



OLDER KIDS

# Explore the Bible.



Leader Guide > Fall 2018

James Merritt, General Editor

2 SAMUEL

the evening for those who die  
for Saul, his son Jonathan,  
and the house of Israel.  
13 David inquired of the Lord,  
brought him the report, "Where  
"I'm the son of a foreigner"  
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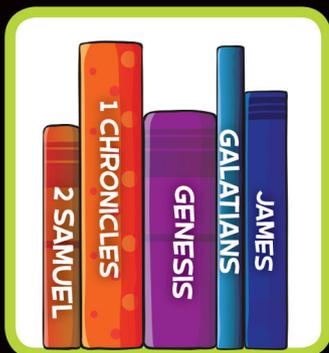
2 SAMUEL, 1 CHRONICLES,  
GENESIS, GALATIANS, & JAMES

LifeWay | Kids

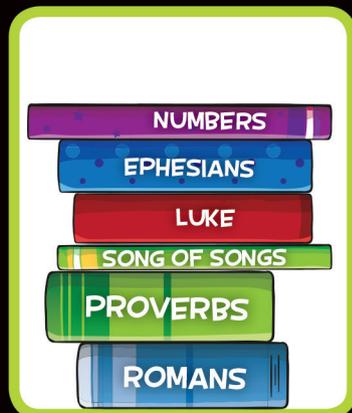
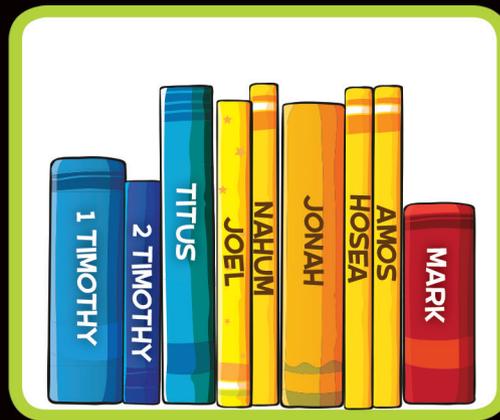
# BIBLICAL OVERVIEW 2018-19

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

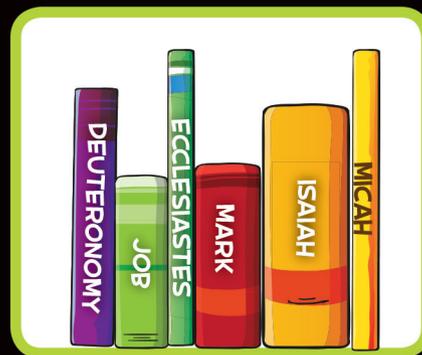
**FALL 2018**



**WINTER 2018-19**



**SPRING 2019**



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## EXPLORE THE BIBLE: OLDER KIDS LEADER GUIDE

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We believe that the Bible has God for its author; salvation for its end; and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter and that all Scripture is totally true and trustworthy. To review LifeWay's doctrinal guideline, please visit [lifeway.com/doctrinalguideline](http://lifeway.com/doctrinalguideline).

This study of 2 Samuel, 1 Chronicles, Genesis, Galatians, & James was written by Leslie Caldwell.

# AT A GLANCE

SESSION	SUGGESTED FOR THE WEEK OF	BIBLE STORY TITLE	BIBLE PASSAGE
<b>1</b>	September 2	God's Covenant with David	2 Samuel 7
<b>2</b>	September 9	David and Mephibosheth	2 Samuel 9
<b>3</b>	September 16	David's Praise for God	2 Samuel 22:1-23:5
<b>4</b>	September 23	The Ark Moved to Jerusalem	1 Chronicles 15:1-4,11-12,14-16,25-29; 16:1-3,7-36
<b>5</b>	September 30	David Prepared for the Temple	1 Chronicles 22:2-19; 28
<b>6</b>	October 7	God's Covenant with Abraham	Genesis 15:1-6; 17:1-9,15-22; 21:1-7
<b>7</b>	October 14	God Blessed Isaac	Genesis 26:1-6,12-33
<b>8</b>	October 21	God's Plan for Jacob	Genesis 27-28; 32:1-32; 33:1-4
<b>9</b>	October 28	Joseph Sent to Egypt	Genesis 37:1-36; 41
<b>10</b>	November 4	Joseph Forgave His Brothers	Genesis 42-45
<b>11</b>	November 11	The Book of Galatians	Galatians 2:15-21; 3:1-29; 5:13-26; 6:1-10
<b>12</b>	November 18	The Book of James	James 1:2-8,19-27; 2:14-26; 3:1-18
<b>13</b>	November 25	Live to Honor God	James 4:1-17; 5:7-18

	<b>TEXT TRUTH</b>	<b>MEMORY VERSE</b>
	God made an everlasting covenant with David.	2 Samuel 7:28
	Because God has been kind to us, we should be kind to others.	Ephesians 4:32
	We can thank God for His many blessings.	2 Samuel 22:31
	Our good and great God is worthy of honor and praise.	1 Chronicles 16:34
	We are called to know God, serve Him, and seek Him always.	1 Chronicles 28:9b
	God fulfills His promises in His perfect time.	Genesis 17:7
	Isaac trusted God and chose to seek peace.	Genesis 26:24b
	God can redeem our sin and create something good.	Jeremiah 29:11
	God is always with us, even when we suffer.	Genesis 50:19-20
	Even when we can't see it, God is using our tough times to create good for us.	Genesis 50:19-20
	We cannot earn our salvation in any way. Salvation comes only by faith in Jesus.	Galatians 6:9a
	Those who believe in God should obey God's commands.	James 1:22
	God blesses those who are humble.	James 4:8a

# GET TO KNOW YOUR LEADER GUIDE

The weekly session plan is your tool for leading great Bible explorations. For free online training on how to lead a group, visit [ministrygrid.com/web/explorethebible](http://ministrygrid.com/web/explorethebible).

## BIBLE STUDY FOR LEADERS

**God's Covenant with David**

**2 Samuel 7**

King David had been given more than one who had given David both victory and rest. Since becoming the anointed one, David's commitment to great justice to be built for himself and his royal court. As David sat on his palace, he pondered his heavenly and felt ashamed that while he had not great wealth, the ark of God—God's dwelling place on earth—was in a tent.

Second Samuel 7:2 introduces us to a previously unknown prophet of God named Nathan. Nathan was David's chosen advisor, and David had confided in Nathan about his desire to build a temple to house the ark of God. Nathan assumed that what David desired had come from God, so he gave David his blessing to move forward with the construction of a temple. Later that night, however, God sent a message to Nathan to the contrary. God's words, recorded in 2 Samuel 7, was the most studied words in the Old Testament. Henry Avramson and are the longest recorded words from God Himself since the time when God delivered the laws to Moses during the Exodus.

God promised that David's son—David—would fulfill the role of temple builder, and that through David's family would come the one who would rule eternally. Instead of David honoring God with a dwelling place, God was going to honor David with an eternal kingdom. God promised that someone from David's family would always rule until the One God had chosen sat on David's throne forever. God made an everlasting covenant with David.

David responded with gratitude for the promise God had made to him and his family. David did not understand why God would do this for him, but he was grateful to God for the blessing and determined to remain faithful to God the rest of his life.

## QUICK LOOK AT THE SESSION

**SESSION FOCUS**

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** 2 Samuel 7  
**MEMORY VERSE:** 2 Samuel 7:28

**TEXT TRUTH:** God made an everlasting covenant with David.

**CHRIST IN CONTEXT:** The Book of 2 Samuel reveals God's covenant promise of a perfect King who would come through the line of David. While David exhibited many qualities of compassion and leadership, he sinned and sinned tragically. He was not the ultimate King for God's people. His kingdom passed to the next for a greater King—Jesus who was without sin, Jesus is the ultimate perfect, and eternal King of Kings.

