, using your own words.
- Hold the Story Picture (Pack) and ask the children to name some of the important rules that God told Moses. Give children hints as necessary.

PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Remove the Bible Verse Marker from the bag and lay it in the Bible opened to Psalm 119:138. Say: "This verse is in the Book of Psalms. The Book of Psalms is located in the middle of our Bibles." Show the Bible to the children.
- Read the verse to the children, then lead them to repeat it two times.
- Say: "God loves us and wants us to make good choices. He gave us His rule (laws) to help us know how to live."

PRAY

- To the tune "Mary Had a Little Lamb," sing these words:
Thank You, God, for loving us, loving us, loving us. Thank You, God, for loving us. We promise to love You.

OPTIONS

1. Arrival Activities
2. Circle Time
3. Exploration Stations

OR

1. Arrival Activities
2. Exploration Stations
3. Circle Time

TOOLS

- medium-sized bag
- items from Exploration Stations, such as puzzle piece, wooden block, book, plastic cup

PACK ITEMS

- 3 Story Picture: God Talked to Moses
- 23 Bible Verse Markers 1

TEXT TRUTH

God's rules help us know how to love God and others.

BIBLE STORY

God Talked to Moses
Exodus 19:3-6; 20:1-17

BIBLE VERSE

Psalm 119:138

PACK ITEMS

3 Story Picture: God Talked to Moses
23 Bible Verse Markers 1
32 Book: *God's Gifts*

LEADER TIP!

Throughout the session, tell preschoolers that God's rules (laws) help us know how to love Him and get along with others.

EXPLORATION STATIONS (45-60 MINUTES)

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

DRAW A PICTURE ABOUT RULES



Tools: Bible, Bible Verse Markers 1 (Pack), paper, crayons, colored pencils, Activity Page

- Read today's Bible verse to children and help the children say it with you.
- Show children the picture on the Activity Page. Review some of the rules that God gave to Moses.
- Ask children about rules they may know from home or school. Give a few suggestions to prompt responses.
- Remark: "Rules are made to help us, not punish us. That's why God gave rules (laws) to the people. He wanted to help them."
- Invite children to draw a picture that shows them obeying a rule.

PREPARE A FAMILY MEAL



Tools: Bible; toy dishes, pots, pans, and plastic utensils; colorful place mats, napkins, preschool book about family life

- Suggest that preschoolers pretend to cook a meal for their family. Some children can set the table while others cook.
- As the children work, talk with them about things families do together. Remind children that one of God's rules (laws) is to obey your parents.
- When the meal is ready, lead preschoolers to thank God for the special meal. Say: "God, we thank You for loving us and giving rules to help us. Amen."

SCOOP SAND

Tools: Bible; large tub; clean play sand; plastic bowls, funnels, strainers, measuring cups; child's broom and dustpan; Story Picture: God Talked to Moses (Pack)

- Invite a child to scoop sand. Relate the sand to the dry desert and rocky hills that were in some Bible times places.
- Show the child the Story Picture and point to the mountain. Say: "God told Moses to go up the mountain. God had something important to tell Moses."
- Ask the child to use the broom and dustpan to clean up sand on the floor. Thank the child for making the area safe for a friend to scoop sand.
- Open the Bible to Exodus 20. Show the child the list of rules God gave to Moses.

ARRANGE BIBLE WORD CUPS

Tools: Bible, plastic drinking cups, black marker, paper with today's Bible verse written on it

- On each cup, write one word from the Bible verse and reference. Put the cups with the paper.
- Encourage a child to look at the paper as you read the verse. Say: "Look at the cups. They have the same words. Can you put the cups in order to match the words on the paper?"
- Help the child sequence the cups, then read the Bible verse. Lead the child to say the verse with you.
- Open the Bible to Psalm 119:138. Remark: "This verse is from the Book of Psalms. This psalm tells how wonderful God's laws are and how they help us."
- Thank God for His laws.

PLAY WITH PEOPLE FIGURES

Tools: Bible, toy people figures, wooden blocks, Book: God's Gifts (Pack)

- Encourage preschoolers in building and pretend play.
- As children move the figures, connect them to the Bible story. For example, say: "You are playing with a mother and daddy. Mothers and daddies and children followed Moses and listened to him."
- Open the Bible to Exodus 20 and recall the Bible story. Say: "Moses told the people about the important rules (laws) God gave to them. Moses said, 'Obey God.'"
- While children stack blocks, listen for opportunities to talk about some of God's rules (laws).
- Read the book to children, then say a brief thank you to God for His goodness.

NEXT HOUR (MORE EXPLORATIONS FOR PRESCHOOLERS)

OPTIONS

1. Continue activities from the first hour. (Kids learn through repetition.)
2. Try something different. Choose two or three new activities.

TEXT TRUTH

God's rules help us know how to love God and others.

BIBLE STORY

God Talked to Moses

Exodus 19:3-6; 20:1-17

The Bible story is printed on the back of the Story Picture.

BIBLE VERSE

Psalms 119:138

TAP A RHYTHM

Tools: Bible, Bible Verse Markers 1 (Pack Item 23), rhythm sticks (or other percussion instruments)

- Use markers for Sessions 1–3. Put the markers in the correct locations in the Bible.
- Ask a child to open the Bible at a marker. Read the Bible verse and lead the child to use an instrument to tap a rhythm to the words of the verse.
- Invite other preschoolers to tap rhythms and repeat Bible verses.

TEAR & GLUE PAPER STRIPS

Tools: Bible, construction paper, white paper, glue sticks

- Tear one strip of paper to mark today's Bible story at Exodus 19 or 20.
- Invite preschoolers to tear the paper into strips. Then children can glue the strips on a sheet of white paper to make a collage.
- While children work, open the Bible and say: "This is where we read about Moses and the people leaving Egypt."
- Ask the children to tell you what they remember about the story.
- Say: "God chose Moses to lead the people and help them know what God said to do."

SHINE FLASHLIGHTS

Tools: Bibles, small flashlights, Story Picture: God Talked to Moses (Pack Item 3)

- Open one Bible to Exodus 20 and another one to Psalm 119:138. Lay the Story Picture next to the Bibles.
- Give a preschooler a flashlight and direct him to shine it on a page. Say: "The light is shining on the Bible page. That is where we read the story about the rules (laws) God gave to Moses." Or "See the words here. They say that God's laws are good."
- Tell a child to shine the light on the Story Picture as you recall the Bible story. Ask the child to tell things he remembers about the story.

COUNT BIBLES

Tools: several Bibles placed around the room (Include a teacher's Bible and children's Bibles.)

- Tell children that God gave us the Bible to help us know about Him and His plan for His people.
- Direct children to look around the room to locate Bibles. Lead the children on a walk to count the Bibles.
- After counting, sit down with a Bible open to Exodus 20. Summarize the Bible story. Remark: "The rules (laws) God gave to Moses are sometimes called the Ten Commandments."
- Lead boys and girls to count 1–10.

LEADER TIP!

Form groups of two or three preschoolers and a teacher. Look at the Activity Page, review the Bible story, and say the Bible verse.

CIRCLE TIME

GATHER

- As children come to the Circle Time area, tap a rhythm stick on the floor. Ask children to count the number of taps they hear.
- Continue until all the children have joined the group.

REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

- Ask children to tell you, one at a time, what they remember about the story. Add details or ask specific questions.
- Show children the Story Picture (Pack Item 3) as you talk about the story.

PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Using a rhythm stick, tap out the beats of today's Bible verse. Ask the children to tell you what they think it is.
- If preschoolers need hints, say the first word of the verse, then tap out the rest.
- Direct children to say the verse together as you tap the rhythm.

PRAY

- Thank God for each child and his family. Thank God for His rules (laws) that are for our good.

DON'T FORGET!

Give every child this week's Activity Page and Preschool Family Card.



Look for printable Next Hour helps on the Preschool Enhanced CD.



Session

4



A PLACE FOR GOD

Exodus 35:1,10-20; 36:1-38; 37:10; 38:1,17

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, which was 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

TEXT TRUTH

God told the people to build a place for Him.

BIBLE STORY

Exodus 35:1,10-20; 36:1-38; 37:10; 38:1,17

BIBLE VERSE

Psalm 26:8

CHRIST IN CONTEXT

The Book of Exodus is the story of God at work through Moses to rescue His people. In a greater way, Jesus was sent to rescue us from the bondage of sin.

BIBLE SKILLS

- Know that Psalms is in the middle of the Bible.
- Remember and retell a familiar Bible story and Bible fact.

ARRIVAL ACTIVITIES (5 MINUTES)

As preschoolers arrive, offer choices of self-guided activities that set the stage for Bible explorations.

► Create structures with blocks.

Tools: Bible, plastic interlocking blocks, Bible atlas or dictionary showing the tabernacle

► Design a yarn picture.

Tools: Bible; short lengths of yarn in red, purple, and blue; sheets of sandpaper

► Use a magnifying glass to find words in the Bible.

Tools: Bible, cards with these words printed on them: Moses, tabernacle, Psalms, Exodus

- After everyone has had an opportunity to do one or more arrival activities, direct preschoolers to Exploration Stations. (See next page.)



EXPLORE THE BIBLE 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.

FAMILY AT HOME

Print this week's devotional page (Enhanced CD) to give to families.

TEXT TRUTH

God told the people to build a place for Him.

BIBLE VERSE

Psalm 26:8

LEADER TIP!

Help children learn that the tabernacle was to be a place where the people could worship God.

PEOPLE BUILT THE TABERNACLE

Exodus 35:1,10-20; 36:1-38; 37:10; 38:1,17

Moses called the people together. He told them that God had a very important job for them. God wanted the people to make a place for Him, a tabernacle (tent church).

“Everyone who can work should help,” Moses said. Moses told the people to bring all the things that would be needed to make the tabernacle.

The people did as Moses said. They gathered all the things that were needed to build the tabernacle. They even brought more than was needed. Moses said: “Stop. We do not need any more things for the tabernacle.”

Then God told Moses how the people were to build the tabernacle. Moses told this to the people working to build the tabernacle. They did it exactly as God said. Some people made blue, purple, and red cloth. Other people sewed the cloth together to make one piece for the tent church. Another group of people made the frame for the tabernacle. Another group of people made a table and covered it with pure gold. People made frames and hooks to hold up the tabernacle. People made special clothes for the church leaders.

Everyone did his job to build the tabernacle for God.

LEADER TIP

You choose! Are your preschoolers ready to learn memory verses? Decide which wording of the Bible verse you want to use with your group.

BIBLE VERSE

From the Bible text:

Lord, I love the house where you dwell. Psalm 26:8

Paraphrase:

I love the place where God is. Psalm 26:8



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

GATHER

- Insert the Exodus Bible Verse Markers (Pack) at the appropriate locations in the Bible.
- Play the Enhanced CD and walk around the room asking children to finish their work and put materials away.
- As children get seated, continue the music and ask children to clap their hands. After a few seconds, ask: “Now, can you tap your feet to the music?” Follow with: “Can you clap your hands and tap your feet to the music?”
- At the end of the song, say: “Now, can you make your hands and feet be really still and quiet?”

HEAR THE BIBLE STORY

- Open the Bible to Exodus 35 and point to the page. Say: “Today’s story is from the Book of Exodus. We have heard other stories from this book.”
- Tell today’s Bible story in your own words.
- Give the four Story Pictures (Pack) to four children and ask them to sequence the pictures in order to tell the story of God’s plan for Moses. Help children recall the stories and move themselves to put the pictures in the correct sequence.

PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Point out the Bible Verse Markers in the Bible. Guide children to find the Book of Exodus in their Bibles or classroom Bibles.
- Read the two Bible verses that are from Exodus and point out that Exodus is at the beginning part of the Bible.
- Then ask the children to find the Book of Psalms in the center of their Bibles. Read the two verses that come from the Psalms.

PRAY

- Say a prayer, thanking God for the Bible that is true.
- Thank God for your church, a place where people can worship God and learn about Him.

OPTIONS

1. Arrival Activities
2. Circle Time
3. Exploration Stations

OR

1. Arrival Activities
2. Exploration Stations
3. Circle Time

TOOLS

- Bible
- Enhanced CD

PACK ITEMS

- 1 Story Picture: God Helped Moses
 - 2 Story Picture: The People Left Egypt
 - 3 Story Picture: God Talked to Moses
 - 4 Story Picture: People Built the Tabernacle
- 23 Bible Verse Markers 1 (Sessions 1–4)

TEXT TRUTH

God told the people to build a place for Him.

BIBLE STORY

People Built the Tabernacle
Exodus 35:1,10-20; 36:1-38;
37:10; 38:1,17

BIBLE VERSE

Psalm 26:8

PACK ITEMS

4 Story Picture: People Built the Tabernacle
21 Classroom Picture Cards
23 Bible Verse Markers 1

LEADER TIP!

Keep children safe by always supervising use of sewing needles and building tools.

EXPLORATION STATIONS (45-60 MINUTES)

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

PAINT & DISCOVER



Tools: Bible, white paper, white crayon, watercolor paints, small paintbrushes, Activity Page

- Use the white crayon to write today's Bible verse and reference across individual papers.
- Invite a child to paint a picture. As she brushes paint over the surface, the crayoned verse will appear.
- Read the Bible verse to the child. Remark: "Those words are from the Book of Psalms. Let's say the words together."
- Lead the child to repeat the Bible verse.
- When the child finishes painting, show her the Activity Page and tell the Bible story. Comment: "God told the people to build a place for Him."

FIND & TOUCH



Tools: Bible, Classroom Picture Cards (Pack), picture of your church

- Show preschoolers the picture of your church. Say: "We come to our church to sing, pray, read the Bible, and worship God."
- Spread the picture cards on the floor. Say: "These are pictures of things we see in our room at church."
- Invite children one at a time to turn over a card and look in the room for the item that is pictured. Tell each child to touch the item.
- Thank God for your church where you can worship God.

GUESS THE TOOLS

*Tools: Bible, several toy tools or actual tools, bandana, toolbox,
Story Picture: People Built the
Tabernacle (Pack)*

- Spread the tools on the floor. Lead children to name the tools.
- Cover the tools with the bandana. Direct children to close their eyes.
- Lift the bandana and tell a preschooler to take away one tool and place it in the toolbox.
- Tell the other children to open their eyes and guess the tool that is missing.
- After several guesses and the correct answer, ask another child to take a turn. Repeat the sequence.
- Relate the tools to the work the people did to build the tabernacle for God.
- Show the Story Picture.

DRIVE CARS TO CHURCH

Tools: Bible, large picture of your church or any church, masking tape, small toy cars, toy road signs (opt.)

- Lay the church picture on the floor or prop it against a wall. Create a masking tape roadway leading to the picture. Curve the road and make several turns.
- Invite children to choose cars to drive to the church. Talk with children about ways they travel to church, and mention things people do at church.
- While children roll cars, remark that people at your church love God and worship Him. Relate this to Moses and the people who built the tabernacle.
- Say: “God told the people to build a place for Him. God was pleased with the people’s work.”

SEW ON BURLAP

Tools: Bible; 12-inch squares of burlap; 18-inch lengths of red, blue, and purple yarn; large-eyed dull-pointed needles (plastic)

- Thread a needle with yarn. Tie a small knot in one end, and make a larger knot at the other end.
- Guide a child to push the needle through the burlap and pull the yarn all the way through until the large knot stops the yarn.
- As the child pushes and pulls the needle through the fabric, talk with him about the curtains and other furnishings the people made for the tabernacle.
- Comment: “God wanted the tabernacle to be a beautiful place. He told the people exactly what to do. Some people made curtains. Others built tables. Everyone had a special job to do.”

NEXT HOUR (MORE EXPLORATIONS FOR PRESCHOOLERS)

OPTIONS

1. Continue activities from the first hour. (Kids learn through repetition.)
2. Try something different. Choose two or three new activities.