**GET STARTED TOOLS (15 MINUTES)**

- Bible Skills: "2 Samuel" and "Bible Books" (Books of the Bible Overview)
- Bible Book Cards (Enhanced CD)

**BIBLE STUDY TOOLS (15 MINUTES)**

- Using the "City of David"
- Examine the Text: Bible: "2 Samuel 7"
- Play the Video: Explore the Bible on Location

**MEMORY VERSE (2 MINUTES)**

- Memory Verse: "2 Samuel 7:28" (Poster Pack) (see the Illustration Discovery for Kids (IDK) 06206040)
- Prayer: Family Cards

**SMALL GROUP TOOLS (15 MINUTES)**

- Explore: Guide: Bible, Explorer Guide: game
- Make: "Promises from God" (Poster Pack)
- Explore: Bible, Hebrew Illustrated Bible: Discovery for Kids

**TECH CONNECTION (OPTIONAL)**

- Free to go: ministrygrid.com/ExploretheBible
- Use the activity labeled "Explore the Bible: Kids Family App."

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

## POINTS TO MAKE AND THE BIBLE STORY

**GOD'S COVENANT WITH DAVID**

**2 Samuel 7**

God had chosen David to be the King of Israel. King David fought many battles to bring the Israelites peace. One day after David had peace with all of his enemies, David spoke to Nathan the prophet: "I have a nice house to live in. But the ark of the covenant is still inside the tent curtains of the tabernacle." This bothered David. He thought that God should have a nice house just like David did—one that was even better than David's house.

Nathan told David that he should do what he felt in his heart he should do. But that night God spoke to Nathan and gave him a message for David.

Nathan went and told King David that God said, "I have not asked for a house to build in. I have been with David since he left Egypt but I have not asked for a house. I picked you from the pasture with the sheep to be the ruler of My people. There have not yet. I have dedicated your covenant. I will make your name the greatest in the land. After you die, I will pick one of your descendants. I will establish his kingdom. He will build a house for My name. I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. My faithful love will never leave him. Your kingdom and your throne will be established forever." Some of God's promises were about David's son Solomon, but some of God's promise was about Jesus.

David went to the tabernacle to sit in God's presence. David was astonished at God's promise to him. He knew that he did not deserve such good things from God. David praised God, "You are great, Lord God. There is no one like You. There is no God beside You. You have Israel and have done great and mighty things for them. You show them to be Your people." David continued, "Lord, when You keep Your promise to David, Your name will be exalted and praised."

God made a covenant with David. God would keep this special promise forever. David's kingdom will be established forever when Jesus comes again and reigns as King forever and ever.

**KEY POINTS**

- God kept His promises.
- God had a plan for David's family.

**TEXT CONNECTION**

- Nathan, 1st Samuel

**EXPLORE THE BIBLE AT HOME**

Use the enhanced CD for additional family resources.

**GET STARTED (15 MINUTES)**

**TOOLS:**

- Bible Skills: "2 Samuel" and "Bible Books" (Books of the Bible Overview)
- Bible Book Cards (Enhanced CD)

**BIBLE STUDY (15 MINUTES)**

**MEMORY VERSE**

- Ask for several volunteers to read it aloud.
- Ask for a volunteer to cover up part of the verse with a piece of paper. Instruct others to repeat the verse, filling in the part that is covered. Give several kids a turn covering up part of the verse while the kids come to a together.

**PRAYER**

- Ask: "What did God do after God made the covenant with him?"
- Say: "David took time to worship God and thank Him. Let's take time to worship God and thank Him for His promises to us."
- Pray together, leaving time for kids who want to pray aloud.
- After the prayer, distribute Family Cards to each boy and girl.
- Tell them to use the cards as a prayer reminder this week and to discuss with their families the promises that God has made.
- Dismiss to Small Group.

**BIBLE SKILLS SPOTLIGHT**

- Highlight all the books of the Old Testament and all the books of the New Testament.
- Identify prominent Bible people by the books in which their stories are recorded.

**SMALL GROUP (15 MINUTES)**

**COVENANT CRAFT**

Task: "Study" (Enhanced CD), "Promises from God" (Poster Pack), markers

- Make copies of the cards to each kid.
- At the top of the card, instruct kids to write the Text Truth. **God made an everlasting covenant with David.**
- Explain that children must color, glue and use tape to think of a picture to draw on their words of text of the promise.
- In one year, they can choose just one promise to fulfill. For example, they might want to use the white space to draw an image that best describes it.
- As the bottom of the words understand their drawings, ask them to write: "God will keep His promise to me, His!"

**LET'S MEET NATHAN**

Task: Bible, Hebrew Illustrated Bible, Discovery for Kids

- Write says and gets to use the Bible, although in fact descriptions about Nathan, picture of Nathan in the dictionary.
- Get kids to identify a set of illustrations, person in 2 Samuel. Explain that pictures were painted for King David's throne room to the people to today's people. God chose Nathan to tell David about the promise God was making with David.
- Create a drawing of Nathan's face for the children to use.
- Use the Bible and the message that Nathan told to each one.
- Ask: "How would you feel if you were chosen, to keep a promise to King?"
- Give with a member of the Text Truth **God made an everlasting covenant with David** and the importance of Nathan's presence in bringing God's Word to David.
- As time allows, review David's response to God in 2 Samuel 7:18-29.

**MODEL CHURCH**

Task: modeling, wooden board or poster board, cream "Tea Trench" (Poster Pack)

Task: modeling, wooden board or poster board, cream "Tea Trench" (Poster Pack)

- Ask and modeling (use one large wooden board or piece of poster board). Use a variety of colors, if available.
- Let each modeling (use one large wooden board or piece of poster board). Use a variety of colors, if available.
- Explain that each kid will take turns going to the table and building the 3D models.
- When you call them, they will take turns going to the table and building the 3D models.
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- When you call them, they will take turns going to the table and building the 3D models.

GET THE SESSION STARTED.

LEAD KIDS THROUGH BIBLE STUDY.

USE THE ACTIVITIES TO APPLY THE TEXT TRUTH.

Check out page 109 for more information about your Leader Guide!



Session

1

# GOD'S COVENANT WITH DAVID



## 2 Samuel 7

King David had been given rest from his enemies. David, being a man after God's own heart, understood that God was the one who had given David both victory and rest. Since conquering the surrounding nations, David commissioned a grand palace to be built for himself and his royal court. As David sat in his palace, he pondered his humanity and felt ashamed that while he had such great wealth, the ark of God—God's dwelling place on earth—sat in a mere tent.

Second Samuel 7:2 introduces us to a previously unknown prophet of God named Nathan. Nathan was David's closest advisor, and David had confided in Nathan about his desire to build a temple to house the ark of God. Nathan assumed that what David desired had come from God, so he gave David his blessing to move forward with the construction of a temple. Later that night, however, God sent a message to Nathan to the contrary.

God's words, recorded in 2 Samuel 7, are the most studied words in the Old Testament History division and are the longest recorded words from God Himself since the time when God delivered the law to Moses during the Exodus.

God promised that David's son—not David—would fulfill the role of temple builder, and that through David's family would come One who would rule eternally. Instead of David honoring God with a dwelling place, God was going to honor David with an eternal kingdom. God promised that someone from David's family would always rule until the One God had chosen sat on David's throne forever. God made an everlasting covenant with David.

David responded with gratitude for the promise God had made to him and his family. David did not understand why God would do this for him, but he was grateful to God for the blessing and determined to remain faithful to God the rest of his life.

## SESSION FOCUS

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** 2 Samuel 7

**MEMORY VERSE:** 2 Samuel 7:28

**TEXT TRUTH:** God made an everlasting covenant with David.

**CHRIST IN CONTEXT:** The Book of 2 Samuel reveals God’s covenant promise of a perfect King who would come through the line of David. While David exhibited kingly qualities of compassion and leadership, he sinned and needed forgiveness. He was not the ultimate king for God’s people. His kingship pointed to the need for a greater King—One who was without sin. Jesus is the almighty, perfect, and sinless King of kings.

### GET STARTED TOOLS

(10 MINUTES)

- Bible Skills:** “2 Samuel” and “Bible Books” (Books of the Bible Posters), “Bible Book Cards” (enhanced CD)

### BIBLE STUDY TOOLS

(35 MINUTES)

- Jump In:** “City of David” (DVD-ROM)
- Examine the Text:** Bibles, “Text Truth Strips” and “Christ in Context: 2 Samuel” (Poster Pack)
- Play the Video:** *Explore the Bible on Location Videos*

- Memory Verse:**

“2 Samuel 7:28” (Poster Pack), piece of paper

- Prayer:** Family Cards

### SMALL GROUP TOOLS

(30 MINUTES)

- Explorer Guides:** Bibles, Explorer Guides, pens
- Move:** modeling clay, wooden board or poster board, timer, “Text Truth Strips” (Poster Pack)
- Make:** “Scrolls” (enhanced CD), “Promises from God” (Poster Pack), markers
- Explore:** Bibles, Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary for Kids

Note: To order the Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary for Kids (Item No. 005268545) call LifeWay Customer Service at 1.800.458.2772 or order online at [www.lifeway.com](http://www.lifeway.com)

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

# GOD'S COVENANT WITH DAVID

## 2 Samuel 7

*God had chosen David to be the King of Israel. King David fought many battles to bring the Israelites peace. One day after Israel had peace with all of its enemies, David spoke to Nathan the prophet: "I have a nice house to live in. But the ark of the covenant is inside a tent." This bothered David. He thought that God should have a nice house just like David did—one that was even better than David's house.*

*Nathan told David that he should do what he felt in his heart he should do. But that wasn't God's plan. Nathan spoke without taking time to listen to God first. God had a different plan for David and his family. A plan that was better than David could imagine.*

*So later that night, God spoke to Nathan and gave him a message for David. Nathan went and told King David that God said, "I have not asked for a house to dwell in. I have been with Israel since they left Egypt but I have not asked for a house. I picked you from the pasture with the sheep to be the ruler of My people. I have been with you. I have defeated your enemies. I will make your name the greatest in the land. After you die, I will pick one of your descendants. I will establish his kingdom. He will build a house for My name. I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. My faithful love will never leave him. Your kingdom and your throne will be established forever." Some of God's promise was about David's son Solomon, but some of God's promise was about Jesus.*

*David went to sit in God's presence. David was astonished at God's promise to him. He knew that he did not deserve such good things from God. David praised God, "You are great, Lord God. There is no one like You. There is no God besides You. You chose Israel and have done great and mighty things for them. You chose them to be Your people." David continued, "Lord, when You keep Your promise to David, Your name will be exalted and praised."*

*God made a covenant with David. God would keep this special promise forever. David's kingdom will be established forever when Jesus comes again and reigns as King forever and ever.*

### KEY POINTS

- God always keeps His covenants.
- God had a plan for David.
- Jesus would come from David's family.

### TEXT CONNECTION

- David was called a man after God's own heart. David had many flaws, but the way David lived his life made him known as someone who truly desired to live for God. David wanted to honor God by building a temple where the ark of the covenant could rest.
- Because the prophet Nathan knew David sought the Lord, Nathan told David to do what was in his heart. God later told Nathan that David would not be the one to build the temple in Jerusalem.
- Instead of David blessing God, which was David's intent, God blessed David with a promise that would last forever. God made an everlasting covenant with David.
- Just as David had been appointed by God, Paul, too, was appointed by God to deliver the gospel message to the Gentiles. Paul sent a message of hope to the people of Galatia, encouraging them to receive the peace of God through faith in Jesus Christ, Who fulfilled God's promise to David.

### EXPLORE THE BIBLE AT HOME

See the enhanced CD for additional family resources.

## GET STARTED (10 MINUTES)

### TOOLS:

- Bible Skills: “2 Samuel” and “Bible Books” (Books of the Bible Posters), “Bible Book Cards” (enhanced CD)

### BIBLE SKILLS

- Mix up the “Bible Book Cards” and spread them on the floor.
- Ask kids to find the “Bible Book Cards” for Genesis through 2 Samuel and guide them to put them in order.
- Point out that these are the first ten books in the Bible.
- Practice saying them in order while looking at the cards, then collect the cards and practice saying them again without looking.
- Explain that each week you’ll add to the books of the Bible that you can say in order.
- Ask a volunteer to read the information from the “2 Samuel” poster.
- Remind kids that Samuel was a prophet who was very important in David’s life. Even though his death is recorded in 1 Samuel, his influence in David’s life is still seen in 2 Samuel. David’s story continues from 1 to 2 Samuel.
- Dismiss to Bible Story.

## BIBLE SKILLS SPOTLIGHT

- Names all the books of the Old Testament and all the books of the New Testament.
- Identifies prominent Bible people by the books in which their stories are recorded.

## BIBLE STUDY (35 MINUTES)

### JUMP IN

- As kids gather for Bible study, ask them if they have ever seen a small model of something very big.
- Let kids share what models they have seen (*ships, animals, buildings*). Perhaps they have even built a model of something.
- Show the “City of David” visual.
- Say: “This is a very important city in the Bible. This the city where King David lived and ruled. In the Old Testament, the city of David was Jerusalem. In the New Testament, Luke calls Bethlehem the city of David. Today we are studying the Book of 2 Samuel. Which testament is 2 Samuel in?” (*Old*) “Since we are in the Old Testament, which city of David are we learning about—Bethlehem or Jerusalem?” (*Jerusalem*)
- Continue: “David built large sections of Jerusalem during his reign as king. That is why it is our object today.”

### EXAMINE THE TEXT

- Direct kids to open their Bibles to 2 Samuel 7.
- Display the “Text Truth Strip” and ask kids to be thinking about God’s covenant to David as you study this passage.
- Ask: “Does anyone know what a *covenant* is?”
- Let kids share, but be prepared to explain that in Scripture, a covenant is a binding promise between two people or between God and a person.
- Tell the Bible story in your own words. A Bible story page has been provided for you to use as a guide.
- Say: “Let’s take a closer look at the covenant that God made to David.”
- Ask a volunteer to read 2 Samuel 7:12-16.
- Ask: “What are some promises that you’ve made before?”
- Discuss with kids what happens when a promise is broken (*we stop trusting that person, feelings are hurt, we become angry*). Allow kids to share how they feel when a promise is broken and when a promise is kept.
- Say: “When God makes a promise to us, we never have to worry about Him breaking that promise. **God made an everlasting covenant with David.** God fulfilled his covenant to David ultimately through Jesus! One day Jesus will return and reign over all, forever.”
- Display and review the “Christ in Context: 2 Samuel” poster.

### PLAY THE VIDEO

- Play the Session 1 video.
- Ask: “What building supply did Kaileigh learn about? Why do people build with concrete? What did God promise David?”

### TOOLS:

- Jump In: “City of David” (DVD-ROM)
- Examine the Text: Bibles, “Text Truth Strips” and “Christ in Context: 2 Samuel” (Poster Pack)
- Play the Video: Explore the Bible on Location Videos
- Memory Verse: “2 Samuel 7:28” (Poster Pack), piece of paper
- Prayer: Family Cards

**MEMORY VERSE**

- Show kids the “2 Samuel 7:28” poster.
- Ask for several volunteers to read it aloud.
- Ask for a volunteer to cover up part of the verse with a piece of paper. Instruct others to repeat the verse, filling in the part that is covered. Give several kids a turn covering up part of the verse while the kids recite it together.

**PRAYER**

- Ask: “What did David do after God made the covenant with him?”
- Say: “David took time to worship God and thank Him. Let’s take time to worship God and thank Him for His promises to us.”
- Pray together, leaving time for kids who want to pray aloud.
- After the prayer, distribute Family Cards to each boy and girl.
- Tell them to use the cards as a prayer reminder this week and to discuss with their families the promises that God has made.
- Dismiss to Small Group.

## SMALL GROUP (30 MINUTES)

### EXPLORER GUIDES

- Distribute Explorer Guides and help boys and girls locate today's pages, "God's Covenant with David."
- Review today's object, the "City of David Model."
- Invite a volunteer to read aloud "God's Enduring Promise."
- Guide girls and boys to complete the activity, "Covenant Matching," using their Bibles.
- Select another volunteer to read "A Binding Covenant." Lead kids to complete the activity.

### TECH CONNECT (OPTIONAL)

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

### ACTIVITIES

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

### TOOLS:

- Explorer Guides: Bibles, Explorer Guides, pens

## MODEL CHURCH



*Tools: modeling clay, wooden board or poster board, timer, "Text Truth Strips" (Poster Pack)*

Set out modeling clay on a large wooden board or piece of poster board. Use a variety of colors, if available.