TEXT TRUTH

God told the people to build a place for Him.

BIBLE STORY

People Built the Tabernacle
Exodus 35:1,10-20; 36:1-38;
37:10; 38:1,17

The Bible story is printed on the back of the Story Picture.

BIBLE VERSE

Psalm 26:8

SEQUENCE WORD BLOCKS

Tools: Bible, wooden blocks, square sticky note sheets, marker, sentence strip, tape

- Print words of the Bible verse on sticky notes (one word per note). Put each sticky note on a block.
- Print the entire Bible verse on the sentence strip and tape it to the table or wall.
- Challenge preschoolers to work together to put the word blocks in order to form the Bible verse. Point them to the sentence strip as a guide.
- Say the Bible verse with the children. Remark: “These words are in the Bible in the Book of Psalms. Our Bible story is from the Book of Exodus.”

PLAY WITH CONSTRUCTION TOYS

Tools: Bible, large toy dump trucks, toy tools, construction worker’s hat, Story Picture: People Built the Tabernacle (Pack Item 4)

- Give children freedom to use the materials to play out building and construction activities. Relate their play to the building of the tabernacle.
- Review the Bible story. Say: “God told Moses exactly how to build the tabernacle. Then Moses told God’s building instructions to the people.”
- Show the Story Picture to the children and point to people working.

PLAY INSTRUMENTS

Tools: Bible; musical instruments such as rhythm sticks, drums, shakers, and jingle bells; basket; Enhanced CD

- Put the instruments in the basket. Invite preschoolers to choose instruments to play as music from the CD plays.
- After a song finishes, direct children to exchange instruments. Play another song.
- Say: “We like to make music at church. That is a way to worship God. That reminds me of the Bible story. Let’s open the Bible and hear about a special place where people could worship God.”

- Turn to Exodus 35 and hold the Bible open as you recall the Bible story about the tabernacle built for God.

MATCH FABRICS

Tools: Bible, Activity Page, several colorful fabrics, basket, scissors

- Cut duplicate squares of fabric. Place the fabric in the basket.
- Interest children in finding fabric squares that match. Comment on the bright colors or woven designs in the fabrics.
- As children work, comment that God told the people to make beautiful curtains and coverings from rich-looking fabrics. The people used red, blue, purple, and gold yarn to make the fabrics.
- Show children the Activity Page picture of people working together.

LEADER TIP!

Form groups of two or three preschoolers and a teacher. Look at the Activity Page, review the Bible story, and say the Bible verse.

CIRCLE TIME

GATHER

- Walk around the room and sing (tune “Mary Had a Little Lamb”):
*This is how I wave my hands,
wave my hands, wave my hands.
This is how I wave my hands.
I’m waving at you!*
- Motion the children to go to the Circle Time area.

REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

- After children are seated, sing again. Use the tune “Farmer in the Dell”:
*What did Moses do? What did Moses do?
Who can tell me? Who can tell?
What did Moses do?*

- Lead children to tell things they recall from the Bible story.

PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Show the children a Bible.
- Say: “Today’s Bible story is from the Book of Exodus. Let’s find that book in the Bible.”
- Ask teachers to help children locate Exodus in classroom Bibles.

PRAY

- Ask children for prayer concerns, then pray for them.
- Thank God for the Bible.

DON'T FORGET!

Give every child this week’s Activity Page and Preschool Family Card.



Look for printable Next Hour helps on the Preschool Enhanced CD.



Session 5



OBEY AND WORSHIP GOD

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

TEXT TRUTH

God wanted people to know how to live.

BIBLE STORY

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

BIBLE VERSE

Leviticus 18:4

CHRIST IN CONTEXT

The Book of Leviticus details the laws that the Israelites were required to follow to remain in relationship with God. Jesus fulfilled the Law. Through Him we can have a relationship with God.

BIBLE SKILLS

- Begin to recognize names of books in the Bible.
- Begin to understand that people wrote God's words in the Bible.

ARRIVAL ACTIVITIES (5 MINUTES)

As preschoolers arrive, offer choices of self-guided activities that set the stage for Bible explorations.

► Spell the word *Obey*.

Tools: Bible, index cards with the word Obey written on them, 2 or 3 sets of letter tiles to spell the word Obey

► Look for place names on Exodus Map.

Tools: Bible, Exodus Map (Pack Item 18), card with 1 or 2 place names written on it

► Find and count objects.

Tools: Bible; Number Cards (Pack Item 22); assortment of small items such as plastic bricks, bottle caps, crayons

- After everyone has had an opportunity to do one or more arrival activities, direct preschoolers to Exploration Stations. (See next page.)



EXPLORE THE BIBLE 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.

FAMILY AT HOME

Print this week's devotional page (Enhanced CD) to give to families.

TEXT TRUTH

God wanted people to know how to live.

BIBLE VERSE

Leviticus 18:4

LEADER TIP!

Tell preschoolers that in the Bible God's people were sometimes called *Hebrews*, and sometimes they were called *Israelites*.

LEADER TIP

You choose! Are your preschoolers ready to learn memory verses? Decide which wording of the Bible verse you want to use with your group.

GOD GAVE LAWS TO THE PEOPLE

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

God helped His people, the Israelites, leave the land of Egypt. God chose Moses to lead the people back to their homeland, Canaan.

God loved the people and wanted them to love and obey Him. God knew that sometimes this was hard for the people, and they forgot about the Commandments God had given the people. God knew that His people needed to follow His laws so they could be like Him, and enjoy God's love and care.

One day God talked to Moses. God said, "Tell the people I am their God. They must not follow the laws of Egypt where they once lived, or even the laws of the land of Canaan where they are going. The people must obey My laws because I am God."

God told Moses more. "Tell the people to respect their mothers and fathers. They must keep the Sabbath (God's day for resting). The people must never make idols or statues to worship."

God loved His people. He said that when His people obeyed Him, God would protect the people and bring peace to their land.

God said, "Obey Me. I will give you children, and I will be with you."

BIBLE VERSE

From the Bible text:

Keep my statutes. Leviticus 18:4

Paraphrase:

Obey Me. Leviticus 18:4



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

GATHER

- Play the Enhanced CD and begin moving around the room. Ask children to put away activity materials and prepare for Circle Time.
- Move to the Circle Time area and continue singing songs.

HEAR THE BIBLE STORY

- As children arrive in the circle, tell them you are going to write words on the whiteboard. Write the words *love* and *obey*. Read the words and point to each one.
- Say: “God wants us to love Him and obey Him. That is what our Bible story is about. Listen, then we will talk about loving and obeying God.”
- Open the Bible to Leviticus 18 and tell the Bible story.
- Show children the Story Picture (Pack) and pass it around the circle.
- Say: “Moses talked to the families and helped them know that it was important to obey God’s rules (laws) and show love for Him.”

PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Place the *E* card at the beginning of Exodus and the *L* card at the beginning of Leviticus.
- Show the children the Bible Verse Marker and letters cards in your Bible.
- Open the Bible at the *E* card and say: “We have heard several Bible stories from the Book of Exodus. Do you remember any of the stories?” Help children name one or two.
- Ask teachers to help children locate Exodus in their Bibles.
- Next, open your Bible at Leviticus. Comment: “Today’s story is from the next book in the Bible. It is called Leviticus.” Show children the *L* card.
- Lead the children to say “Leviticus” then find that book in the Bible.
- Read the verse on the Bible marker. Tell children to look at the words you wrote on the whiteboard and find the word that says *Obey*.

PRAY

- Thank God for giving the Bible so people can learn about Him.

OPTIONS

1. Arrival Activities
2. Circle Time
3. Exploration Stations

OR

1. Arrival Activities
2. Exploration Stations
3. Circle Time

TOOLS

- Enhanced CD
- whiteboard and dry erase marker
- 2 index cards, one with the letter *E* written on it, and the other with the letter *L*

PACK ITEMS

- 5 Story Picture: God Gave Laws to the People
- 23 Bible Verse Markers 1

TEXT TRUTH

God wanted people to know how to live.

BIBLE STORY

God Gave Laws to the People
Leviticus 18:1-5; 19:1-4;
26:1-13

BIBLE VERSE

Leviticus 18:4

PACK ITEMS

5 Story Picture: God Gave Laws to the People
32 Book: *God's Gifts*

LEADER TIP!

Through your actions and words help children learn that God is good and we are to worship Him.

EXPLORATION STATIONS (45-60 MINUTES)

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

LACE A PLATE



Tools: Bible, 2 sturdy platter-size paper plates, hole punch, thick yarn, masking tape, marker

- Write in the center of one plate the word *Leviticus*. On the other plate, write out the Bible verse.
- Punch holes around each plate and tie yarn through one hole and knot it. Wrap masking tape around the other end of the yarn.
- Invite a child to choose a plate to lace. Point to the word or words on the plate and read them.
- Say: "The Book of Leviticus tells about the rules God gave to the people. God wanted the people to know how to live. God said, 'Obey Me.'"
- Help the child locate Leviticus 18:4 in the Bible.

READ IN A TENT



Tools: Bible, child's pop-up tent or sheet spread over a table, Book: God's Gifts (Pack), 2 or 3 books related to God and the Bible, Activity Page

- Put the tent in a non-trafficked area of the room and put the books inside.
- Invite a preschooler to sit in the tent to read.
- Show the child the picture on the Activity Page. Remark: "You are sitting in a tent to read. When the Hebrew people left Egypt and traveled to their new home, they lived in tents."
- Summarize the Bible story, then read a book to the child.
- Thank God for His gifts.

WORK A BIBLE PUZZLE

Tools: Bible, Holy Land Map Floor Puzzle (LifeWay, 005159905), index card with word Leviticus printed on it, small whiteboard and dry erase marker

- Slip the card in the Bible to mark the Book of Leviticus.
- Ask two children to work together to complete the puzzle. Prop the box top nearby as a guide.
- Ask a preschooler to open the Bible to the card. Remark: "You found the Book of Leviticus. Leviticus tells about the rules (laws) God gave the people to help them know how to live."
- Point to the letters on the card and the same letters printed in the Bible.
- Interest another child in writing the word *Leviticus* on the whiteboard.

MAKE A HANDPRINT

Tools: Bible, white paper, marker, tempera paint, smock, cleanup supplies

- Write on each sheet of paper the statement *God wants me to obey Him!*
- After a child puts on the smock, give her paper and paint to make a handprint.
- As she gets started, read the words on the paper. Say: "We learn about God's rules (laws) when we read the Bible. We learn that God said, 'Obey Me.'"
- While the child paints, open the Bible to Leviticus 18:4.
- Remark: "Here is where we read what God said. God wanted the Hebrew people to know how to live. God wants us to know how to live. The Bible helps us learn what we should do."

LISTEN AND OBEY

Tools: Bible, Story Picture: God Gave Laws to the People (Pack)

- Invite children to play a game.
- Whisper an instruction in one child's ear (for example, tiptoe to the door or take four giant steps). Tell the child to do what you say. Other children will guess what the instruction was.
- Give other children turns to listen and obey.
- Say: "God wants us to listen to what the Bible says and to do what our teachers and parents tell us. God wants us to obey His rules (laws) in the Bible."
- Show the Story Picture. Say: "We show we love God when we obey His commands."
- Help the child recall a command (such as love God, obey your parents).

NEXT HOUR (MORE EXPLORATIONS FOR PRESCHOOLERS)

OPTIONS

1. Continue activities from the first hour. (Kids learn through repetition.)
2. Try something different. Choose two or three new activities.

TEXT TRUTH

God wanted people to know how to live.

BIBLE STORY

God Gave Laws to the People
Leviticus 18:1-5; 19:1-4;
26:1-13

The Bible story is printed on the back of the Story Picture.

BIBLE VERSE

Leviticus 18:4

WORK MOSES PUZZLES

Tools: Bible, Life of Moses Wooden Box Puzzles (LifeWay, 001276455), Moses Sign & Letters (Pack Item 17)

- While children work the picture puzzles about Moses or match letters to Moses' name, relate their play to the Bible story or Text Truth.
- Say: "Working puzzles together at church is fun. You are putting together a puzzle showing Moses as a baby. Do you remember a story about Baby Moses?" Help the child recall events in the life of Moses.
- Guide a child to match letters in Moses' name. Say: "The Books of Exodus and Leviticus help us know about things Moses did. Moses helped people know what God said to do."

CREATE WITH PLAY DOUGH

Tools: Bible, fresh play dough, rolling pins and cutters, Activity Page

- Give children freedom to mash, pound, roll, and cut play dough. While they are busy, draw their attention to the picture on the Activity Page.
- Say: "Moses was a good leader for the people, and he loved God. Moses told the people God wanted them to know how to live."
- Find the Book of Leviticus in the Bible and point to Moses' name.

SEARCH FOR PICTURES

Tools: Bible, Story Pictures showing Moses and the people (Pack Items 1-5), children's binoculars or sunglasses

- Place the Story Pictures around the room in easy-to-spot locations. Open the Bible to the Book of Leviticus and lay it in another location.
- Say to a child: "God chose Moses to lead the people and tell them what God said. Would you look around the room to find a picture of Moses or the people?" Give the child binoculars to use in her search. When she locates a picture, ask her to show it to you.
- Comment: "We read about Moses in the Books of Leviticus and Exodus. Moses told the people that they should obey God and worship Him."

FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS

Tools: Bible

- Motion for preschoolers to join you in a circle. Speak softly so children must listen carefully.
- Give instructions such as: “If you are a girl, change places with a friend. If you are a boy, do three jumping jacks. If you are wearing blue, hop to the window and back. If you rode in a bus to church, turn around one time.”
- Finally, direct preschoolers to sit down.
- Remark: “Very good. You listened well to my instructions. Moses instructed the people to listen to God’s commands and follow them.”
- Show children where God’s commands are written in the Bible.

LEADER TIP!

Form groups of two or three preschoolers and a teacher. Look at the Activity Page, review the Bible story, and say the Bible verse.

CIRCLE TIME

GATHER

- As you walk around the room, ring a bell and chant:
I can obey. I can obey. I can go to Circle Time. I can obey.

REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

- Show children the Story Picture (Pack Item 5).
- Ask: “What are some things you remember about Moses?”
- Give preschoolers time to respond. Then say: “God chose Moses to help the people. Moses listened to God and obeyed Him.”

PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Show children the Bible Verse Markers (Pack) in the Bible.
- Invite children one at a time to open the Bible to a marker.
- Read each Bible verse and help the child say the verse and reference.
- Say: “All of these verses help us know to obey and worship God.”

PRAY

- Ask the children for their prayer requests.
- Pray that everyone will obey God.

LEADER TIP!