- Tell kids that they are going to work together to build a model of your church.
- Explain that one at a time, they will take turns going to the table and building for 20 seconds.
- When you call time, they will return and tag the next person who will run to the table and build upon what the person in front of them started.
- Tell the kids to line up and prepare to build.
- If your group is very small, extend the time that each builds or give everyone two turns.
- After everyone has had a turn, ask the kids what is special about a church. (*It's where God's people gather together to worship and pray, just like God told us to do.*)
- Ask a volunteer to read the "Text Truth Strip," and remind kids that even though David wanted to build God a special house, God had other plans for David. He was going to establish a kingdom for David that was more important than a building.
- Say: "Our church building is a special place. But what makes it a church is the people who come to honor God. We are the church with or without a building."



## COVENANT CRAFT

Tools: “Scrolls” (enhanced CD), “Promises from God” (Poster Pack), markers

Make copies of the scrolls for each kid.

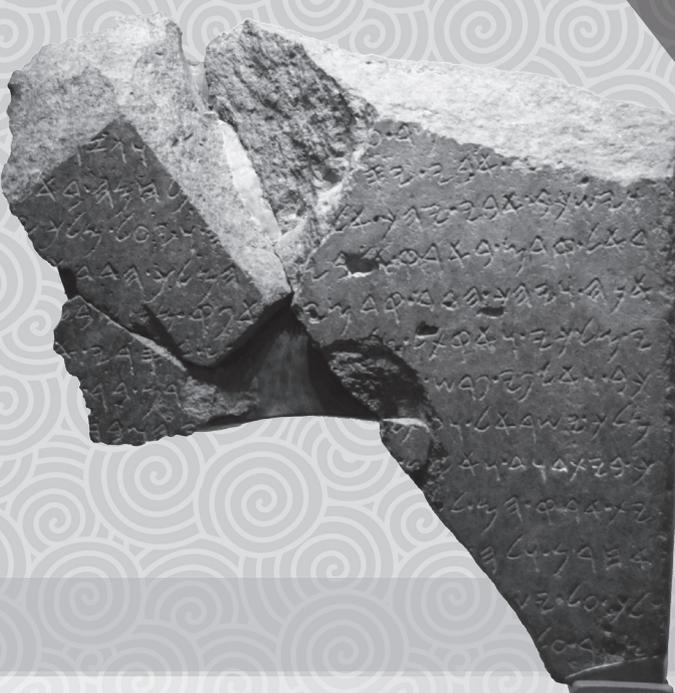
- At the top of the scroll, instruct kids to write the Text Truth: **God made an everlasting covenant with David.**
- Display the “Promises from God” poster and ask them to think of a picture to draw on their scrolls for each of the promises.
- If they prefer, they can choose just one promise to illustrate. For example, they might want to use the whole space to draw an image they have of heaven.
- At the bottom of the scrolls, underneath their drawings, tell them to write: *God will keep His promises to me, too!*



## LET'S MEET NATHAN

Tools: Bibles, Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary for Kids

- Invite boys and girls to use the Bible dictionary to find information about Nathan. Kids may also want to check out an artist's picture of Nathan in the dictionary.
- Tell kids that Nathan is a very important person in 2 Samuel. Explain that prophets were people chosen by God to bring messages to the people. In today's passage, God chose Nathan to tell David about the covenant God was making with David.
- Divide 2 Samuel 7:1-17 into sections for volunteers to read aloud.
- Then ask kids to put the message that Nathan spoke in their own words.
- Ask: “How would you feel if you were chosen to bring a message to a king?”
- Close with a reminder of the Text Truth: **God made an everlasting covenant with David.** and the importance of Nathan's obedience in bringing God's words to David.
- As time allows, review David's response to God in 2 Samuel 7:18-29.



## Session 2



# DAVID AND MEPHIBOSHETH

## 2 Samuel 9

The story of the friendship between David and Jonathan, King Saul's son, is recorded in 1 Samuel 18–20. These three chapters explore the devotion these men had to one another and their promise to always protect each other's family; it is this promise that David fulfilled in 2 Samuel 9.

David remembered his promise to his friend and inquired of his servants if there was anyone left in Saul's family to whom David could show kindness. Ziba, Saul's former servant was summoned, and David asked if there were any from Saul's house to whom David could show favor. Ziba mentioned Mephibosheth, the son of Jonathan.

Mephibosheth had become disabled in early childhood from an accident and was currently living east of the Jordan River. When Mephibosheth was summoned to appear before the king, Mephibosheth bowed before David, likely unsure of what may transpire. Mephibosheth knew that it was common for new kings to rid their kingdoms of the family members of the previous monarch in order to suffer no threats. David, however, had no such intent as he had also promised Saul that he would not cut off Saul's offspring (*1 Sam. 24:21-22*).

Fulfilling promises to both Saul and Jonathan, David provided several things for Mephibosheth. First, Mephibosheth was granted an honor that would have been his had his father Jonathan become king, the honor to dine at the king's table. Second, David made Mephibosheth a land owner by granting him all of the land that had previously belonged to his grandfather, Saul. Finally, David made Mephibosheth very wealthy by giving him servants to farm the land of Saul and deliver the income to Mephibosheth.

God had been good and kind to David and David wanted to be kind and loving to others. Like David, because God has been kind to us, we should be kind to others.

## SESSION FOCUS

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** 2 Samuel 9

**MEMORY VERSE:** Ephesians 4:32

**TEXT TRUTH:** Because God has been kind to us, we should be kind to others.

**CHRIST IN CONTEXT:** The Book of 2 Samuel reveals God’s covenant promise of a perfect King who would come through the line of David. While David exhibited kingly qualities of compassion and leadership, he sinned and needed forgiveness. He was not the ultimate king for God’s people. His kingship pointed to the need for a greater King—One who was without sin. Jesus is the almighty, perfect, and sinless King of kings.

### GET STARTED TOOLS

(10 MINUTES)

- Bible Skills:** *“Bible Book Cards” (enhanced CD), “Bible Books” and “2 Samuel” (Books of the Bible Posters), “Ephesians 4:32” (Poster Pack)*

### BIBLE STUDY TOOLS

(35 MINUTES)

- Jump In:** *“Tel Dan Stele” (DVD-ROM); nice table setting such as table cloth, candles, nice place setting*
- Examine the Text:** *Bibles, “Text Truth Strips” and “Pronunciations” (Poster Pack)*
- Play the Video:** *Explore the Bible on Location Videos*
- Memory Verse:** *“Ephesians 4:32” (Poster Pack), “Ephesians 4:32 Memory Verse” (enhanced CD)*
- Prayer:** *Family Cards*

### SMALL GROUP TOOLS

(30 MINUTES)

- Explorer Guides:** *Bibles, Explorer Guides, pens*
- Move:** *“Kind Things I Have Done” (enhanced CD)*
- Make:** *“Allergy Alert” and “Review Questions” (enhanced CD), apple chunks, raisins, honey, cinnamon, walnuts (leave out nuts if allergies are a concern), large bowl, small bowls or plates for kids, plastic forks*
- Explore:** *“Who’s Who” (enhanced CD), Bibles*

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

# DAVID AND MEPHIBOSHETH

## 2 Samuel 9

*David and Jonathan, King Saul's son, had been good friends. Even when King Saul didn't like David, Jonathan obeyed God and protected David from King Saul. David and Jonathan made a special promise to each other. They promised that they would always be friends and they would help their descendants be friends as well.*

*Years passed and Saul and Jonathan died fighting in a battle. David became the new king of Israel. Many more years passed, but one day David remembered his promise to Jonathan. David asked his helpers, "Is there anyone from Saul's family that is still alive? I want to be kind to them because of Jonathan."*

*David's helpers found a man named Ziba who used to serve Saul's family. Ziba told the king that one of Jonathan's sons was still alive. This son was injured. When he was little, his nurse accidentally dropped him and both of his feet were injured and he couldn't walk. His name was Mephibosheth (meh FIB oh sheth).*

*David sent people to find Mephibosheth and bring him to the palace. When Mephibosheth came to the palace, he fell facedown in front of King David to show honor to the king. This wasn't why David wanted to see him. So David told him, "Do not be afraid. I want to show kindness to you because of your father, Jonathan. I am going to give you your grandfather Saul's land. And I want you to always eat at my table."*

*Next David called Ziba and ordered him to gather his sons and servants to farm the land that now belonged to Mephibosheth. This would provide Mephibosheth with money to take care of himself. So Mephibosheth stayed in Jerusalem and ate his meals at the king's table. David kept his promise to Jonathan by showing kindness to Jonathan's son.*

### KEY POINTS

- Jesus dying on the cross for our sins shows us God's immense kindness toward us.
- We can be kind to others.
- David kept his commitment to Jonathan even after Jonathan had died.

### TEXT CONNECTION

- As a follower of God, David sought to be kind to others whenever possible. The stories of David recorded in Scripture help us know that kindness was a way of life for David.
- David had promised his best friend, Jonathan, that he would always care for Jonathan's family. David, as king of Israel, had an opportunity to fulfill that promise. David sought someone from Jonathan's family to whom he could show kindness.
- Jonathan's son, Mephibosheth, had been injured as a young child. David took Mephibosheth into his own palace and cared for him as a son. David chose kindness out of respect for his promise to Jonathan.
- Paul's message to the Galatians echoes David's commitment to kindness. David did not look at Mephibosheth as a threat; he only wanted to show him grace. Likewise, the grace of God shows no respect for a person's heritage, but is for Jew and Gentile alike.

### EXPLORE THE BIBLE AT HOME

See the enhanced CD for additional family resources.

## GET STARTED (10 MINUTES)

### TOOLS:

- Bible Skills: “Bible Book Cards” (enhanced CD), “Bible Books” and “2 Samuel” (Books of the Bible Posters), “Ephesians 4:32” (Poster Pack)

### BIBLE SKILLS

- As you did in the previous session, lay the “Bible Book Cards” facedown on the floor or table. As kids enter the room, greet them and ask them to pick a card.
- If they think the card is one of the first 20 books in the Old Testament, tell them to hold on to it.
- If they do not think it’s one of the first 20 books, tell them to put it back and draw again.
- Encourage kids to look at the “Bible Books” poster for help.
- Lead them to put the cards in order, Genesis through Proverbs.
- Draw attention to the “2 Samuel” poster that is displayed.
- Say: “Even though our Bible study today is from 2 Samuel, our Memory Verse is Ephesians 4:32. Often, a Bible truth found in one part of the Bible or Bible story can also be found in other parts of the Bible. One of the Bible truths we will see in 2 Samuel is also taught in Ephesians 4:32.”
- Ask a volunteer to read the verse from the “Ephesians 4:32” poster.
- Discuss with kids what it means to be kind, compassionate, and forgiving with one another.
- Dismiss to Bible Study.

## BIBLE SKILLS SPOTLIGHT

- Names all the books of the Old Testament and all the books of the New Testament.
- Begins to tell others the meaning of the biblical content of a verse or passage.
- Applies biblical principles to personal and social issues.

## BIBLE STUDY (35 MINUTES)

### JUMP IN

- Display the “Tel Dan Stele” visual.
- Ask: “Does anyone know what today’s object is and why it is important? Our object is called the Tel Dan Stele. Carved into this stone are letters and words including the name of someone important. Anyone want to guess who’s name it is?” Allow kids to share their guesses.
- Continue: “This stone mentions David’s name. That is why it is our object. Why is it important that David’s name is on this stone?” After kids share their thoughts, continue: “We learn a lot about David in the Bible. This ancient stone helps prove to people who don’t believe in the Bible that David really did live. He really was a king. This stone is important in helping people understand that the Bible is always true!”
- Transition to telling the Bible story by inviting kids to sit around a table. If a table is not available, you can set a picnic blanket on the floor.

### EXAMINE THE TEXT

- Tell kids that they are important guests and deserve a seat of honor.
- It’s not necessary to have food, but have the table nicely set.
- Ask: “Have you ever been invited somewhere really nice for a meal? What’s the fanciest place you’ve eaten?” (*Most kids will identify with a nice Christmas or Easter meal.*)
- Say: “Today’s Bible story is about a special guest at King David’s table.”
- Distribute Bibles and ask kids to turn to 2 Samuel 9.
- Say: “Last week, we read about a promise from God to David. Today we will read about a promise between David and Jonathan—two best friends.”
- Tell the Bible story in your own words. A Bible story page has been provided for you to use as a guide.
- Display the “Pronunciations” poster and practice saying *Mephibosheth* together. You will use the poster in future sessions to learn more names.
- Ask a volunteer to read aloud 2 Samuel 9:1-3.
- Ask: “Why was David looking for someone in Saul’s family to be kind to?” Pause for responses. “Because of the promise David made to Jonathan in 1 Samuel 20.”
- Ask: “Do you have a best friend like David?”
- Ask another volunteer to read aloud 2 Samuel 9:11-13. Emphasize that Mephibosheth would now eat in the palace!
- Say: “Things definitely changed for Mephibosheth because of David’s kindness. Can we change things for other people because of our kindness?”
- Take a few minutes to discuss how our kindness to others might change them. You might have some examples from your church.
- Review the “Text Truth Strip.” **Because God has been kind to us, we should be kind to others.**

### TOOLS:

- Jump In: “Tel Dan Stele” (DVD-ROM); nice table setting such as table cloth, candles, nice place setting
- Examine the Text: Bibles, “Text Truth Strips” and “Pronunciations” (Poster Pack)
- Play the Video: Explore the Bible on Location Videos
- Memory Verse: “Ephesians 4:32” (Poster Pack), “Ephesians 4:32 Memory Verse” (enhanced CD)
- Prayer: Family Cards

**PLAY THE VIDEO**

- Play the Session 2 video.
- Ask: “Who did Kaileigh meet? What did Mrs. Florrie Anne tell Kaileigh about? How are people showing kindness to Mrs. Florrie Anne now?”

**MEMORY VERSE**

- Ask a volunteer to read the “Ephesians 4:32” poster again.
- Review some of the ways we show kindness, compassion, and forgiveness.
- Distribute copies of “Ephesians 4:32 Memory Verse” and give kids time to fill in the blanks.
- Encourage kids to take their verse home and review the verse throughout the week.

**PRAYER**

- Invite kids to pray.
- Leave a moment of silence and ask kids to think of people who need their kindness, compassion, and forgiveness.
- Voice a prayer, in closing, asking God to help boys and girls follow David’s example in showing kindness to others.
- Distribute the Family Cards for kids to take home. Encourage kids to practice the family Bible skill with their families this week.
- Dismiss to Small Group.

## SMALL GROUP (30 MINUTES)

### EXPLORER GUIDES

- Distribute Explorer Guides and guide kids to find today's pages, "David and Mephibosheth."
- Select a volunteer to review today's object, "The Tel Dan Inscription."
- Invite kids to complete the "Foot Maze" and read aloud the "Foot Facts." Challenge kids to think about how different life was for Mephibosheth since his feet were injured.
- Choose a volunteer to read "A King's Table."
- Lead girls and boys to use their Bibles to find the answers in "What Does the Bible Say About Kindness?"

### TECH CONNECT (OPTIONAL)

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

### ACTIVITIES

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

### TOOLS:

- Explorer Guides: Bibles, Explorer Guides, pens

## STAND, SIT, SQUAT

Tools: "Kind Things I Have Done" (enhanced CD)

- Print a copy of "Kind Things I Have Done."
- Put chairs in a circle.

- Review the Text Truth: **Because God has been kind to us, we should be kind to others.**
- Tell kids to stand in front of a chair.
- Explain that they will stand, sit, or squat, depending on how they react to the statements you read.
- When you read a statement, tell them to stand if they have done that thing, sit if they have not done it, or squat if they don't remember.
- Read the statements one at a time, leaving kids time to react.
- After you have read all the statements, tell kids to sit.
- Say: "Each of us has chances to be kind to somebody. Let's look for those chances and try a new way to be kind this week!"





## OLD TESTAMENT FRUIT SALAD

Tools: “Allergy Alert” and “Review Questions” (enhanced CD), apple chunks, raisins, honey, cinnamon, walnuts (leave out nuts if allergies are a concern), large bowl, small bowls or plates for kids, plastic forks

Cut up apples ahead of time.

- Invite kids to help you mix a fruit salad.
- Explain that these were foods common in the land around Jerusalem, where David lived.
- Say: “Maybe David served a salad similar to this to Mephibosheth!”
- Enjoy the salad together as you review David’s kindness to Mephibosheth.
- Ask if any of the kids have ever prepared a nice meal for someone or seen their parents bring a meal to someone.
- Remind kids that **because God has been kind to us, we should be kind to others.**
- As time allows, guide kids to answer some review questions about today’s Bible story.