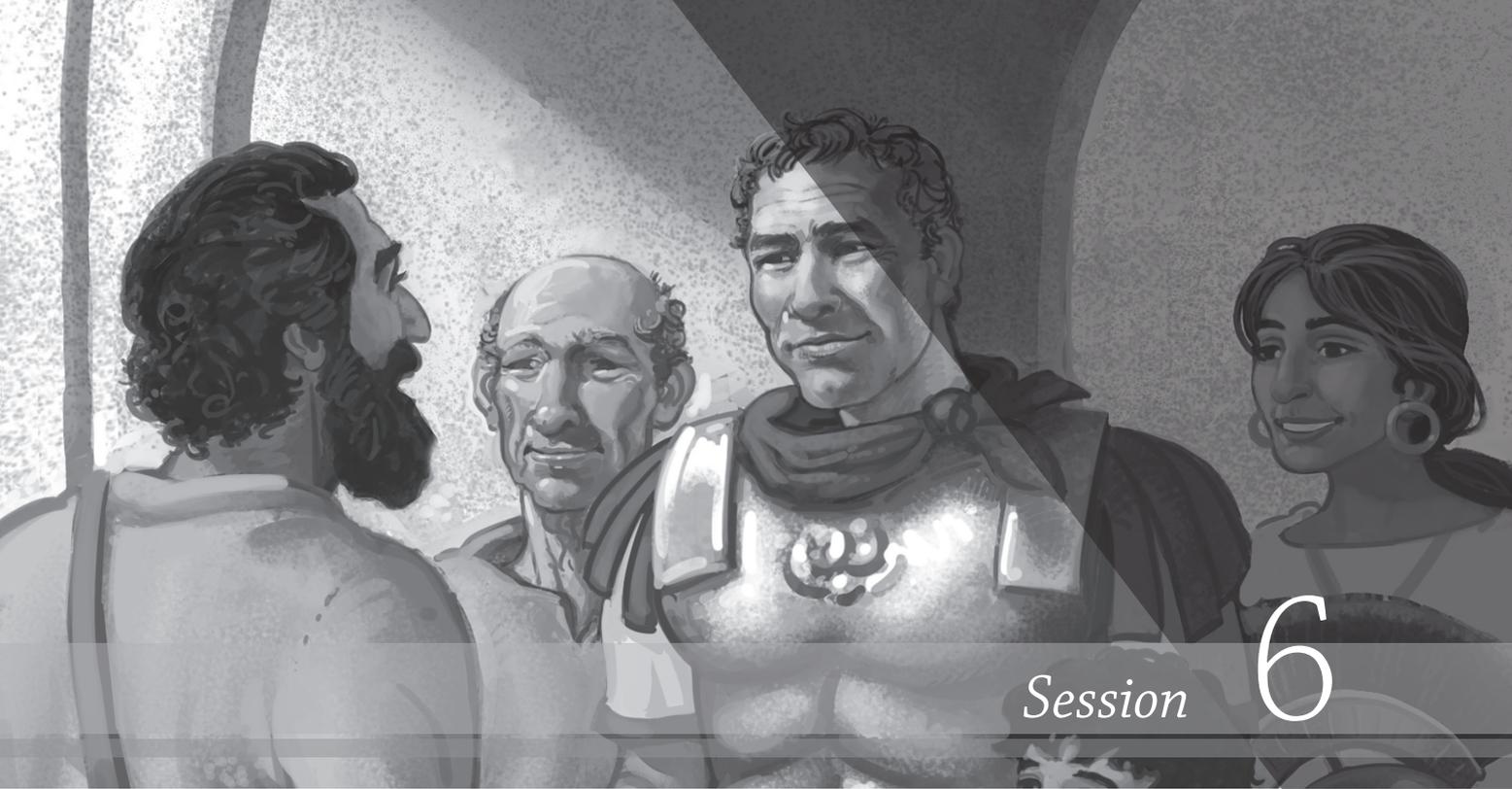
Put all of the Bible Verse Markers 1 (Pack Item 23) for the first five Bible stories in the Bible at the appropriate places.

DON'T FORGET!

Give every child this week’s Activity Page and Preschool Family Card.



Look for printable Next Hour helps on the Preschool Enhanced CD.



Session

6



GOD LOVES EVERYONE

Acts 10:9-43

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 was 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

TEXT TRUTH

God loves every person.

BIBLE STORY

Acts 10:9-43

BIBLE VERSE

Acts 10:34

CHRIST IN CONTEXT

Jesus established the church to continue what He began and to spread the good news all over the world.

BIBLE SKILLS

- Know there are two main parts of the Bible—the Old Testament and the New Testament.
- Remember and retell a familiar Bible story and Bible fact.

ARRIVAL ACTIVITIES (5 MINUTES)

As preschoolers arrive, offer choices of self-guided activities that set the stage for Bible explorations.

► Locate and mark key words in the Bible.

Tools: Bibles; self-stick colored flags; index cards with these words written on them (one word per card): Jesus, God, Acts, love

► Read books about friends and love.

Tools: Bible, several preschool books focused on friends and showing love

► Sort face pictures (children, grown-ups, girls and boys, so on).

Tools: Bible, Pictures: People's Faces (Pack Item 29)

- After everyone has had an opportunity to do one or more arrival activities, direct preschoolers to Exploration Stations. (See next page.)



EXPLORE THE BIBLE 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. David found this to be true when he was confronted by Nathan the prophet. (See 2 Samuel 12.)
- 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.

FAMILY AT HOME

Print this week's devotional page (Enhanced CD) to give to families.

TEXT TRUTH

God loves every person.

BIBLE VERSE

Acts 10:34

PETER'S VISIT TO CORNELIUS

Acts 10:9-43

One day Peter went up to the roof of a house so he could pray. After a while Peter fell asleep and had a strange dream.

In the dream Peter saw animals and snakes and birds. A voice told Peter to eat. In the dream, Peter shouted "NO!" Three times the voice told Peter to eat.

When he woke up, Peter thought about the dream. He did not know what it meant.

Then some men came to Peter and told him he should go visit a man named Cornelius. "Cornelius loves God. He wants to hear what you have to say," the men said to Peter.

Peter wondered why Cornelius sent for him. But Peter went to Cornelius' house anyway.

Peter saw many people at Cornelius' house. Cornelius and his friends were not people Peter usually visited or talked to.

Cornelius told Peter: "I often pray to God. He helped me know I should invite you to my house. We are ready to hear you tell about Jesus."

Then Peter understood the strange dream. God wanted Peter to talk to all people about Jesus, not just the people Peter knew. Peter knew God loved every person, and He sent Jesus to help all people, including Cornelius and his friends.

LEADER TIP

You choose! Are your preschoolers ready to learn memory verses? Decide which wording of the Bible verse you want to use with your group.

BIBLE VERSE

From the Bible text:

God does not show favoritism. Acts 10:34

Paraphrase:

God loves every person the same. Acts 10:34



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

GATHER

- Go to areas where children are working and ask them to finish what they are doing and join you at the Circle Time area.
- On the whiteboard, write the phrase *God loves . . .*
- As children are seated in the circle, write one child's name on the whiteboard after the word *loves*.
- Show the board to the children and ask whose name is there. The children may recognize their own names. Read the entire sentence.
- Erase the first child's name and write another child's name. Continue until each child's name has been written and acknowledged.

HEAR THE BIBLE STORY

- Say: "God loves each one of you. And He loves you all the same. There's a story in the Bible about someone who learned about God loving everyone. Let's find out who that person was."
- Open the Bible to Acts 10 and tell the story. Pause for a moment, then show the children the Story Picture (Pack).
- Ask children to recall the names of the people in the story (Peter, Cornelius).

PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Use markers that correspond to today's verse and story from Acts 10.
- With the Bible closed, show the children the Bible Verse Marker (Pack) and Bible Story Marker (Pack).
- Pass the Bible around the circle, then say "Stop!" Direct the child holding the Bible to open it at a marker. Read the Bible book name or say the Bible verse. Lead the group to repeat what you say.
- Resume passing the Bible and pausing to look for a marker.

PRAY

- Thank God for giving us the Bible so we can know about His great love for all people.

OPTIONS

1. Arrival Activities
2. Circle Time
3. Exploration Stations

OR

1. Arrival Activities
2. Exploration Stations
3. Circle Time

TOOLS

- Bibles
- whiteboard and dry erase marker, eraser

PACK ITEMS

- 6 Story Picture: Peter's Visit to Cornelius
- 24 Bible Verse Markers 2
- 25 New Testament Story Markers

TEXT TRUTH

God loves every person.

BIBLE STORY

Peter's Visit to Cornelius
Acts 10:9-43

BIBLE VERSE

Acts 10:34

PACK ITEMS

6 Story Picture: Peter's Visit to Cornelius
24 Bible Verse Markers 2
29 Pictures: People's Faces

LEADER TIPS!

Keep your preschoolers safe. Do not leave beads and other small items unattended.

Supervise children around the rope.

EXPLORATION STATIONS (45-60 MINUTES)

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

STAMP NAMES



Tools: Bible, Bible Verse Markers 2 (Pack), alphabet stamps, washable ink stamp pads, light-colored construction paper, list of names of children and teachers, washable marker

- Put the list of names on the table or attach them to a wall next to the table. Slip today's marker in the Bible.
- Direct a preschooler to look for the name of a friend. Give help as needed.
- Help the child find the letters she needs to stamp her friend's name.
- At the bottom of the paper, write the Bible verse.
- Open the Bible to Acts 10:34 and read the Bible verse. Remark: "God loves you and He loves your friend, Sammy. God loves every person the same. That is what Peter learned."

STRING BEADS & SPOOLS



Tools: Bible, wooden beads and empty thread spools, large plastic bowl, bead laces, Story Picture: Peter's Visit to Cornelius (Pack)

- Invite preschoolers to choose beads to string. Talk about colors and shapes of the beads.
- Show children the Story Picture and point to Cornelius. Comment that Cornelius wanted to see Peter and talk to him.
- Open the Bible to Acts 10 and point to Cornelius' name.
- Help the preschooler repeat the Bible verse.

CLIP PEOPLE PICTURES

*Tools: Bible, Activity Page,
Pictures: People's Faces (Pack),
thin rope, removable plastic
self-adhesive hooks for wall,
clothespins, Enhanced CD*

- Fasten the hooks on the wall and tie the ends of the rope on the hooks.
- Encourage children to look at the pictures and pay attention to differences and similarities. Remind preschoolers that the Bible tells us that God loves every person the same.
- Look for the Bible verse at Acts 10:34.
- Give a couple of clothespins to a child and tell her to clip pictures to the rope. Guide her to give a friend a turn to clip pictures.
- Play the CD while children are busy. Show them the Activity Page.

CREATE A BIBLE VERSE SHOE PATH

*Tools: Bible, construction paper,
pencils, felt-tipped markers,
scissors*

- Help children trace their shoes on construction paper and cut out the shoe print shape. (Teachers may need to cut out the shapes for younger preschoolers.)
- Write one word of the Bible verse on each cut-out. Mix up the shoe cutouts.
- Guide preschoolers to arrange the words of the Bible verse in order. Lay the shoe cutouts on the floor to make a path. (Depending on the number of shoes cut out, repeat Bible Verse paths through the room.)
- Lead children to step from cutout to cutout, saying the words of the Bible verse.
- Tell children the Bible verse is from the Book of Acts.

TOSS A BALL & SING

Tools: Bible, large plastic ball

- Make up a tune and sing:
*Peter told about Jesus,
Peter told about Jesus,
Peter told about Jesus,
He had good news to tell!*
- Begin to lightly bounce the ball as you sing. When a child shows interest, bounce the ball to her and direct her to bounce it back.
- As more children join you, ask them to stand in a circle. Toss the ball to each child, asking each one in turn to tell something he knows about Jesus.
- End by saying: "Peter told good news to Cornelius. And Peter learned that God loved Cornelius and all people."
- After a while, sit down with the preschoolers and open the Bible to Acts 10. Tell the Bible story in your own words.

NEXT HOUR (MORE EXPLORATIONS FOR PRESCHOOLERS)

OPTIONS

1. Continue activities from the first hour. (Kids learn through repetition.)
2. Try something different. Choose two or three new activities.

TEXT TRUTH

God loves every person.

BIBLE STORY

Peter's Visit to Cornelius
Acts 10:9-43

The Bible story is printed on the back of the Story Picture.

BIBLE VERSE

Acts 10:34

MOVE WITH A FRIEND

Tools: Bible, Action Cards (Pack Item 33), handled gift bag, 2 or 3 preschool books about friends

- Picture-read a book to children, then ask them to play a game together.
- Put the Action Cards in the bag and hold it. Call on a child to get a card from the bag and give it to you. Next, direct the child to choose a friend.
- Read the movement described on the card. Tell the two preschoolers to move across the room or stand where they are to do the action.
- Repeat so other children can have turns.
- Say: "What fun we have together. We love one another. God loves every one of us the same!"

SEQUENCE BIBLE WORDS

Tools: Bible, words of today's Bible verse written on individual index cards, Activity Page

- Spread the Bible verse word cards randomly on the floor or table and read them. Open the Bible to Acts 10:34 and lay the Activity Page on it.
- Touch the Bible page and say the Bible verse. Point to the cards. Comment: "These are the words of that verse. Let's put them in order."
- Help children as needed. Lead the children to say the verse together.

WORK PEOPLE PUZZLES

Tools: Bible, 2 or 3 puzzles featuring children and grown-ups, Story Picture: Peter's Visit to Cornelius (Pack Item 6)

- Show children the Story Picture. Lead children to recall the Bible story.
- Open the Bible to Acts 10. Say: "We read the story about Peter and Cornelius in the Book of Acts. That book is in the New Testament part of the Bible. The New Testament tells about people and things that happened after Jesus was born."
- Relate puzzle pictures to the Text Truth, God loves every person.

CUT SPIRALS

Tools: Bible, Spiral Pattern (Enhanced CD) (or 8-inch circles of construction paper), child-sized scissors, crayons

- Before the session, print spiral patterns from the Enhanced CD, or draw a spiral on a paper and make copies for the children.
- Guide children to cut from a circle's outer edge to the center point. When finished, children can hold the center of their spiral and move the shape up and down.
- Say: "I enjoy coming to church with friends. We enjoy doing things together. We hear Bible stories and songs about God."
- Open the Bible to Acts 10:34 and show the Bible verse words to children.

LEADER TIP!

Younger preschoolers will not have developed good cutting skills, so offer them crayons to decorate their papers. Ask their permission to cut the spirals for them.

CIRCLE TIME

GATHER

- Walk around the room and pick up several duplicate items and put them in a bag or basket.
- As you walk, sing (tune "Mary Had a Little Lamb"):
*Come to Circle Time with me,
Time with me, Time with me,
Come to Circle Time with me,
We'll hear a Bible story.*

REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

- Show children the Story Picture (Pack Item 6). Ask each child to tell one thing he recalls from the story. Add information as needed.

- Say: "This story helps us know God loves everyone the same."

PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Pass the basket and direct each child to get one item.
- Next, direct children with duplicate items to exchange seats.
- Ask children to stand and say the Bible verse together.

PRAY

- Thank God for loving everyone.

LEADER TIP!

Form groups of two or three preschoolers and a teacher. Look at the Activity Page, review the Bible story, and say the Bible verse.

DON'T FORGET!

Give every child this week's Activity Page and Preschool Family Card.



Look for printable Next Hour helps on the Preschool Enhanced CD.



Session 7



LEARN ABOUT JESUS

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 worshiping. 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

TEXT TRUTH

Listen and learn about Jesus.

BIBLE STORY

Acts 16:11-15

BIBLE VERSE

1 John 3:23

CHRIST IN CONTEXT

Jesus established the church to continue what He began and to spread the good news all over the world.

BIBLE SKILLS

- Know there are two main parts of the Bible—the Old Testament and the New Testament.
- Understand that the Bible tells that God sent Jesus to earth.

ARRIVAL ACTIVITIES (5 MINUTES)

As preschoolers arrive, offer choices of self-guided activities that set the stage for Bible explorations.

▶ Arrange letters to spell the word *love*.

Tools: Bible; letter cutouts or wooden letter tiles for L, O, V, E; LOVE Letters (Enhanced CD)

▶ Read books about people showing love.

Tools: Bible, 3 or 4 preschool books featuring people being kind or loving

▶ Draw a picture of someone you love.

Tools: Bible, paper, crayons

- ▶ After everyone has had an opportunity to do one or more arrival activities, direct preschoolers to Exploration Stations. (See next page.)



EXPLORE THE BIBLE 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.

FAMILY AT HOME

Print this week's devotional page (Enhanced CD) to give to families.

TEXT TRUTH

Listen and learn about Jesus.

BIBLE VERSE

1 John 3:23

PAUL TALKED TO LYDIA

Acts 16:11-15

Paul traveled from town to town telling people about Jesus. Sometimes other men traveled with Paul. In each town, the men told people about Jesus and the wonderful things He had done.

Paul went to the town of Philippi. He looked for a place to pray, but he did not find one. Paul heard that some people in Philippi met by the river to pray. Paul and his friends went to the river. There they saw some women. The women met with each other at the river to pray.

Paul talked to the women. He told them God loved them and that God sent Jesus to care for them.

One of the women was named Lydia. Lydia was happy to hear about Jesus. She believed what Paul told her. Lydia's family listened to Paul and they believed, too. Lydia said to Paul and his friends, "Come, stay at my house."

Paul and his friends stayed at Lydia's house while they were in Philippi. Lydia was kind to them, and they taught her family more about the many things Jesus had said and done.

LEADER TIP

You choose! Are your preschoolers ready to learn memory verses? Decide which wording of the Bible verse you want to use with your group.

BIBLE VERSE

From the Bible text:

Believe in Jesus and love one another. 1 John 3:23

Paraphrase:

Love Jesus and one another. 1 John 3:23



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

GATHER

- Play the Enhanced CD as children move to the Circle Time area. Tap your fingers on your head, shoulders, elbows, nose, and invite the children to do what you are doing.
- After everyone is in the group, stop the music and get the Bible.

HEAR THE BIBLE STORY

- Open the Bible to Acts 16 and tell the children today's story is from a part of the Bible called the New Testament.
- Use your own words to tell the story.
- Show the Story Picture (Pack) to the children, then hand it to a child to pass around the circle.
- Prop the picture in a chair, then ask questions to help children think about the story. Ask: "Who traveled to many places to tell about Jesus? Where did women in a town go to pray? What is the name of one of the women at the river? What did Paul tell Lydia and her family?"

PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Turn to the Bible Verse Marker (Pack) and read the verse to the children. Lead preschoolers to say the verse with you.
- Scramble the index cards on the floor. Say: "These are words of that verse and they are mixed up. Let's work together to put the words in order."
- After the words are correctly arranged, repeat the Bible verse, pointing to each word.
- Scramble the cards again and invite pairs of children to arrange them. Give help as needed.

PRAY

- Ask children to tell you what they feel thankful for today.
- Pray a simple prayer and thank God for all He provides for us. Thank Him for teachers, parents, and others who help children learn from the Bible.

OPTIONS

1. Arrival Activities
2. Circle Time
3. Exploration Stations

OR

1. Arrival Activities
2. Exploration Stations
3. Circle Time

TOOLS

- Bible
- 6 index cards (Write words of the Bible verse and Scripture reference on individual cards.)
- Enhanced CD and CD player

PACK ITEMS

- 7 Story Picture: Paul Talked to Lydia
- 24 Bible Verse Markers 2

TEXT TRUTH

Listen and learn about Jesus.

BIBLE STORY

Paul Talked to Lydia

Acts 16:11-15

BIBLE VERSE

1 John 3:23

PACK ITEMS

7 Story Picture: Paul Talked to Lydia

27 Pictures: Places to Learn

EXPLORATION STATIONS (45-60 MINUTES)

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

PLAY WITH BLOCKS



Tools: Bible, wooden blocks, plastic interlocking blocks, Story Picture: Paul Talked to Lydia (Pack), picture of your church

- Show children the picture of your church. Say: "People come to our church to learn from the Bible, sing, and pray. We learn about Jesus and how much He loves us."
- Lead preschoolers to name people at your church who teach about Jesus. Connect this to Paul going to places to tell about Jesus.
- Suggest that preschoolers build a church using the blocks. They might want to build houses. Comment that we learn about Jesus at home, too.
- Show the Story Picture and tell the Bible story in your own words.

MATCH PICTURES



Tools: Bible, Pictures: Places to Learn (Pack), shirt box lid, paper bag

- Put one set of pictures in the box lid and the other set in the bag.
- Take a picture from the lid and show it to a child. Comment: "This picture shows a place where people can listen and learn about Jesus. What is this place?"
- Invite the child to get a card from the box lid and identify it. Continue until all locations are identified.
- Direct the child to get a card from the bag and match it to a card on the table. Continue until all cards are matched.

FIND BIBLE NAMES

Tools: Bibles, small index cards, markers, small self-stick flags

- Print the names *Acts*, *Paul*, *Lydia*, and *Jesus* on separate cards.
- Give a child a Bible and a card. Read the name and say something about that person. You might say: "That name is Paul. Paul told many people about Jesus."
- Guide the preschooler to look in Acts 16 for Paul's name. Tell the child to put a flag near the name.
- After the child has located all the names, summarize the Bible story. Comment that the story is from the Book of Acts.
- Help the child turn to 1 John 3:23 and find Jesus' name. Lead the preschooler to say the Bible verse.

**PAINT WITH WATER
COLORS**

Tools: Bible, watercolor paints, brushes, white construction paper, marker, bowls and water, paper towels, smocks, Enhanced CD

- Limit painters to two at a time.
- Write children's names on the back of their paper before they begin painting. Write today's Text Truth on the front of the paper.
- Play the Enhanced CD softly while children paint. Listen for songs about Jesus and loving one another.
- Read the Text Truth aloud. Say: "We listen at church and hear about Jesus. Paul told Lydia about Jesus. Your teachers tell you about Jesus."
- Open the Bible to Acts 16 and summarize the Bible story.

LISTEN & GUESS

Tools: Bible; sound items (bell, kitchen timer, sand blocks, keys); bag; ribbon; Activity Page

- Place a ribbon marker at 1 John 3:23. Put the sound items in the bag.
- Tell a child to listen carefully while you make the sound of an item. Tell the preschooler to turn so his back is toward you.
- Ask: "What did you hear? Can you guess what made the sound?" Give clues as needed.
- Remark: "It is important for us to listen and learn about Jesus."
- Get the Bible and open it to Acts 16. Show the child the picture on the Activity Page. Say: "In the Bible we read about someone who listened and learned about Jesus. Do you remember her name?"
- After the child responds, recall the Bible story.

NEXT HOUR (MORE EXPLORATIONS FOR PRESCHOOLERS)

OPTIONS

1. Continue activities from the first hour. (Kids learn through repetition.)
2. Try something different. Choose two or three new activities.

TEXT TRUTH

Listen and learn about Jesus.

BIBLE STORY

Paul Talked to Lydia
Acts 16:11-15

The Bible story is printed on the back of the Story Picture.

BIBLE VERSE

1 John 3:23

LEADER TIP!

Print the Child Figure Outlines ahead of time. Provide safety scissors for older preschoolers to cut around the outlines.

LEADER TIP!

Discard play dough at the end of the session.

TOSS A BALL

Tools: Bible, Enhanced CD, large ball, Story Picture: Paul Talked to Lydia (Pack Item 7)

- Direct preschoolers to stand in a circle. Play a song about Jesus.
- Toss the ball to a child. When he catches it, tell him to say the name of a person Jesus loves. Repeat, giving every child a turn to respond.
- Toss or bounce the ball around the circle saying the Bible verse, one word at a time.
- Hold the ball and invite children to sit on the floor. Show them the Story Picture (Pack) and summarize the Bible story.

DRAW & CUT

Tools: Bible, Child Figure Outlines (Enhanced CD), crayons, child's safety scissors

- Invite a child to choose a boy outline or a girl outline, or one of each. Give the child crayons to decorate the figure however he wishes.
- While the child draws and cuts around his figure, hold the Bible open to 1 John 3:23 and point to the words. Remark: "The Bible tells us to love Jesus and one another. Can you say those words with me?"
- Lead the preschooler to repeat the Bible verse.

CUT PLAY DOUGH

Tools: Bible, fresh play dough, cookie cutters, toy rolling pins, craft sticks, Activity Page, Pictures: Places to Learn (Pack Item 27)

- Remind children to keep play dough on the table. As children work, say: "I'm glad you came to church today to listen and learn about Jesus."
- Show children the picture on the Activity Page. Comment that Lydia and her friends did not go to a church building. They sat by the river to sing and pray.
- Look at the Pictures: Places to Learn (Pack) and talk with children about places they learn about Jesus.

LISTEN & MOVE

Tools: Bible, ribbon placed at Acts 16

- Invite preschoolers to play a movement game. Lead the children to follow your instructions and do what you say. Give three or four simple actions for children to complete: *Stand up, turn to the right. Clap your hands over your head 3 times. Turn to the left and tap your foot. March in place and count to 5. Turn in a circle.*
- After moving, remark to the preschoolers: “You had to listen in order to know what to do. God wants us to listen to what the Bible teaches so we will know what to do. The Bible helps us learn about Jesus.”
- Ask a child to open the Bible to the ribbon. Point to Paul’s name on the page. Say: “We read a story in the Bible about Paul. He talked to Lydia and told her about Jesus. Lydia listened to Paul.”

LEADER TIP!

Form groups of two or three preschoolers and a teacher. Look at the Activity Page, review the Bible story, and say the Bible verse.


CIRCLE TIME
GATHER

- Play the Enhanced CD, inviting children to sing along or clap to the rhythm of the music. Comment on the songs that tell about Jesus.

REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

- Show the Story Picture (Pack Item 7) to the children. Lead preschoolers to tell what they remember about the Bible story. Give hints as needed.
- Say: “Paul told many people about Jesus. He helped Lydia and her family know about Jesus.”

- Ask children who helps them learn about Jesus. (teachers, parents, friends, others)

PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Tell preschoolers that today’s Bible story is from the Book of Acts. Ask teachers to help children find that book in their Bibles.
- Look for the Bible verse at 1 John 3:23.
- Lead children to repeat the verse.

PRAY

- Thank God for people who teach what the Bible says.

DON'T FORGET!

Give every child this week’s Activity Page and Preschool Family Card.



Look for printable Next Hour helps on the Preschool Enhanced CD.



Session

8



READY TO TELL

Acts 16:16-32

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

TEXT TRUTH

Help other people know about Jesus.

BIBLE STORY

Acts 16:16-32

BIBLE VERSE

Acts 16:31

CHRIST IN CONTEXT

Jesus established the church to continue what He began and to spread the good news all over the world.

BIBLE SKILLS

- Understand that the Bible tells that God sent Jesus to earth.
- Remember and retell a familiar Bible story and Bible fact.

ARRIVAL ACTIVITIES (5 MINUTES)

As preschoolers arrive, offer choices of self-guided activities that set the stage for Bible explorations.

► Feel and guess items in a bag.

Tools: Bible, small shopping bag, toy people figure, smooth rock, washable marker, small musical instrument, fruit or vegetable

► Work puzzles about Jesus.

Tools: Bible, 2 or 3 wooden or cardboard puzzles featuring Jesus

► Make a paper chain.

Tools: Bible, strips of colored paper, clear tape

- After everyone has had an opportunity to do one or more arrival activities, direct preschoolers to Exploration Stations. (See next page.)



EXPLORE THE BIBLE 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.

FAMILY AT HOME

Print this week's devotional page (Enhanced CD) to give to families.

TEXT TRUTH

Help other people know about Jesus.

BIBLE VERSE

Acts 16:31

PAUL TOLD ABOUT JESUS

Acts 16:16-32

Paul and Silas went to many towns to teach about Jesus. That made some people angry.

The people did not want Paul and Silas to talk about Jesus anymore, so the people took the men to some judges. The judges sent Paul and Silas to jail and put them in chains.

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

Suddenly the ground shook and the jail doors opened. The chains fell off the men. The noise woke the guard. He was afraid because he thought all the prisoners would leave. If they did, he would be in big trouble.

But Paul shouted, "Do not be afraid. We are all still here."

The guard was surprised and happy. He wanted Paul and Silas to tell him about Jesus. The guard believed what Paul and Silas said, and the guard's family did, too.

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

LEADER TIP

You choose! Are your preschoolers ready to learn memory verses? Decide which wording of the Bible verse you want to use with your group.

BIBLE VERSE

From the Bible text:

Believe in Jesus and you will be saved. Acts 16:31

Paraphrase:

Believe the good news about Jesus. Acts 16:31



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

GATHER

- To the tune “Mulberry Bush,” sing:
This is the way we clean our room, clean our room, clean our room. This is the way we clean our room, as we go to Circle Time.
- Help children put away materials and supplies and thank them for their hard work.
- Wave at the children and sing:
This is the way I say Hello, say Hello, say Hello. This is the way I say Hello, to my friends at church.

HEAR THE BIBLE STORY

- Say: “Meeting people and making new friends can be fun. I was glad when I met you. Do you remember a friend Paul made? Someone who worshiped beside a river? That’s right. That friend was Lydia.”
- Continue: “Today I will tell you about someone else Paul met. This person did not start out as a friend. But he became a friend.”
- Open your Bible to Acts 16:16-32 and tell the Bible story.

PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Show children the two Story Pictures (Pack). First, ask preschoolers to recall facts from the story of Lydia. Then ask them to think about the guard at the jail.
- Ask: “Where did Paul meet Lydia? Where did he meet the guard? What did Paul tell each person?” (He told both people about Jesus.)
- Hold up a Bible opened to Acts 16. Comment: “Both of these stories are from the Book of Acts. Let’s look for that book in your Bibles.”
- Assist children in turning to Acts 16 in their Bibles or classroom Bibles.

PRAY

- Ask children to tell you things for which they feel thankful. Jot down what they say, then pray, thanking God for the things the children name.
- To the tune “God Is So Good,” sing:
We thank You, God. We thank You, God. We thank You, God. You’re so good to us.

OPTIONS

1. Arrival Activities
2. Circle Time
3. Exploration Stations

OR

1. Arrival Activities
2. Exploration Stations
3. Circle Time

TOOLS

- Bible

PACK ITEMS

- 7 Story Picture: Paul Talked to Lydia
- 8 Story Picture: Paul Told About Jesus

TEXT TRUTH

Help other people know about Jesus.

BIBLE STORY

Paul Told About Jesus
Acts 16:16-32

BIBLE VERSE

Acts 16:31

PACK ITEMS

8 Story Picture: Paul Told About Jesus
24 Bible Verse Markers 2
30 Thank You Cards

LEADER TIP!

Choose lower sugar and salt items for snack mixes.

Try cereals, small crackers, dried fruit, mini pretzels, yogurt chips.

Post the Allergy Sign (Enhanced CD) to let parents know about the food items.

EXPLORATION STATIONS (45-60 MINUTES)

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

PREPARE A SNACK

Tools: Bible, snack ingredients, bowls, spoons, ziplock bags, Allergy Sign (Enhanced CD), Thank You Cards (Pack), hole punch, ribbon

- Invite preschoolers to make snack bags to give to church helpers.
- After a child washes her hands, tell her she may scoop a spoonful of each item into a bag.
- Seal the bag and attach a Thank You Card. Put the bag aside.
- Invite the child to make a snack bag for herself. Say: "You may take your snack home to eat later."
- After the child prepares two bags, show her the Bible opened to Acts 16. Mention that people at your church tell about Jesus, too.

TWIST & BEND CHENILLE STEMS

Tools: Bible, thick chenille stems, paper with name Jesus written in large letters

- Show a child the paper with Jesus' name written on it. Use your finger to "write" over the letters.
- Say: "You can bend the chenille stems to make the letters in Jesus' name."
- Let the preschooler do as much as he can by himself, but offer some guidance.
- Some children may want to make all the letters. Or suggest they make just the letter J.
- Say: "Paul told the good news about Jesus."

EXPERIMENT WITH LOCKS AND FASTENERS

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

- Encourage children to discover how the items work. Help children as needed.
- Tell the Bible story as children work with the locks. Mention that Paul and Silas were put in jail and chained.
- Show children the Story Picture.
- Say: “Paul and Silas knew God loved them. They knew God wanted them to tell everyone the good news about Jesus.”
- Turn to Acts 16:31 and read the Bible verse. Invite children to say the verse.