## WHO’S WHO?

Tools: “Who’s Who” (enhanced CD), Bibles

- Distribute a copy of “Who’s Who” to each kid.
- Say: “Sometimes the people in Bible stories can get confusing. Let’s review some of the important people in this story.”
- Allow kids to work with a partner or in small groups.
- Guide kids to use their Bibles for help.
- Remind kids that these are each important people in history and that God used each of them.
- Challenge kids to name other facts they may know about each person.
- Conclude by reviewing the Text Truth: **because God has been kind to us, we should be kind to others.**
- Help kids think of ways God has been kind to them. (Possible answers: family, shelter, food, forgiveness, friends, and so on.)



## Session 3



# DAVID'S PRAISE FOR GOD

## 2 Samuel 22:1–23:5

Chapters 21–24 of 2 Samuel are considered to be an appendix to the book that summarize David's life and ministry. The passages we study today mirror Psalm 18. David wrote this song of thanks because God was faithful in protecting David and David wanted to thank God for that protection. We, like David, can thank God because our help, too, comes from God.

David began by praising God for who God is. In the first three verses of chapter 22, David used eight words to highlight God's deliverance and protection. These words describe God as strong, powerful, mighty, and as Savior. David understood God's role in David's deliverance from his enemies and David was grateful to God.

David used numerous metaphors to describe his plight and God's faithful rescue of David from his enemies and his sin. David concluded that God's favor was nothing he deserved or had earned through his actions, but had been granted by God because God is gracious and forgiving. David's life characterized a faith in God, and because of that faith, David's heart was driven to live a life in accordance with God's commands.

David's life was summarized with four distinct characteristics in chapter 23. First, David was called the son of Jesse. This designation identified David as a member of the tribe of Judah, a true Israelite. Second, David was called a man raised on high. David had been exalted through no work of his own, but purely by God, alone. Third, David was defined as one called by the God of Jacob. David's connection to Jacob mirrored Jacob's role of fathering an earthly nation and David's role of fathering God's eternal nation. Finally, David was called the most delightful of Israel's songs.

David was well-known for his songs which honored the one and only true God and led the nation to worship. We should always be thankful for the many blessings God has given us and praise God for His blessing on our lives.

## SESSION FOCUS

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** 2 Samuel 22:1–23:5

**MEMORY VERSE:** 2 Samuel 22:31

**TEXT TRUTH:** We can thank God for His many blessings.

**CHRIST IN CONTEXT:** The Book of 2 Samuel reveals God’s covenant promise of a perfect King who would come through the line of David. While David exhibited kingly qualities of compassion and leadership, he sinned and needed forgiveness. He was not the ultimate king for God’s people. His kingship pointed to the need for a greater King—One who was without sin. Jesus is the almighty, perfect, and sinless King of kings.

### GET STARTED TOOLS

(10 MINUTES)

- Bible Skills:** “2 Samuel” and “Bible Books” (Books of the Bible Posters), “Bible Book Cards” (enhanced CD), praise music

### BIBLE STUDY TOOLS

(35 MINUTES)

- Jump In:** “Bronze Shield” (DVD-ROM), toy shield
- Examine the Text:** Bibles, “Timeline of David” and “Text Truth Strips” (Poster Pack)
- Play the Video:** Explore the Bible on Location Videos
- Memory Verse:** “Shield” (enhanced CD), markers, “2 Samuel 22:31” (Poster Pack)
- Prayer:** Family Cards

### SMALL GROUP TOOLS

(30 MINUTES)

- Explorer Guides:** Bibles, Explorer Guides, pens
- Move:** “2 Samuel 22 Images” (Poster Pack), tape
- Make:** shoebox tops or other cardboard, plastic craft jewels, wrapping paper (gold or silver), markers or crayons, glue, tape, praise music
- Explore:** Bibles, words to your favorite praise song or hymn, “2 Samuel Praise Song” (Poster Pack)

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# DAVID'S PRAISE FOR GOD

## 2 Samuel 22:1–23:5

*David loved God. He loved God from the time he was a shepherd watching over his father's sheep. David knew that God had blessed him greatly. One of the ways David often praised God was by writing and singing songs of praise to Him.*

*David sang to God, "God is my rock, my fortress, my deliverer. I take refuge in God. He is my shield. I will call to God because He is worthy to be praised."*

*God had protected David from his enemies. God had given David victory over his enemies. So David sang, "God has rescued me from my powerful enemies. They were stronger than I was, but God rescued me because He delighted in me."*

*David called God a lamp who was a light in David's darkness. "God's way is perfect. His Word is true. He is a shield to everyone who seeks refuge in Him. God is a tower of salvation for this king. He is loyal to those He anoints."*

*Later before David died, David once again acknowledged God's work in his life, "God has spoken to me. He has established an everlasting covenant with me. He has organized and guaranteed every detail."*

*God had been gracious to David. David praised God because God is great and good. God had been great and good to David throughout David's life. God would also be great and good to David's descendants.*

### KEY POINTS

- God blessed David.
- David praised God.
- There is no one like our God.
- Only God is worthy of our praise.

### TEXT CONNECTION

- David continuously offered praise to God through song. David penned many of the songs in the Book of Psalms and many of those offer thanks for God's blessings.
- David's praise of God gives us an example of how we need to respond to God's blessing. David praised God for God's deliverance from David's enemies and David's sin.
- David knew that God's blessing had nothing to do with David and he had done nothing to earn God's blessing—it was a gift from God.
- Paul challenged the Galatians to consider their salvation which also came from God and was not based on anything they had done. Good works were, instead, evidence of their salvation.
- Paul taught that God's blessing of forgiveness was through Jesus Christ. Jesus died on the cross and rose again to provide the rescue from sin. Trusting in the law and works is futile. Trusting in Jesus brings rescue.

### EXPLORE THE BIBLE AT HOME

See the enhanced CD for additional family resources.

## GET STARTED (10 MINUTES)

### TOOLS:

- Bible Skills: “2 Samuel” and “Bible Books” (Books of the Bible Posters), “Bible Book Cards” (enhanced CD), praise music

### BIBLE SKILLS

- Welcome kids as they arrive and distribute the Old Testament “Bible Book Cards.”
- Tell the kids that you will play a praise song while they work together to put the cards in order, Genesis through Malachi.
- Ask if any volunteer can recite all the books of the Old Testament from memory.
- Say: “The Old Testament contains some wonderful history of God’s work among people. Let’s look at the ‘Bible Books’ poster and find 2 Samuel, the book we’ve been studying the last few weeks.”
- Ask for a volunteer to find 2 Samuel and review the other books of history.
- Dismiss to Bible Study.

## BIBLE SKILLS SPOTLIGHT

- Names all the books of the Old Testament and all the books of the New Testament.
- Knows the Bible is the only inspired, written Word of God.

## BIBLE STUDY (35 MINUTES)

### JUMP IN

- Show the “Bronze Shield” visual and ask what a shield is used for.
- If you have a toy shield, pass it around for the kids to hold.
- Say: “Our object, a bronze shield, is from the late 8th century B.C. It still exists today. What does that tell you about how strong this shield once was?”
- Ask: “When have you seen a shield used?” (*Video games, cartoons, movies*)
- Ask: “What is usually happening when a shield is used?” (*Battle, fighting*)
- Say: “King David used a real shield when he was in battle, but he also understood that God was his shield, his protector. That is what we want to remember when we see today’s object: God is a shield, a protector.”
- Ask: “In what ways does God protect us?” Allow kids to share their thoughts.

### EXAMINE THE TEXT

- Direct kids to turn to 2 Samuel 22 in their Bibles.
- Tell the Bible story in your own words. A Bible story page is provided for you.
- Say: “Now let’s look closer at some of David’s words of praise.”
- Ask for volunteers to read aloud 2 Samuel 22:2-4 and 2 Samuel 22:32-36.
- Direct kids to look at their Bibles and ask kids: “What are some of the ways that David praised God in this chapter?”
- Display the “Timeline of David” poster and discuss the ways that God protected David through his life.
- Say: “Sometimes David was in scary situations, such as war, but he still thanked God for His blessings and protection.”
- Remind kids that even from a young age, David recognized that God had blessed him. His response all through his life was to praise and thank God.
- Ask a volunteer to read the “Text Truth Strip:” **We can thank God for His many blessings.**

### PLAY THE VIDEO

- Play the Session 3 video.
- Ask: “What was Joel trying to write? What did Paul and Jeremy teach Joel about writing praise songs? Why do we praise God?”