JUMP ON BIBLE VERSE WORDS

Tools: Bible, colored paper, felt-tipped marker, masking tape, Bible Verse Markers 2 (Pack) (place in Bible at Acts 16:31)

- On each paper, write one word of the Bible verse. Arrange the words in order on the floor. Secure the papers to the floor with the masking tape.
- Open the Bible to the marker and show the words to a child. Say: “The words of that verse are written on the papers. Jump from paper to paper and say the words.”
- Direct a child to hop from paper to paper. As he moves, read the words. At the end, help the child repeat the verse.
- Comment: “Paul helped the guard know that he could believe the good news about Jesus.”

MAKE MARACAS & SING

Tools: Bible; Enhanced CD; 8-oz. plastic bottles; 6- to 9-in. cardboard tubes; noise-making items (rice, beans, pasta, salt, small beads, paper clips); funnel; scissors; glue; colored tape; Activity Page

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

NEXT HOUR (MORE EXPLORATIONS FOR PRESCHOOLERS)

OPTIONS

1. Continue activities from the first hour. (Kids learn through repetition.)
2. Try something different. Choose two or three new activities.

TEXT TRUTH

Help other people know about Jesus.

BIBLE STORY

Paul Told About Jesus

Acts 16:16-32

The Bible story is printed on the back of the Story Picture.

BIBLE VERSE

Acts 16:31

PLAY INSTRUMENTS

Tools: Bible, Enhanced CD, rhythm instruments

- Play songs about Jesus and encourage children to play instruments.
- Suggest that children exchange instruments and play again.
- Remark: “When we sing songs about Jesus, we tell other people about Him.”
- Remind preschoolers that we should help other people know about Jesus. That is what Paul and Silas did.

MAKE KEY RUBBINGS

Tools: Bible, variety of keys, thin paper, large crayons, masking tape, table or tray

- Remove paper from the crayons. Put rolled masking tape on one side of each key and tape it to a table or tray.
- Direct a child to lay a piece of paper over the keys and rub over the paper with the flat side of a crayon. As the child rubs, the shape of the key will appear.
- Comment that people locked Paul and Silas in jail. Help preschoolers recall the rest of the Bible story.

TOUR THE CHURCH

Tools: Bible, Activity Page

- Invite two children at a time to walk quietly with you through the church building to look for people teaching, singing, and praying.
- Mention some leaders in your church. Thank God for them.
- Say: “Our church leaders help us know about Jesus. They want us to know the good news about Jesus and believe it.”
- When you return to the room, sit down with the children and show them the picture on the Activity Page. Point to Paul and Silas and remark that they helped people hear the good news.

DRIVE TOY CARS ON MAP

Tools: Bible, city map, several toy cars, Story Picture: Paul Told About Jesus (Pack Item 8), tape

- Tape the map to the floor and put the cars nearby. Open the Bible to Acts 16:16-32.
- Invite preschoolers to drive cars over the map. Remark that the map shows your city (or another city). Say: “People travel in cars and other vehicles to go places to tell about Jesus. Paul and Silas did not travel in a car. They usually walked to towns and cities to look for people who needed to hear about Jesus.”
- Show children the Story Picture and recall the Bible story.

LEADER TIP!

Form groups of two or three preschoolers and a teacher. Look at the Activity Page, review the Bible story, and say the Bible verse.

CIRCLE TIME

GATHER

- Guide children to do two actions at the same time: clap hands and march in place, pat head and rub tummy, run in place and wave at friends, be seated and put your hands on your knees.

REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

- Describe people from the story for children to identify. Say: “This person went to many places to tell about Jesus.” Or “This person was afraid, but then was happy to hear about Jesus.”
- Show the Story Picture (Pack Item 8). Help children recall the story.

PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Ask a child to hold a Bible opened to Acts 16:31. Read aloud the Bible verse.
- Lead children to clap on each word of the verse as you say it together. Include the Scripture reference.
- Say: “Our Bible story and Bible verse are from the Book of Acts.”

PRAY

- Thank God for people like Paul who help others know about Jesus.
- Thank God for the Bible.

DON'T FORGET!

Give every child this week's Activity Page and Preschool Family Card.



Look for printable Next Hour helps on the Preschool Enhanced CD.



Session 9



GO EVERYWHERE

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 preschoolers to begin to tell others about Jesus.

SESSION FOCUS

TEXT TRUTH

Go everywhere to tell about Jesus.

BIBLE STORY

Acts 27–28

BIBLE VERSE

Matthew 28:19-20

CHRIST IN CONTEXT

Jesus established the church to continue what He began and to spread the good news all over the world.

BIBLE SKILLS

- Open Bible to a Bible marker.
- Remember and retell a familiar Bible story and Bible fact.

ARRIVAL ACTIVITIES (5 MINUTES)

As preschoolers arrive, offer choices of self-guided activities that set the stage for Bible explorations.

► **Find Bibles in the room and mark the Bible verse with ribbon strips.**

Tools: Bibles, cards with the reference Matthew 28:19-20 written on them, strips of colorful ribbon

► **Play musical instruments and listen to songs about Jesus.**

Tools: Bible, children's musical instruments, Enhanced CD

► **Spell the name Jesus.**

Tools: Bible, magnetic letter sets, metal cookie sheets, card with Jesus printed on it



EXPLORE THE BIBLE 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!

FAMILY AT HOME

Print this week's devotional page (Enhanced CD) to give to families.

- After everyone has had an opportunity to do one or more arrival activities, direct preschoolers to Exploration Stations. (See next page.)

TEXT TRUTH

Go everywhere to tell about Jesus.

BIBLE VERSE

Matthew 28:19-20

PAUL'S STORMY JOURNEY**Acts 27–28**

Paul traveled to many places to tell people about Jesus. Some of the people were glad to hear the good news about Jesus. Even when people tried to stop Paul, he kept on teaching about Jesus.

One day, Paul and some more men got on a ship and began to sail to the city of Rome. The ship sailed for many days, then a strong wind began to blow. The ship was tossed on the waves, and the men decided to sail in another direction.

But an even stronger wind blew and a storm followed. The sky was dark and stormy for many days.

The men on the ship were frightened.

Paul stood up and talked to the worried men. “Take courage. No one will die. God will save us,” Paul said.

For 14 days the men on the ship did not eat. Paul told them to eat and trust God to help them.

Finally, the men saw land. The ship crashed into the sand, and the men hurried to the shore.

People in the town were kind to the frightened men and helped them. A man on the island welcomed Paul to his home. While he was there, Paul helped the man’s sick father.

After resting from the stormy journey, Paul sailed on another ship to Rome. There Paul talked to church leaders and told them about Jesus. Paul helped the people know God sent Jesus to love and help everyone.

LEADER TIP

You choose! Are your preschoolers ready to learn memory verses? Decide which wording of the Bible verse you want to use with your group.

BIBLE VERSE

From the Bible text:

*Go and teach them to observe everything I have commanded you.
Matthew 28:19-20*

Paraphrase:

Go to all people and tell them about Jesus. Matthew 28:19-20



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

GATHER

- Place the Story Pictures about Paul (Pack) around the room. Put the New Testament Markers (Pack) for the stories in the Bible along with today's Bible Verse Marker (Pack).
- Ask children to put away materials and bring their Bibles or classroom Bibles to Circle Time.
- Hold a Bible and ask a child to come and open the Bible to the first Story Marker. Ask the child to choose a friend to find the Story Picture that matches the picture on the Marker.
- Ask two other children to open the Bible at the next two Story Markers and choose friends to find the Story Pictures.
- Prop the four Story Pictures where preschoolers can see them. Comment: "The Book of Acts helps us know about people who loved Jesus and told people about Him. Listen to today's story from Acts 27-28."

HEAR THE BIBLE STORY

- Open the Bible to Acts 27 and hold it as you tell the Bible story in your own words.
- Ask a preschooler to walk to the picture that illustrates today's story (Pack Item 9).
- Ask preschoolers a few questions about the story to help them remember it. For example, ask: "Who got on a boat? Where was Paul going? What happened while Paul and his friends were sailing in the boat? What did Paul tell his friends? What did Paul want to tell people when he visited them?"

PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Open the Bible to Matthew 28:19-20 and read the verse. Say: "This is what Jesus told His disciples and us to do after He went back to heaven."
- Lead children to say the Bible verse and reference two times.

PRAY

- Ask God to help children and everyone be ready to tell others about Jesus. Thank God for the Bible and the freedom to read and learn from it.

OPTIONS

1. Arrival Activities
2. Circle Time
3. Exploration Stations

OR

1. Arrival Activities
2. Exploration Stations
3. Circle Time

TOOLS

- several Bibles (include teachers' Bibles)

PACK ITEMS

- 6 Story Picture: Peter's Visit to Cornelius
- 7 Story Picture: Paul Talked to Lydia
- 8 Story Picture: Paul Told About Jesus
- 9 Story Picture: Paul's Stormy Journey
- 24 Bible Verse Markers 2
- 25 New Testament Story Markers

TEXT TRUTH

Go everywhere to tell about Jesus.

BIBLE STORY

Paul's Stormy Journey
Acts 27–28

BIBLE VERSE

Matthew 28:19-20

PACK ITEMS

9 Story Picture: Paul's Stormy Journey
32 Book: *God's Gifts*

EXPLORATION STATIONS (45-60 MINUTES)

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

GLUE PAPER STRIPS



Tools: Bible; Story Picture: Paul's Stormy Journey (Pack); construction paper; torn paper scraps in dark blue, black, and gray; glue sticks

- Show children the Story Picture and talk about Paul's stormy journey.
- Remark that though Paul may have been frightened during the storm, he trusted God to take care of him.
- Direct children to glue torn paper strips on the paper to create a unique design.
- As children work, thank God for keeping Paul safe while he traveled. Thank God for taking care of us.
- Say: "Paul had important work to do. He wanted to tell people everywhere the good news about Jesus."

BUILD HOUSES



Tools: Bible, wooden unit blocks, family stand-up figures, half-sized pieces of poster board, Book: God's Gifts (Pack)

- Interest preschoolers in building houses for the family figures. Children can use the poster board pieces as floors or roofs.
- While children use their imaginations, open the Bible to Acts 27. Remark that Paul told families about Jesus. Say: "Paul stayed with a family after the storm. The family was kind to Paul."
- Picture-read the book and thank God for His gifts.

CREATE SAND DESIGNS

Tools: Bible, clean sand, heavy-duty paper plates, white glue (stir in a small amount of tempera paint with the glue), plastic dishpan, small broom, dustpan, Activity Page

- Guide a child to dribble glue onto a plate to make a design. Then help him sprinkle sand over the glue.
- Direct the child to shake the excess sand from the paper plate into the dishpan.
- Associate the sand activity with the Bible story. For example, suggest that Paul and the other men landed safely on a sandy shore.
- Show the child the picture on the Activity Page.
- Ask the preschooler to help with cleanup by holding the dustpan. Thank the child for being helpful.

DRIVE ON TAPE ROADS

Tools: Bible, masking tape, toy cars and buses, traffic signs (opt.)

- Make a series of roads on the floor. Put the cars at different points along the roads.
- Perhaps people in your church participated in mission activities this summer. Explain to preschoolers: "People travel in our country and to other countries to tell others about Jesus. Jesus told us to do that."
- Open the Bible to Matthew 28:19-20 and read the Bible verse. Lead children to say the verse.
- As children play, say: "People fly in airplanes, ride boats, travel in cars, trains, and buses to go places to tell about Jesus. Jesus said to go everywhere."

READ BOOKS

Tools: Bible; preschool books telling about church helpers, missionaries, community workers

- Invite children to read books about helpers. Relate the books to today's Text Truth. For example, say: "Jesus wants everyone to know about Him and follow Him. Jesus said to go everywhere to all people."
- When a child looks at a book about missionaries, comment that often people go to a country or city to tell about Jesus and help people learn from the Bible.
- Name people in your church who tell about Jesus. Include preschool teachers and church leaders. Thank God for these people.
- Turn to Acts 27 and tell the Bible story, noting that Paul went to many places to teach people about Jesus.

NEXT HOUR (MORE EXPLORATIONS FOR PRESCHOOLERS)

OPTIONS

1. Continue activities from the first hour. (Kids learn through repetition.)
2. Try something different. Choose two or three new activities.

TEXT TRUTH

Go everywhere to tell about Jesus.

BIBLE STORY

Paul's Stormy Journey
Acts 27–28

The Bible story is printed on the back of the Story Picture.

BIBLE VERSE

Matthew 28:19-20

LEADER TIP!

Locate a shallow box, or cut one down to be about 8 to 12 inches deep.

WALK AND LISTEN

Tools: Bible

- Take a few children at a time on a walk through the church. Stop and listen for people teaching about Jesus. Walk by other preschool classrooms, adult classes, and the worship center. (Avoid places where children might see family members.)
- Find a quiet place to sit and talk about what everyone heard while walking.
- Thank God for people who tell others about Jesus. Help preschoolers say the Bible verse together.

DRAW ON BLACK PAPER

Tools: Bible, colored chalk, black construction paper, hand wipes, Story Picture: Paul's Stormy Journey (Pack Item 9)

- Invite preschoolers to use the chalk to draw pictures. As children work on their creations, talk about the stormy journey Paul had. Say: "During a storm, the sky often gets dark. Your paper reminds me of storms."
- Show children the Story Picture and summarize the Bible story. Remark: "God helped Paul and the men on the ship be safe. God helps us, too."

SAIL A PRETEND BOAT

Tools: Bible, large cardboard box that can hold 4 children, Activity Page

- Put the box on the floor in an out-of-the-way space.
- Say to preschoolers: "Let's pretend this box is our boat. What should we take on our boat trip?" Encourage children to gather pretend supplies, then be seated in the boat.
- Show preschoolers the Activity Page. Say: "Paul was riding on a boat when the wind started to blow really hard. The men with Paul were afraid. But Paul knew God would take care of the men."
- Summarize the Bible story, reminding children that Paul went to many places to tell about Jesus.

PLAY BIBLE VERSE HOPSCOTCH

Tools: Bible, colored tape, large cards, felt-tipped marker

- Print each word of the Bible verse and Scripture reference on separate cards.
- Use the tape to make a simple hopscotch grid on the floor. Tape one word in each square. (Sequence the words to form the Bible verse.)
- Invite preschoolers to take turns hopping through the grid and saying each word of the Bible verse. (Read the words as the children hop.)
- Sit down and help a child find the verse in the Bible at Matthew 28:19-20. Tell preschoolers that Paul went to people to tell them about Jesus.

LEADER TIP!

Form groups of two or three preschoolers and a teacher. Look at the Activity Page, review the Bible story, and say the Bible verse.

CIRCLE TIME

GATHER

- Shine a flashlight as a beacon to signal children to Circle Time.
- Tell the children: “Sailors look for beacons of light when they are sailing in the dark. The beacons help them know where to go.”

REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

- Show children the Story Picture (Pack Item 9).
- Help preschoolers recall significant events in the story.
- Remind children that Jesus said to go everywhere to tell about Him. That is what Paul did.

PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Explain that both the Bible story and Bible verse for today are found in the New Testament.
- Print the book names, *Acts* and *Matthew*, on separate cards and encourage preschoolers to find both books in the Bible.

PRAY

- Lead children to hold hands together as you pray. (Respect children who choose not to hold hands.)
- Thank God for each child and family.

DON'T FORGET!

Give every child this week's Activity Page and Preschool Family Card.



Look for printable Next Hour helps on the Preschool Enhanced CD.



Session 10



WORK TOGETHER

1 Corinthians 1; 3; 4; 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

TEXT TRUTH

God said people at church should work together.

BIBLE STORY

1 Corinthians 1; 3; 4; 12

BIBLE VERSE

1 Corinthians 15:58

CHRIST IN CONTEXT

The Book of 1 Corinthians reminds us that Jesus died for us and through Him we are united into one body, the Church.

BIBLE SKILLS

- Begin to understand that people wrote God's words in the Bible.
- Begin to understand how Bible verses apply to his life.

ARRIVAL ACTIVITIES (5 MINUTES)

As preschoolers arrive, offer choices of self-guided activities that set the stage for Bible explorations.

► Compare Bibles and find the Bible verse.

Tools: variety of Bibles, colored paper strips marking today's verse in each Bible

► Click rhythm sticks while listening to songs.

Tools: Bible, rhythm sticks, Enhanced CD

► Work a floor puzzle with friends.

Tools: Bible, Holy Land Map Floor Puzzle (LifeWay, 005159905)

- After everyone has had an opportunity to do one or more arrival activities, direct preschoolers to Exploration Stations. (See next page.)



EXPLORE THE BIBLE 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 the converts 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.

FAMILY AT HOME

Print this week's devotional page (Enhanced CD) to give to families.

TEXT TRUTH

God said people at church should work together.

BIBLE VERSE

1 Corinthians 15:58

PAUL HELPED PEOPLE AT CHURCH

1 Corinthians 1; 3; 4; 12

Paul helped people in the city of Corinth begin a church. Paul stayed a long time to help the people, then he left to visit another place to tell people about Jesus.

Later people told Paul the church in Corinth was having problems. This worried Paul, so he wrote a letter to the church people and reminded them the importance of working together and loving one another.

Paul wrote: "Dear friends in the church at Corinth, I thank God for you. I have heard about some arguing among you. This is not good. We are all to work together in love and cooperate."

Paul loved Jesus and he loved the people in the church. Paul knew that God gave everyone work to do.

Paul said, "We are workers together. God helps each of us do the work He wants us to do. It takes all of us. Always do your best for God, and show your love for Jesus."

LEADER TIP

You choose! Are your preschoolers ready to learn memory verses? Decide which wording of the Bible verse you want to use with your group.

BIBLE VERSE

From the Bible text:

Excel in the Lord's work. 1 Corinthians 15:58

Paraphrase:

Always do your best for God. 1 Corinthians 15:58



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

GATHER

- Place a Bible in a shopping bag. Add other items from the room.
- As children arrive in the Circle Time area, remove an item from the bag and show it to the children.
- Say: “If you have used something like this today or other times you have been at church, clap your hands.”
- Continue removing items (except for the Bible) from the bag and suggesting different actions for the children to do.

HEAR THE BIBLE STORY

- Hold up the bag. Remark: “I have one more item in my bag. It’s something I need to tell our Bible story. What do you think it is?”
- Give preschoolers an opportunity to guess.
- Slowly remove the Bible, then open it to 1 Corinthians 1 and tell the Bible story, using your own words.
- Show children the Story Picture (Pack) and comment that the people appear to be eager to hear what Paul is telling them.

PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Tell preschoolers: “Today’s Bible story is from the Book of 1 Corinthians. Paul wrote a letter to the people at the church in Corinth. Paul’s letters are included in the New Testament.”
- Ask a child to stand beside you. Guide the preschooler to open the Bible to 1 Corinthians 15:58.
- To the tune “London Bridge,” sing:
*Always do your best for God, best for God, best for God.
Always do your best for God. Do your best.*

PRAY

- Thank God for the Bible and the true stories that tell us about people who worked for God.
- Ask God to help us remember to always do our best for God.

OPTIONS

1. Arrival Activities
2. Circle Time
3. Exploration Stations

OR

1. Arrival Activities
2. Exploration Stations
3. Circle Time

TOOLS

- Bible
- shopping bag; various items from the room, such as toy car, block, picture, crayon, doll

PACK ITEM

10 Story Picture: Paul Helped People at Church

TEXT TRUTH

God said people at church should work together.

BIBLE STORY

Paul Helped People at Church
1 Corinthians 1; 3; 4; 12

BIBLE VERSE

1 Corinthians 15:58

PACK ITEMS

10 Story Picture: Paul Helped People at Church
19 Bible Stories Gameboard
20 Game Arrows
31 Pictures: Community Helpers

LEADER TIP!

Preschoolers already associate personal experiences with the word *church*. They can begin to understand that church is a gathering of people who love and worship Jesus. The building is simply a location where the people meet.

EXPLORATION STATIONS (45-60 MINUTES)

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

GRAB A BAG & BUILD



Tools: Bible, wooden blocks, plastic interlocking bricks, large paper bags

- Put a collection of blocks and plastic bricks into each bag. Place the bags on the floor.
- Invite two or three children to get a bag and build together using the blocks in their bag. Thank the preschoolers for thinking and working together.
- Say: “You worked together and helped one another. That is what Paul wanted the people in Corinth to do. Paul said God wants people in churches to work together.”
- Show the preschoolers the Book of 1 Corinthians in the Bible. Say: “This book is in the New Testament.”

PLAY INSTRUMENTS



Tools: Bible, children’s rhythm instruments, Enhanced CD, Activity Page

- Play the Enhanced CD and invite children to choose instruments to play.
- After a song, encourage children to exchange instruments. Say: “Taking turns is a way we work together at church.”
- Guide the children to march around the room as they play instruments. Then tell them to march around the chair with the Bible and Activity Page.
- Stop to look at the picture on the Activity Page and hear the Bible story.

SPIN & REVIEW

Tools: Bible, Bible Stories Gameboard (Pack), Game Arrows (Pack)

- Fasten a game arrow to the center of the gameboard. Put the gameboard on a table.
- When a child shows interest, show him the pictures around the gameboard. Say: “These pictures can remind us of Bible stories we have heard at church. Let’s see what we remember about the stories.”
- Lead the preschooler to spin the arrow. As it stops and points to a picture, say: “What is this picture? Does it remind you of a story from the Bible? Which one?”
- Help the child recall a Bible story.

MAKE A HELPERS COLLAGE

Tools: Bible, long piece of paper, wide painter’s tape, glue sticks, Pictures: Community Helpers (Pack), marker

- Attach the paper to a wall. Across the top of the paper write the Text Truth.
- Invite a couple of children to choose pictures of helpers to glue to the paper. Encourage the children to identify the helpers and describe how they help others.
- Say: “People at church can help, too. The Bible reminds us that we should always do our best for God. That means helping one another in our church, showing love, and doing what the Bible tells us to do.”
- Say: “Paul told the people in the Corinthian church to get along and work together.”

CLEAN THE ROOM

Tools: Bible, Story Picture: Paul Helped People at Church (Pack), plastic spray bottle of water, paper towels or clean cloths, child-sized broom and dustpan, baby wipes

- Suggest that preschoolers work together to clean the classroom. Guide them to take turns using the supplies to wipe tables, windowsills, chairs, and shelves.
- Sincerely thank the children. Comment: “Our church building is a place where people gather to learn about Jesus. God wants us to take care of our church building.”
- Open the Bible to 1 Corinthians 1 and tell the Bible story. Show preschoolers the Story Picture.
- Say: “Paul reminded the people in the church to always do their best for God. We should always do our best, too.”

NEXT HOUR (MORE EXPLORATIONS FOR PRESCHOOLERS)

OPTIONS

1. Continue activities from the first hour. (Kids learn through repetition.)
2. Try something different. Choose two or three new activities.

TEXT TRUTH

God said people at church should work together.

BIBLE STORY

Paul Helped People at Church
1 Corinthians 1; 3; 4; 12
The Bible story is printed on the back of the Story Picture.

BIBLE VERSE

1 Corinthians 15:58

BUILD THE BIBLE VERSE

Tools: Bible, wooden blocks, index cards, washable marker, tape

- Print each word of the Bible verse on a separate card. Attach each card to a block.
- While children build with blocks, read the words on the cards as they are discovered.
- Open the Bible and show children where the Bible verse is located in the Book of 1 Corinthians.
- Help preschoolers say the Bible verse, then lead children to put the word blocks in order.

FOLD CLOTHES

Tools: Bible, small hand towels, doll clothes and blankets, a few items of children's clothing, Story Picture: Paul Helped People at Church (Pack Item 10), small laundry basket

- Put the clothes, towels, and blankets in the basket. Invite boys and girls to fold the clothes.
- Talk about the Bible story. Comment: "Paul wrote a letter to friends at the church in Corinth. Paul told the church people to work together. You are working with your friends at church."
- Show children the Story Picture as you summarize the Bible story.

DRAW PICTURES FOR CHURCH HELPERS

Tools: Bible, paper, crayons or washable markers, sticky labels with the message Thank You printed on them

- Name some people who are leaders at your church. Mention people the preschoolers most likely see. Suggest that the children make thank-you drawings or cards for the helpers.
- Encourage preschoolers to draw what they wish. Then give them each a label to put on their picture.

- As the children work, thank God for helpers at your church who always do their best for God.

PASS A BEANBAG

Tools: Bible, beanbag, Enhanced CD

- Play music as children pass a beanbag around the circle.
- Stop the music. Tell the preschooler holding the beanbag to name a church helper. Talk about what that person does at your church.
- Resume the music and continue to pass the beanbag. Stop the music and ask a question about the Bible story.
- Play again, this time directing the child with the beanbag to say the Bible verse with you.

LEADER TIP!

Form groups of two or three preschoolers and a teacher. Look at the Activity Page, review the Bible story, and say the Bible verse.

CIRCLE TIME

GATHER

- Direct children to put away materials and get their Bibles.
- When children are in the circle, talk with them about the things they enjoyed doing today.

REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

- Hold the Story Picture (Pack Item 10). Say: “Today’s Bible story is about someone whose name begins with the letter *P*. Who is it?”
- Say: “Paul. Paul’s name begins with *P*. Paul had something important to tell church friends.”

- Lead children to recall what Paul said people at church should do.

PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Ask teachers to help children look for the Book of 1 Corinthians in Bibles. Find chapter 15, verse 58.
- Lead preschoolers to say the Bible verse together.

PRAY

- Thank God for helping us remember to work together at church and to do our best.

DON'T FORGET!

Give every child this week’s Activity Page and Preschool Family Card.



Look for printable Next Hour helps on the Preschool Enhanced CD.



Session 11



HOW TO LOVE

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. Even 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

TEXT TRUTH

The Bible tells how to love others.

BIBLE STORY

1 Corinthians 13

BIBLE VERSE

John 13:34

CHRIST IN CONTEXT

The Book of 1 Corinthians reminds us that Jesus died for us and through Him we are united into one body, the Church.

BIBLE SKILLS

- Begin to understand that people wrote God's words in the Bible.
- Know that the Old and New Testaments of the Bible are divided into smaller parts called books.

ARRIVAL ACTIVITIES (5 MINUTES)

As preschoolers arrive, offer choices of self-guided activities that set the stage for Bible explorations.

► Decorate a heart shape.

Tools: Bible, large heart cutouts, shiny stickers, markers, crayons

► Match pictures of faces.

Tools: Bible with marker placed at John 13:34, Pictures: People's Faces (Pack Item 29)

► Read books about showing love.

Tools: Bible, marker placed at 1 Corinthians 13, 3 or 4 preschool books focusing on love and kindness

- After everyone has had an opportunity to do one or more arrival activities, direct preschoolers to Exploration Stations. (See next page.)



EXPLORE THE BIBLE 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.

FAMILY AT HOME

Print this week's devotional page (Enhanced CD) to give to families.

TEXT TRUTH

The Bible tells how to love others.

BIBLE VERSE

John 13:34

A LETTER ABOUT LOVE

1 Corinthians 13

Paul wrote a letter to the church at Antioch. Paul loved the people in the church. He knew God wanted the people to work together and get along.

One of the things Paul wrote about is love. Paul wrote: “The greatest thing is love. It is greater than anything else.” Paul knew that people who loved Jesus were to love others as Jesus loved them.

Paul wrote many things about love to help the church friends understand the importance of love. Some of the things Paul wrote were: “It is better to love than to know many languages. It is better to love than to be smart and understand mysteries. It is better to love than work, work, work.”

Paul helped the people know that when we love as Jesus loves, we are patient and kind. We aren’t selfish or angry. We do what is right and tell the truth.

Paul said, “Love never ends.”

LEADER TIP

You choose! Are your preschoolers ready to learn memory verses? Decide which wording of the Bible verse you want to use with your group.

BIBLE VERSE

From the Bible text:

Just as I have loved you, you are also to love one another. John 13:34

Paraphrase:

Love one another as I have loved you. John 13:34



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

GATHER

- Give children a little notice before Circle Time so they can finish what they are doing and not feel rushed.
- Play a softer, slower song from the Enhanced CD as the children join you in the Circle Time area. Say quietly: “I’m so glad you came to church today. I really enjoy being with you.”
- Give children turns to tell you about things they like to do with friends.

HEAR THE BIBLE STORY

- Show the children the red heart and ask them what they think of when they see a heart shape.
- Give children time to respond. If no one says, “love,” make that suggestion.
- Say: “When I see a heart shape, I think about love. Paul wrote about love. He said important things about love. Let’s open the Bible to learn what Paul said.”
- Turn to 1 Corinthians 13 and tell the Bible story in your own words. Show preschoolers the Story Picture (Pack).

PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Hold up the picture of Jesus. Remark: “Jesus talked many times about loving others. He said we are to love others as He loves us.”
- Help a child open the Bible to find the Bible Verse Marker (Pack). Read the verse and say: “This verse is from the Book of John in the New Testament. Jesus wants us to know that He loves us, and we should love other people in the same way.”

PRAY

- Ask children to tell you people that they love. Make a list and thank God for those people.
- Pray that God will help us learn how to love others.

OPTIONS

1. Arrival Activities
2. Circle Time
3. Exploration Stations

OR

1. Arrival Activities
2. Exploration Stations
3. Circle Time

TOOLS

- Bible
- large red heart shape
- Picture: Jesus (Enhanced CD)

PACK ITEMS

- 11 Story Picture: A Letter About Love
- 24 Bible Verse Markers 2

TEXT TRUTH

The Bible tells how to love others.

BIBLE STORY

A Letter About Love
1 Corinthians 13

BIBLE VERSE

John 13:34

PACK ITEMS

11 Story Picture: A Letter About Love
24 Bible Verse Markers 2
28 Pictures: Children Helping

EXPLORATION STATIONS (45-60 MINUTES)

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

BUILD & PLAY



Tools: Bible, Bible Verse Markers 2 (Pack), wooden blocks, toy cars, Activity Page

- Give preschoolers freedom to build what they choose. Encourage children to be kind to one another and work together.
- Comment: “The Bible says to love one another. You are showing love when you work with friends.”
- Help a child find the marker in the Bible. Read the Bible verse.
- While children drive toy cars, ask: “What is a way to show love to a friend? What about someone in your family?”
- Help the children name some actions. Affirm them for showing love to others.
- Show the Activity Page and tell the Bible story.

TELL A STORY



Tools: Bible, Pictures: Children Helping (Pack), colorful gift bag

- Hold the gift bag to get a child’s attention. Say: “Let’s tell a story. Inside this bag are pictures of children helping. Reach into the bag and get a card. Then make up a story about the picture.”
- After the child gets a card, encourage him to make up a brief story about the action shown on the card.
- Say: “You told a story about a child helping or showing love. The Bible talks about love. Let’s find some words about love. The words are in the Book of 1 Corinthians.”
- Tell the Bible story.

DISCOVER BIBLE WORDS

Tools: Bible; shallow pan; shredded paper; small objects on which to write words (wooden block, small gift box, plastic cup, plastic lid, so on); permanent marker

- Write these words (one per object): *love, Bible, Jesus, Paul, 1 Corinthians, John.*
- Hide the objects in the pan of shredded paper.
- Invite a child to feel in the paper for an object. When she discovers an object, read the word printed on it. Relate the word to today's Text Truth, Bible story, or Bible verse.
- For example, say: "First Corinthians. That is the Bible book that Paul wrote. Let's find that book in the Bible."
- Help the child know that Paul wrote about love.