### MEMORY VERSE

- Distribute the “Shield” patterns and direct kids to the “2 Samuel 22:31” poster.
- Ask kids to write the Memory Verse on their shields.
- When they have finished, direct them to practice saying the verse from memory with a partner or in a small group.

### TOOLS:

- Jump In: “Bronze Shield” (DVD-ROM), toy shield
- Examine the Text: Bibles, “Timeline of David” and “Text Truth Strips” (Poster Pack)
- Play the Video: Explore the Bible on Location Videos
- Memory Verse: “Shield” (enhanced CD), markers, “2 Samuel 22:31” (Poster Pack)
- Prayer: Family Cards

**PRAYER**

- Read the Text Truth again: **We can thank God for His many blessings.**
- Say: “It just seems right that we should thank God for His blessings!”
- Ask kids what some of their biggest blessings are.
- Pause after each one to thank God for that blessing.
- Allow willing volunteers to voice the prayers aloud.
- Distribute the Family Cards for kids to take home.
- Challenge girls and boys to remember that David said God is a shield when they see the bronze shield on their cards.
- Dismiss to Small Group.

## SMALL GROUP (30 MINUTES)

### EXPLORER GUIDES

- Distribute the Explorer Guides and lead boys and girls to locate today's pages, "David's Praise for God."
- Help kids review today's Bible study by finding the words in the "2 Samuel 22 Wordsearch."
- Choose a volunteer to read about today's object, the "Shield."
- Select another volunteer to read "From the House of David."
- Read aloud "What Is a Covenant?" and remind kids of God's covenant with David.
- Conclude by helping kids think of words to complete the "Thankful Acrostic."

### TECH CONNECT (OPTIONAL)

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

### ACTIVITIES

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

### TOOLS:

- Explorer Guides: Bibles, Explorer Guides, pens

## 2 SAMUEL 22 IMAGES

*Tools: "2 Samuel 22 Images" (Poster Pack), tape*

- Cut out the pictures from the "2 Samuel 22 Images" and tape them around the room.

- Say: "David's song from 2 Samuel 22 has a lot of imagery. That means that David used a word, like shield, to refer to the image or idea of God protecting him."
- Explain that you will read the passage and when they hear one of these images, they should get up and move to that picture.
- Read 2 Samuel 22:1-4,29 briefly stopping after the words *rock, shield, horn, and lamp*.
- As kids gather at each picture, ask a volunteer to explain the imagery of the word being used for God. Ask how God can be our rock, shield, horn, and lamp.
- Remind kids that David knew that only God was worthy of his praise and He is worthy of our praise too.
- Review the Text Truth: **We can thank God for His many blessings.**





## MY SHIELD

*Tools: shoebox tops or cardboard, plastic craft jewels, wrapping paper (gold or silver), markers or crayons, glue, tape, praise music*

- Cut the shoebox tops or cardboard into a shield shape. Make one for each child.
- Distribute the supplies for kids to make their own shields.
- Play praise music as the kids decorate their shields and remind them that 2 Samuel 22 is a song of praise to God.
- Tell kids to take their shields home and when they see it, thank God for His protection.
- Explain: “We may not face the type of battles David did. We may need God to protect us from the unkind words other people say. We may need God to help us make the right choice even when no one else does. God is always with us. That is one of the many blessings we have as a believer. Even during tough times God will be with us—just like He was with David.”
- Review the Text Truth: **We can thank God for His many blessings.**



## SONG OF PRAISE

*Tools: Bibles, words to your favorite praise song or hymn, “2 Samuel Praise Song” (Poster Pack)*

- Direct kids to look at 2 Samuel 22 in their Bibles again.
- Remind kids that this chapter was a song of praise to God.
- Review the Text Truth: **We can thank God for His many blessings.**
- Ask kids if they have a favorite worship song or hymn.
- Share the lyrics, or sing, one of your favorite praise songs and explain what the song means to you.
- Ask kids to look at the passage, choose a verse, and try to sing the words to a familiar song (*like Amazing Grace or Jesus Loves Me*).
- Challenge them to write their own praise song using words from the passage or their own words of praise and thanksgiving.
- Direct them to the “2 Samuel Praise Song” poster and sing together.



Session

4



# THE ARK MOVED TO JERUSALEM

**1 Chronicles 15:1-4,11-12,14-16,25-29; 16:1-3,7-36**

David knew he was not going to be the one to build the temple, but he did desire to bring the ark of the covenant back to Jerusalem where he felt it belonged. The ark had been in Kiriath-jearim, a city roughly nine miles north of Jerusalem. The ark had been in this city on the property of a man named Abinadab since it had been returned to Israel after the Philistines had captured it long before. (*1 Samuel 7:1*)

David had built homes for himself, and since he could not build a temple to house the ark, David constructed a tent and commissioned the Levites to bring the ark back to Jerusalem. Three months earlier, David had made an attempt to move the ark. In his haste he had not asked for the ark to be moved appropriately and a man named Uzzah died when he reached out and touched the ark. God had given specific instructions for the ark and when those instructions were not followed, God was not honored.

Learning from his previous mistake, David planned to have the Levites move the ark in the way God had instructed. David summoned the priests and Levites and ordered they consecrate themselves to prepare for the moving of the ark. Instead of placing the ark on a cart and rolling it into Jerusalem as had been done in the previous attempt, David had the Levites carry the ark as God had prescribed in Numbers 4.

Our good and great God is worthy of honor and praise, and knowing this, David led the procession with dancing and the playing of musical instruments. David, as Israel's representative, led the nation in worship of God for the blessings He had given them and for helping them bring the ark back to Jerusalem.

With the ark in place, the people brought offerings and sacrifices to worship the one true God. David's psalm of thanksgiving found in 1 Chronicles 16 exalts God for the blessing God had bestowed on the people. Words from this praise psalm can also be found in Psalms 96, 105, and 106.

## SESSION FOCUS

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** 1 Chronicles 15:1-4,11-12,14-16,25-29; 16:1-3,7-36

**MEMORY VERSE:** 1 Chronicles 16:34

**TEXT TRUTH:** Our good and great God is worthy of honor and praise.

**CHRIST IN CONTEXT:** The Book of 1 Chronicles expands on God's promise to send a perfect King through the line of David. David's son, Solomon, built the temple to be the place God dwelled with His people. Jesus is Immanuel—God with us. One day, Jesus will return and God's people will dwell with Him in His Kingdom forever.

### GET STARTED TOOLS

(10 MINUTES)

- Bible Skills:** *“Bible Books” and “1 Chronicles” (Books of the Bible Posters), “Bible Book Cards” (enhanced CD), “Pronunciations” (Poster Pack)*

### BIBLE STUDY TOOLS

(35 MINUTES)

- Jump In:** *“Ark of the Covenant” (DVD-ROM)*
- Examine the Text:** *Bibles, “Text Truth Strips” and “David Brings the Ark to Jerusalem Map” (Poster Pack)*
- Play the Video:** *Explore the Bible on Location Videos*
- Memory Verse:** *“1 Chronicles 16:34” (Poster Pack), index cards, marker*
- Prayer:** *Family Cards*

### SMALL GROUP TOOLS

(30 MINUTES)

- Explorer Guides:** *Bibles, Explorer Guides, pens*
- Move:** *Bible story page, small instruments like hand cymbals or bells*
- Make:** *toothpicks, small foam or wooden blocks, glue, “Ark of the Covenant” (DVD-ROM), “Review Questions” (enhanced CD)*
- Explore:** *snacks, drinks, praise music, “Allergy Alert” (enhanced CD)*

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

# THE ARK MOVED TO JERUSALEM

**1 Chronicles 15:1-4,11-12,14-16,25-29; 16:1-3,7-36**

*The ark of the covenant was special to David and the Israelites. The ark represented God's presence. For years the ark had stayed in Kiriath-jearim (KIHR jath-JEE uh rim), but David wanted to move the ark to the Israelites' capital of Jerusalem. David prepared a tent in Jerusalem for the ark to stay in. Then David gave instructions, "No one but the Levites may carry the ark of the covenant." God had given the Israelites instructions on the proper way to move the ark and David wanted to obey God's commands.*