CARE FOR BABY DOLLS

Tools: Bible, 2 or more dolls, toy bottles, blankets, plastic feeding dish and spoon, toy doll stroller, baby wipes, plastic dishpan, 1 or 2 books about families or babies

- Children will enjoy bathing the dolls, feeding them, and strolling them around the room. Encourage children to take turns using the baby items.
- Get a book and begin reading it to a child. Ask him about his family. Say: "God planned for children to have families to care for them and love them. Your family loves you."
- While preschoolers play, comment on their actions of love and kindness. Say: "You are showing love to the baby. Jesus said, 'Love one another as I have loved you.' Those words are in the Bible."

MAKE A LOVE LETTER

Tools: Bible, Story Picture: A Letter About Love (Pack), construction paper, washable markers, colorful yarn (cut into short strips), glue or glue sticks, LOVE Letters (Enhanced CD)

- Print the LOVE Letters page on heavyweight paper. Provide one of these pages and a blank piece of construction paper for each child.
- Put glue sticks and yarn with the papers.
- Show a child the page with the word *LOVE* on it. Read the Bible verse on the page.
- Invite the child to "write" over the letters with the glue, then lay yarn strips over the glue. Or he can choose to simply use a marker to trace over the letters.
- Point to the picture of Paul. Say: "Paul wrote about love."
- Turn to 1 Corinthians 13 and tell the Bible story.

NEXT HOUR (MORE EXPLORATIONS FOR PRESCHOOLERS)

OPTIONS

1. Continue activities from the first hour. (Kids learn through repetition.)
2. Try something different. Choose two or three new activities.

TEXT TRUTH

The Bible tells how to love others.

BIBLE STORY

A Letter About Love
1 Corinthians 13
The Bible story is printed on the back of the Story Picture.

BIBLE VERSE

John 13:34

LEADER TIP!

You may choose to write the names of the children in the class on the reverse side of the cards.

PLAY WITH PEOPLE FIGURES

Tools: Bible, wooden blocks, toy people figures, Activity Page

- Give preschoolers room to build whatever they wish with the blocks. Watch the children incorporate the people figures into their play.
- As children stack, build, and knock over blocks, affirm them for showing consideration for others. Tell them this is a way to show love.
- Show children the picture on the Activity Page. Say: “Paul wrote a letter to some people at a church. Paul told the people to love one another.”

CLIP CARDS ON A LINE

Tools: Bible, colorful cards, marker, 4-foot length of ribbon, clothespins

- Tie the ribbon between two chairs to make a clothesline. Use the marker to write single words of the Bible verse on the cards.
- Turn to John 13:34 and read the Bible verse to the children.
- Guide preschoolers to sequence the word cards to form the verse and clip the cards on the line in correct sequence.
- Lead preschoolers to repeat the Bible verse.

CREATE FRIEND CARDS

Tools: Bible, stamp pads with washable bright ink colors, large blank cards, hand wipes, washable fine-tipped marker

- Lay as many cards on a table as you have children in the class. Put the stamp pads on the table as well.
- Tell boys and girls they can make Friend Cards for one another. Direct children to walk around the table, putting one thumbprint on each card.
- After all children have stamped their thumbprint on all the cards, each child can take home a card that shows church friends’ thumbprints.
- Say: “Working together to make these cards is a way to show love to your friends. Thank you for showing love today.”

ARRANGE FLOWERS OR WATER A PLANT

Tools: Bible, Story Picture: A Letter About Love (Pack Item 11), fresh or artificial flowers, plastic vase, Allergy Sign (Enhanced CD), child's watering can

- Open the Bible to 1 Corinthians 13 and point to the word *love*. Comment: “This place in the Bible tells us that we are to love others. Paul wrote a letter to church friends telling them to show love and be kind.”
- Show a child the Story Picture and point to Paul. Recall the Bible story.
- Suggest that a child arrange the flowers in the vase. Talk about occasions to give flowers to someone. Tell the child this is a way to show love.
- Take a preschooler outdoors or to a place inside the church building to water a plant. Thank him for helping and showing love through his actions.

LEADER TIP!

Form groups of two or three preschoolers and a teacher. Look at the Activity Page, review the Bible story, and say the Bible verse.

CIRCLE TIME

GATHER

- Make up a tune to sing the Bible verse:
*Love one another, love one another,
love one another, as I have loved you.*
- When children are in the circle, lead them to sing the verse.

REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

- Say: “We sang words about loving one another. Do you know who said those words? Yes, Jesus said to love one another.”
- Say: “Paul wrote a letter to tell church friends to love one another and be kind.”

- Show children the Story Picture (Pack Item 11). Lead preschoolers to tell you what they remember about Paul’s letter.

PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Ask teachers to help children locate the Books of John and 1 Corinthians in Bibles.
- Tell preschoolers these two books are in the New Testament.

PRAY

- Thank God for the Bible that tells us how to love others.
- Ask God to help us love others.

DON'T FORGET!

Give every child this week’s Activity Page and Preschool Family Card.



Look for printable Next Hour helps on the Preschool Enhanced CD.



Session 12



DON'T GIVE UP

2 Corinthians 1–7

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 the people 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

TEXT TRUTH

Church friends help one another.

BIBLE STORY

2 Corinthians 1–7

BIBLE VERSE

2 Corinthians 5:20

CHRIST IN CONTEXT

The Book of 2 Corinthians describes God's work through Jesus to reconcile people to Him. Followers of Jesus are called to serve others and tell the world the good news of salvation.

BIBLE SKILLS

- Open Bible to a Bible marker.
- Learn people wrote God's words in the Bible.

ARRIVAL ACTIVITIES (5 MINUTES)

As preschoolers arrive, offer choices of self-guided activities that set the stage for Bible explorations.

► Write or draw on a whiteboard.

Tools: Bible, whiteboards, dry erase markers, paper towels or erasers

► Feel and guess helper items.

Tools: Bible; canvas bag; items such as toy hammer, plastic measuring cup, adhesive bandage, baby toy, crayon, book, small Bible

► Work helper puzzles.

Tools: Bible, 3 or 4 preschool puzzles showing church or community helpers

- After everyone has had an opportunity to do one or more arrival activities, direct preschoolers to Exploration Stations. (See next page.)



EXPLORE THE BIBLE 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.

FAMILY AT HOME

Print this week's devotional page (Enhanced CD) to give to families.

TEXT TRUTH

Church friends help one another.

BIBLE VERSE

2 Corinthians 5:20

PAUL TOLD ABOUT HIS WORK

2 Corinthians 1–7

Paul was in another town, but he still thought about the church people in Corinth. Paul wrote another letter to the church to tell them he planned to visit later.

Paul wrote: “Dear Friends in Corinth, peace to you. Praise God for helping us. We want you to know about the things that have happened to us and know how God has helped us.”

Paul said, “I know about the hard times. I have been hurt and hungry. People have not liked what I have told them about Jesus. I have been punished for teaching and preaching the good news. But I have always spoken the truth. We do not give up.”

Paul continued, “I have wanted to visit you, but I could not. I am writing this letter to help you and not hurt you.”

Paul wanted the church people to share the good news of Jesus even when people did not want to listen. Paul wanted all of the people to help one another in this work because they loved Jesus.

Paul asked the church people to pray for him.

LEADER TIP

You choose! Are your preschoolers ready to learn memory verses? Decide which wording of the Bible verse you want to use with your group.

BIBLE VERSE

From the Bible text:

We are ambassadors for Christ. 2 Corinthians 5:20

Paraphrase:

We are helpers for Jesus. 2 Corinthians 5:20



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

GATHER

- Play the Enhanced CD as you go around the room inviting preschoolers to Circle Time.
- When children are in the circle, ask them one at a time to come to the front and get an Action Card (Pack). Read the card and tell the preschooler to lead the group to do the action.
- After everyone has a turn to lead the group, thank children for helping.

HEAR THE BIBLE STORY

- Talk with children about what they have done at church today. Comment on helping actions and kind behavior toward one another. Remark: “Our Bible story is a reminder to church friends to be helpful and work together. Let’s hear that story from the Bible.”
- Ask a child to open the Bible to the Story Marker (Pack). As the preschooler holds the Bible, tell the Bible story in your own words.
- Thank the preschooler for helping. Say: “Paul wanted people at church to remember that they should help one another.”
- Show the children the Story Picture (Pack) and point to the person holding the letter from Paul.

PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Show children the Story Marker again. Say: “Today’s Bible story is in the New Testament. That part of the Bible tells about people in the first churches. Paul wrote letters to the churches. Paul’s letters are in the Bible.”
- Ask teachers in the group to help pairs of children look for the Book of 2 Corinthians in classroom or personal Bibles.

PRAY

- Pray for leaders in your church who teach what the Bible says.
- Thank God for children’s families who bring them to church to learn from the Bible.

OPTIONS

1. Arrival Activities
2. Circle Time
3. Exploration Stations

OR

1. Arrival Activities
2. Exploration Stations
3. Circle Time

TOOLS

- Bible
- Enhanced CD

PACK ITEMS

- 12 Story Picture: Paul Told About His Work
- 25 New Testament Story Markers
- 33 Action Cards

TEXT TRUTH

Church friends help one another.

BIBLE STORY

Paul Told About His Work
2 Corinthians 1–7

BIBLE VERSE

2 Corinthians 5:20

PACK ITEMS

12 Story Picture: Paul Told About His Work
21 Classroom Picture Cards
28 Pictures: Children Helping

LEADER TIP!

Preschoolers develop and strengthen Bible skills when they are encouraged to open the Bible, look for words, and hear about the Bible.

EXPLORATION STATIONS (45-60 MINUTES)

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

TRY ON HELPER HATS



Tools: Bible; hats such as construction safety helmet, fire fighters hat, straw hat, cowboy hat, so on; stand-up mirror

- Place the hats with the Bible near the mirror.
- Put on a hat and begin a conversation with a child. Invite her to try on a hat.
- Comment: “I see you wearing the straw hat. Sometimes people wear hats like that when they work in their garden.”
- Invite the child to try on a different hat. Ask her what kind of work she might do while wearing that hat.
- Remark: “Many workers wear hats to protect their heads. Paul wrote a letter about people working at church. Paul told his friends that people who love Jesus are His helpers.”

LACE A PICTURE CARD



Tools: Bible, 2 or 3 photos of your church, poster board, hole punch, shoelaces, marker

- Make lacing cards by gluing photos of your church on cardboard pieces (approx. 5-by-7-in. size). Punch holes around each card and tie a shoelace in one hole. On the back of the cards, write today’s Bible verse.
- Show a picture card to a child. Say: “This is a photo of our church. We come to church to learn from the Bible. People at our church work together and help.”
- Invite the child to lace the shoelace around the picture card. As she works, help her say the Bible verse.

FIND THE ITEM

Tools: Bible, Classroom Picture Cards (Pack), bag, Story Picture: Paul Told About His Work (Pack)

- Open the Bible to the location of today's Bible story. Lay the Story Picture with the Bible.
- Put Picture Cards in the bag and hold it until a child comes near. Invite the preschooler to take a card from the bag and identify the item.
- Say: "That is something we can use in our room. What is it? Can you find that item in our room?"
- Direct the preschooler to find the item and touch it.
- When the preschooler locates a Bible card, ask him to hold a Bible while you tell the Bible story.
- Call attention to the people listening to Paul's letter.

PAINT WITH ROLLERS

Tools: Bible, easel, paper, small paint rollers (trim size), 2 or 3 colors of washable tempera paint, drop cloth, damp sponge, smock, Activity Page

- Put a drop cloth under the easel for easy cleanup.
- Help a child put on the smock. As she prepares to paint, say: "When our church needs painting, people use big rollers to paint the walls. People work together to paint our church."
- Talk with the preschooler about other things people at your church do to work together and help one another.
- Show the child the picture on the Activity Page and summarize the Bible story.
- Say: "The people read Paul's letter and learned that they were helpers for Jesus."

MATCH PICTURES & WORK PUZZLES

Tools: Bible; Pictures: Children Helping (Pack); puzzles Going to Church (LifeWay, 005159906), Synagogue (LifeWay, 005196439)

- Invite children to work a puzzle or match pictures. Talk with the children about the pictures showing children helping, or the puzzle pictures related to church.
- For example, comment: "Your puzzle shows a family going to church. People at church learn from the Bible. They learn that we are helpers for Jesus."
- Or remark: "You matched pictures of children picking up trash. That is a way to help. Paul wrote a letter to church friends and reminded them to work together and help one another."
- Open the Bible to 2 Corinthians 1 and tell the Bible story.

NEXT HOUR (MORE EXPLORATIONS FOR PRESCHOOLERS)

OPTIONS

1. Continue activities from the first hour. (Kids learn through repetition.)
2. Try something different. Choose two or three new activities.

TEXT TRUTH

Church friends help one another.

BIBLE STORY

Paul Told About His Work
2 Corinthians 1–7

The Bible story is printed on the back of the Story Picture.

BIBLE VERSE

2 Corinthians 5:20

DRAW ON A PARCHMENT SCROLL

Tools: Bible, long strip of parchment paper, empty paper towel tubes, tape, pencils, pens, washable markers, crayons, Activity Page

- Tape each end of the parchment paper to the cardboard tubes.
- Suggest that preschoolers take turns writing and drawing on the parchment. Comment that the paper and tube resembles a scroll. Point to the scroll shown on the Activity Page.
- Say: “Paul may have written on parchment when he wrote the letter to the church people in the city of Corinth. We can read Paul’s letter in the Bible.”
- Guide a child to turn to 2 Corinthians 1 in the Bible.

FORM PLAY DOUGH LETTERS

Tools: Bible, paper, marker, clear kitchen mat or clear vinyl, fresh play dough

- Print today’s Bible verse on the paper. Write the letters as large as possible.
- Cover the paper with the kitchen mat or piece of vinyl.
- Guide a child to form play dough letters over the Bible verse.
- Comment that we learn from the Bible that we are helpers for Jesus.

PLAY MUSICAL CHAIRS

Tools: Bible, Enhanced CD, Pictures: Children Helping (Pack Item 28), bag, chairs, Story Picture: Paul Told About His Work (Pack Item 12)

- Play the CD and tell preschoolers to walk around a circle of chairs with seats facing outward.
- Stop the music and direct children to be seated. Ask the child without a seat to get a picture from the bag. Say: “Tell us about this picture. Does it show a child helping? Show the picture to your friends.”
- Tell seated children to stand. Repeat the sequence of actions, being sure to give every child a turn to describe a picture and comment.

- At the end of the CD, ask preschoolers to sit in the chairs and pass the Story Picture around the circle.
- Recall the Bible story in your own words.

CREATE TAPE PICTURES

Tools: Bible, various types and colors of tape, construction paper, marker

- Write on each paper the Bible verse and reference.
- Give a preschooler a paper and direct him to tear off tape pieces to make designs on his paper. While the preschooler works, point to the words printed on his paper. Say: “Those words are from the Bible in the Book of 2 Corinthians. Paul wrote a letter to some church friends and told them that they were helpers for Jesus.”

LEADER TIP!

Form groups of two or three preschoolers and a teacher. Look at the Activity Page, review the Bible story, and say the Bible verse.

LEADER TIP!

Younger preschoolers may have difficulty tearing tape. Tear short pieces of tape and attach them to the table edge or around a plastic tray.

CIRCLE TIME

GATHER

- Play the Enhanced CD as children move to the Circle Time area.
- Ask each one to tell something he enjoyed doing at church today.

REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

- Hold the parchment scroll children made today.
- Say: “People in Bible times often wrote letters on parchment. It was like paper. Paul wrote letters to people in churches.”
- Show children the Story Picture (Pack Item 12) and point to the letter a man is holding.

- Help children recall the Bible story.

PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Distribute Bibles to groups of children and teachers.
- Ask teachers to help children locate the Book of 2 Corinthians.
- Say: “Paul’s letters are in the Bible for us to read.”

PRAY

- Thank God for church friends.
- Thank God for the Bible that helps us know what to do.

DON'T FORGET!

Give every child this week’s Activity Page and Preschool Family Card.



Look for printable Next Hour helps on the Preschool Enhanced CD.



Session 13



GIVE IN LOVE

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 put a hardship on the people, 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

TEXT TRUTH

Giving to others shows God's love.

BIBLE STORY

2 Corinthians 8–9

BIBLE VERSE

2 Corinthians 9:7

CHRIST IN CONTEXT

The Book of 2 Corinthians describes God's work through Jesus to reconcile people to Him. Followers of Jesus are called to serve others and tell the world the good news of salvation.

BIBLE SKILLS

- Learn people wrote God's words in the Bible.
- Begin to understand how Bible verses apply to his life.

ARRIVAL ACTIVITIES (5 MINUTES)

As preschoolers arrive, offer choices of self-guided activities that set the stage for Bible explorations.

▶ Make designs with colored dots.

Tools: Bible, paper, colored self-adhesive paper dots

▶ Match picture cards.

Tools: Bible, Pictures: Places to Learn (Pack Item 27)

▶ Sort coins.

Tools: Bible; box holding several pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters; 6-cup muffin tin or an ice cube tray

- ▶ After everyone has had an opportunity to do one or more arrival activities, direct preschoolers to Exploration Stations. (See next page.)



EXPLORE THE BIBLE 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.

FAMILY AT HOME

Print this week's devotional page (Enhanced CD) to give to families.

TEXT TRUTH

Giving to others shows God's love.

BIBLE VERSE

2 Corinthians 9:7

PAUL TAUGHT ABOUT GIVING

2 Corinthians 8–9

Paul loved the people in the church at Corinth. He wanted to help the people know how to serve God and show their love for Jesus.

One time Paul asked the church people to help people in Jerusalem. Famines had spread through the land and crops could not grow. People were hungry and without food. People in other cities had given offerings to help the people in Jerusalem.

Paul asked the people in the Corinth church to give help as they had promised they would. Paul wrote, "The church people who have already helped are happy that they could give money. They wanted to be included in this important work."

Paul told the people in Corinth he wanted them to be ready to give and help just as others had. Paul reminded the people how Jesus gave to people and showed His love.

Paul wrote: "Each person should give what he can and give with joy. God loves a cheerful giver. Our help shows we care about other people and we love God. And He provides all we need."

LEADER TIP

You choose! Are your preschoolers ready to learn memory verses? Decide which wording of the Bible verse you want to use with your group.

BIBLE VERSE

From the Bible text:

God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:7

Paraphrase:

God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:7



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

GATHER

- Play a song from the Enhanced CD as you walk around the room and ask children to finish their work and go to Circle Time.
- Direct the children already seated to do actions together. Use the suggestions from the Action Cards (Pack).

HEAR THE BIBLE STORY

- Thank preschoolers for listening and following directions. Say: “Now, please listen while I tell a story from the Bible.”
- Open the Bible to 2 Corinthians and tell the story in your own words.
- Show preschoolers the Story Picture (Pack), noting the smiles on people’s faces as they take offerings to the church.
- Say: “Paul talked about giving to others and showing God’s love to them. Let’s read a book that tells about gifts God has for us.”
- Picture-read the Book: *God’s Gifts* (Pack).

PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Hold the Bible Stories Gameboard (Pack) for preschoolers to see. Say: “Let’s work together to remember what we have learned from the Bible recently.”
- Turn the spinner. Ask a child to tell about the picture to which the arrow is pointing. Help the children recall the Bible story or Text Truth related to the picture.
- Lead children to recognize that the Bible has true stories about people who loved God and Jesus and did what God said to do.
- Give every child a turn to respond, but call on friends to help answer questions or tell about stories. Give hints as needed.

PRAY

- Thank God for the Bible and the things we learn from the Bible.
- Thank God for people who show God’s love through their actions and gifts to others. Thank God for church friends who give money and other things for your church and community.

OPTIONS

1. Arrival Activities
2. Circle Time
3. Exploration Stations

OR

1. Arrival Activities
2. Exploration Stations
3. Circle Time

TOOLS

- Bible
- Enhanced CD

PACK ITEMS

- 13 Story Picture: Paul Taught About Giving
- 19 Bible Stories Gameboard
- 32 Book: *God’s Gifts*
- 33 Action Cards

TEXT TRUTH

Giving to others shows God's love.

BIBLE STORY

Paul Taught About Giving
2 Corinthians 8–9

BIBLE VERSE

2 Corinthians 9:7

PACK ITEMS

- 10 Story Picture: Paul Helped People at Church
- 11 Story Picture: A Letter About Love
- 12 Story Picture: Paul Told About His Work
- 13 Story Picture: Paul Taught About Giving
- 24 Bible Verse Markers 2

LEADER TIP!

Make a list of children's names for assigning grocery roles. Tell preschoolers everyone will get a turn to shelve, shop, and bag.

EXPLORATION STATIONS (45-60 MINUTES)

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

SHOP FOR GROCERIES



Tools: Bible; play food; empty food packages (cereal, crackers, dry soup mix, so on); toy cash register; play money; paper or cloth bags to hold food items; toy shopping cart or basket

- Set up a grocery store in a part of the room with lots of space for moving around. Put the groceries on a table and shelves.
- Children can take turns being shoppers and grocery workers.
- Say: "Sometimes families bring food to our church to give to people who don't have food. That shows our love for others."
- Comment on times when communities work together to help people have food.
- Open the Bible to 2 Corinthians 8 and tell the Bible story.

PREPARE A GIFT BASKET



Tools: Bible; large basket; items for the basket (fruit, candy, crackers, juice boxes, lotion, Scripture cards); index cards; crayons; colored pencils

- Tell children about someone in your church who may be sick or going through a tough time. Invite children to prepare a gift for the person.
- Encourage children to place items in the basket. Direct them to draw on the cards to create notes to add to the basket.
- While preschoolers are busy, talk about the ways people at your church work together to show God's love.

**DECORATE OFFERING
CONTAINERS**

Tools: Bible, empty containers with plastic lids, gift wrap, tape, scissors

- Slit an X in the plastic lids to make an opening in which to insert coins and paper money.
- When children notice the materials, say: “Paul said God loves a cheerful giver. We can give to others, too.”
- Perhaps your church collects special offerings for missions or community ministries. Talk about these opportunities with the children.
- Invite children to decorate containers to take home. Suggest that the children and their families save money for an offering.
- Print a short note to parents explaining the purpose of the container.

SING AND SWAY

Tools: Bible, Enhanced CD, other CD with praise and worship songs, crepe paper streamers, Activity Page

- Play the CDs, listening for songs that praise God. Wave a streamer in the air as a way to celebrate.
- Invite preschoolers to join you in the musical celebration. Talk to them about how music helps us think about God and His goodness.
- Show preschoolers the Activity Page illustration. Recall the Bible story, mentioning that Paul told the people in the church that God is happy when people give cheerfully.
- Wave a streamer again and make up a tune to sing:
*God loves a cheerful giver,
God loves a cheerful giver,
God loves a cheerful giver,
That’s what the Bible says.*

**GO ON A PICTURE
WALK**

Tools: Bible; Story Pictures for 1 & 2 Corinthians (Pack Items 10, 11, 12, 13); tape; sticky notes

- Place the pictures around the room in order. Tape them to walls or to the backs of chairs at a good height for preschoolers to examine closely.
- Put sticky notes over parts of the pictures (perhaps a scroll, part of a wall, a basket, or a person).
- Begin the picture walk and talk about what could be under the sticky note on a picture. Recall that story’s highlights.
- Continue with other pictures. When you get to Picture 13, pause long enough to tell the Bible story.
- Say: “Paul wrote many letters to help church people know how to live and serve others.”

NEXT HOUR (MORE EXPLORATIONS FOR PRESCHOOLERS)

OPTIONS

1. Continue activities from the first hour. (Kids learn through repetition.)
2. Try something different. Choose two or three new activities.

TEXT TRUTH

Giving to others shows God's love.

BIBLE STORY

Paul Taught About Giving
2 Corinthians 8–9

The Bible story is printed on the back of the Story Picture.

BIBLE VERSE

2 Corinthians 9:7

MAKE COIN PRINTS IN PLAY DOUGH

Tools: Bible, several coins, fresh play dough, toy rolling pins, Activity Page

- Give a preschooler some play dough to pound, roll, and flatten. He may want to use a rolling pin to make a smooth surface.
- Guide the child to choose a coin to press on the play dough. Comment on the print that appears.
- As the child makes more coin prints, show the preschooler the picture on the Activity Page and recall the Bible story.
- Say: "Paul told his church friends, 'God loves a cheerful giver.'"

PASS A BEANBAG

Tools: Bible, beanbag, Enhanced CD, Story Picture: Paul Taught About Giving (Pack Item 13)

- Direct a few children to stand in a circle. Give them the beanbag to pass as music plays.
- Stop the music and ask the preschooler holding the beanbag a question about the Bible story.
- After a few rounds, take a few moments to open the Bible to 2 Corinthians 8 and tell the Bible story.
- Pass the Story Picture around the circle for everyone to see.

MAKE BIBLE MARKERS

Tools: Bible, large colorful paper geometric shapes, variety of stickers, hole punch, gift-wrap ribbon, marker

- Write the Bible verse and reference on each shape.
- Invite a preschooler to choose a shape to make a Bible marker. Tell her she may apply stickers to her shape to decorate it on either side.
- Punch a hole in one end of the marker and give the preschooler a length of ribbon to pull through the hole. Tie the ribbon.

- While children work on their markers, say the Bible verse, remarking that God is pleased when we give to others.

ARRANGE WORD BLOCKS

- *Tools: Bible, wooden blocks, square sticky notes, marker, sentence strip (Write the Bible verse on the strip.)*
- Print individual words of the Bible verse on sticky notes. Put each sticky note on a block.
- Read the verse from the sentence strip. Then challenge preschoolers to work together to put the word blocks in order to form the full Bible verse.
- Say the Bible verse with the children. Remark: “These words are in the Bible. Paul wrote these words to remind church friends to give with a joyful heart.”

LEADER TIP!

Form groups of two or three preschoolers and a teacher. Look at the Activity Page, review the Bible story, and say the Bible verse.

CIRCLE TIME

GATHER

- Give preschoolers rhythm sticks to tap as they join the circle. Play a song from the Enhanced CD and sing along as children tap.
- Ask children to tell what they enjoyed most today at church.

REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

- Help children recall things the people at the church in Corinth learned from Paul.
- Say: “Paul taught church people they should work together, love and help one another, and be cheerful givers.”

PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Distribute Bibles and help children locate the Book of 2 Corinthians.
- Say: “This book is in the New Testament, and it is one of the books Paul wrote.”
- Next, help children find the Bible verse at 2 Corinthians 9:7. Lead preschoolers to say the verse.

PRAY

- Invite each child to think of something for which he would like to thank God; then give each child an opportunity to pray.

DON'T FORGET!

Give every child this week's Activity Page and Preschool Family Card.



Look for printable Next Hour helps on the Preschool Enhanced CD.

COMING NEXT QUARTER

FALL 2018

DATE	SESSION TITLE	BIBLE STORY PASSAGE	BIBLE VERSE
Sept. 2	Our God Is True	2 Samuel 7:1-29	2 Samuel 7:28
Sept. 9	Show Kindness	2 Samuel 9:1-13; 21:7	Ephesians 4:32
Sept. 16	God, Strong and Good	2 Samuel 22:1-51	2 Samuel 22:31
Sept. 23	A Day of Celebration	1 Chronicles 15:1-29; 16:1-37	1 Chronicles 16:34
Sept. 30	Following God's Plan	1 Chronicles 22:1-19; 28:1-21	1 Chronicles 28:9b
Oct. 7	God's Plan for His People	Genesis 15; 17:1-22; 21:1-7	Genesis 17:7
Oct. 14	Choose Kindness	Genesis 26:1-6,12-33	Genesis 26:24b
Oct. 21	Trust God	Genesis 32:1-30; 33:1-20	Jeremiah 29:11
Oct. 28	God's Help	Genesis 37:1-4,12-36; 39:1-6; 41:1-45	Genesis 50:19-20
Nov. 4	Forgiveness	Genesis 42-45	Genesis 50:19-20
Nov. 11	Tell the Good News	Galatians 1-6	Galatians 6:9a
Nov. 18	Hear and Do	James 1:1-3:18	James 1:22
Nov. 25	Live Like Jesus	James 4:1-5:20	James 4:8a

TOOLS FOR DIGGING DEEP!

PRESCHOOL TOOL KIT

The resources you need to lead one class:

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



LEADER GUIDE

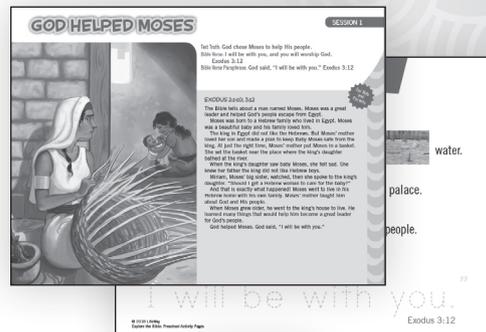
Help preschoolers dig into the Bible.

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

ACTIVITY PAGES

Engage preschoolers in class and continue learning at home.

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



PRESCHOOL FAMILY CARDS

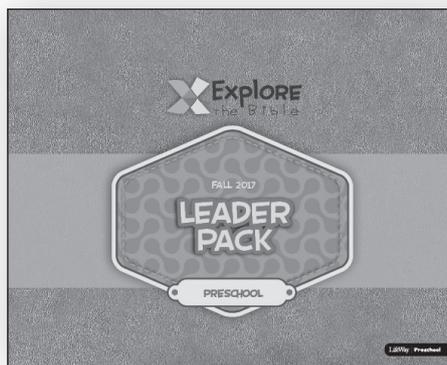
Pocket-size weekly cards feature Bible story picture and simple Bible explorations that build and strengthen Bible skills.



LEADER PACK

Filled with leader-friendly resources that make teaching easy.

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



ENHANCED CD

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

PRESCHOOL TOOL KIT WITH WORSHIP

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



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

THE GOSPEL

GOD'S PLAN FOR ME

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



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



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



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



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



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

ADMIT

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

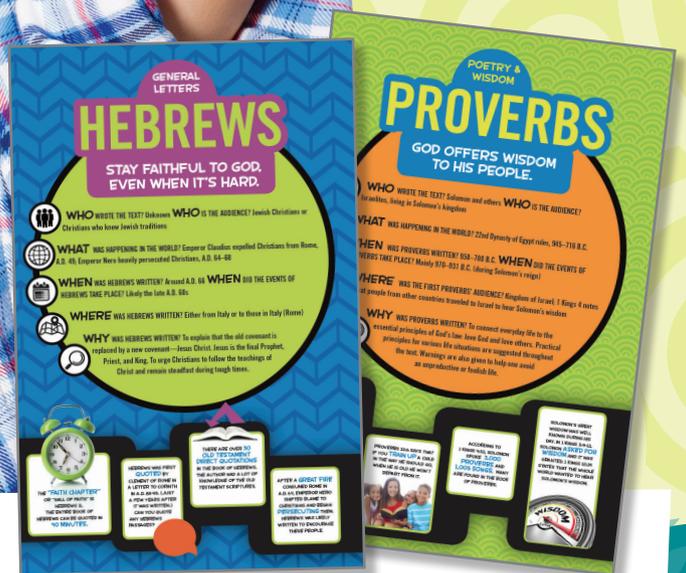
BELIEVE

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

CONFESS

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

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

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



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