*David called Israel to gather in Jerusalem, then he gathered the Levites together. David instructed the priests Zadok (ZAY dahk) and Abiathar (uh BIGH uh thahr) and other Levite leaders to get ready to carry the ark of the covenant to Jerusalem. The Levites prepared themselves then they carefully followed God's instructions on how to move the ark using poles to carry it on their shoulders. David told the leaders to gather their relatives to be singers and that they should sing and play their harps, lyres, and cymbals.*

*David and the leaders of Israel walked to Jerusalem, rejoicing that they were bringing the ark to its new home. David wore a special linen robe and a linen ephod. The Levites carried the ark while the musicians played and the people shouted. David was so excited and filled with joy that he began dancing as the ark was carried into Jerusalem and into the tent that David had made for it. The people gave sacrifices and offerings to God and when they finished, David blessed the people and gave each Israelite a loaf of bread, a date cake, and a raisin cake.*

*Then David praised God, "Give thanks to the Lord. Tell of His deeds to the people. Sing praise to Him. Honor His holy name and search for the Lord."*

*David continued, "Remember all of the amazing, wonderful things God has done. He is the Lord who made an everlasting covenant with Abraham. Sing to the Lord. Declare His glory to the people of other nations. God is good and worthy to be praised. Worship God in His holiness."*

*Finally David said, "Give thanks to God. His faithful love endures forever." When David finished the people said, "Amen" and "Praise the Lord."*

*David and all of Israel were very glad to have the ark of the covenant in Jerusalem.*

## KEY POINTS

- David praised God for God's faithfulness to Israel.
- The ark was a symbol that God's presence was with His people.

## TEXT CONNECTION

- Though God did not allow David to build the temple, David wanted to, at the very least, move the ark of the covenant to Jerusalem where Solomon would eventually build the temple.
- The ark had been in a neighboring city since it was returned to Israel after the Philistines had captured it. When the ark arrived in Jerusalem, David praised God through dancing and playing of instruments. Our good and great God is worthy of honor and praise. Good things God has done for us should motivate us to show God honor and praise.
- David's worship of God was not viewed favorably by some of those in Jerusalem. But David was more concerned about God-focused worship than about what others thought of his worship style.
- Paul reminded the Galatians that God had given the Israelites the law in order to guide them toward a relationship with God. This relationship unites Christians in a unique community who come together in God-focused worship.

## EXPLORE THE BIBLE AT HOME

See the enhanced CD for additional family resources.

## GET STARTED (10 MINUTES)

### TOOLS:

- Bible Skills: “Bible Books” and “1 Chronicles” (Books of the Bible Posters), “Bible Book Cards” (enhanced CD), “Pronunciations” (Poster Pack)

### BIBLE SKILLS

- Greet kids as they come in and ask them to put the Old Testament “Bible Book Cards” in order.
- Point out the progress they are making, since they’ve been working on the Old Testament books for several weeks.
- Give time for anyone who is ready to recite all the books from memory.
- Display the “1 Chronicles” poster and ask for volunteers to read it aloud.
- Explain that the stories of David are also recorded in 1 Chronicles.
- Emphasize the “Bible Book Cards” that include stories from the life of David: 1 and 2 Samuel, 1 and 2 Kings, 1 and 2 Chronicles.
- Point out on the “Bible Books” poster that these are considered books of history.
- Display the “Pronunciations” poster. Practice the names from 1 Chronicles 16 together before transitioning to Bible study.
- Dismiss to Bible Study.

## BIBLE SKILLS SPOTLIGHT

- Identifies prominent Bible people by the books in which their stories are recorded.
- Pronounces most of the names of Bible people, places, and things mentioned in the Bible.

## BIBLE STUDY (35 MINUTES)

### JUMP IN

- Say: “We often talk about two different arks in the Bible. Does anyone know what the two arks are? (*Noah’s ark and the ark of the covenant*)”
- Display the “Ark of the Covenant” visual.
- Ask a volunteer to read Hebrews 9:3-4 to find out what was kept in the ark.
- Share: “The ark of the covenant was the place in the tabernacle where God’s presence would dwell. The ark represented God’s presence among His people. Why don’t we need the ark of the covenant today?”
- Continue: “After Jesus died on the cross and rose from the grave, He went back to be with God. But God sent us someone. God sent the Holy Spirit. When you believe in Jesus as your Lord and Savior, the Holy Spirit dwells in you. We don’t need an ark to symbolize God’s presence because we have something better. We have God’s presence with us all of the time!”

### EXAMINE THE TEXT

- Direct kids to turn in their Bibles to 1 Chronicles 16.
- Say: “King David’s death is actually recorded in 1 Kings, but other books of history include stories from his life. First Chronicles includes the story of David bringing the ark of the covenant back to Jerusalem.”
- Tell the Bible story in your own words. A Bible story page has been provided for you to use as a guide.
- Show the “David Brings the Ark to Jerusalem Map” and point out the journey from Kiriath-jearim to Jerusalem.
- Ask: “When have you been so excited about something that you just wanted to celebrate? How did you celebrate that event?” (*Kids might think of a great birthday party they had, making a good grade, winning a sports tournament, and so on.*)
- Say: “David felt like celebrating God because he was so happy to have the ark in Jerusalem. So he threw a huge party with food and music! But he did this as an act of worship.”
- Ask: “Have you ever felt like celebrating God?” If any of your kids have made a personal profession of faith and been baptized, ask if they would be willing to share how that was celebrated in the church or their family.
- Discuss special events that your church has taken time to celebrate (*homecoming, special event services, or perhaps each Sunday worship service feels like a celebration*).
- Ask a volunteer to read 1 Chronicles 16:34-36.
- Say: “This was David’s response: to celebrate and thank the Lord for His goodness.”
- Ask another volunteer to read the “Text Truth Strip.” **Our good and great God is worthy of honor and praise.**

### TOOLS:

- Jump In: “Ark of the Covenant” (DVD-ROM)
- Examine the Text: Bibles, “Text Truth Strips” and “David Brings the Ark to Jerusalem Map” (Poster Pack)
- Play the Video: Explore the Bible on Location Videos
- Memory Verse: “1 Chronicles 16:34” (Poster Pack), index cards, marker
- Prayer: Family Cards

### NOTE:

- Today’s Bible story is recorded in 2 Samuel and 1 Chronicles. Chronologically this story took place before God’s covenant with David.

**MEMORY VERSE****PREPARATION:**

- Write each word of the Memory Verse on a separate index card.

**PLAY THE VIDEO**

- Play the Session 4 video.
- Ask: “What was Joel trying to protect? What is the most important thing we should be protecting?” (*Our hearts*) “Why?” (*We were made to praise God and to love Him.*)

**MEMORY VERSE**

- Shuffle the prepared index cards and distribute one to each kid.
- Tell them when you say, “Go!” that they should try to put the words of the verse in order.
- After the activity, show them the “1 Chronicles 16:34” poster and say the verse together.
- Shuffle, distribute, and play again as time allows.

**PRAYER**

- Gather in a circle for a prayer time.
- Since you have been talking about praising God, ask each person to think of something to praise God for that begins with the first letter of their name. For example, Andy might say “All the good things He gives me.”
- After the prayer time, distribute the Family Cards for kids to take home.
- Ask: “Why is the ark of the covenant our object today?”
- Remind kids to share the questions on the back of their cards with their families.
- Dismiss to Small Group.

## SMALL GROUP (30 MINUTES)

### EXPLORER GUIDES

- Distribute Explorer Guides and help girls and boys find today's pages, "The Ark Moved to Jerusalem."
- Review today's object, "The Ark of the Covenant."
- Invite kids to use their Bibles to complete the "Ark Chronology."
- Select a couple of kids to read aloud "Spotlight on the Levites."
- Read aloud "Sing to the Lord!" and help kids complete the activity.
- Choose a volunteer to read "Make Music!"

### TECH CONNECT (OPTIONAL)

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

### ACTIVITIES

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

### TOOLS:

- Explorer Guides: Bibles, Explorer Guides, pens

## ARK ACTION

*Tools: Bible story page, small instruments like hand cymbals or bells*

Ahead of time, ask for volunteers to act out the people from the Bible story.

- **Tell the group that they are going to act out today's story as you read it aloud.**
- **You will need volunteers for the following roles (*but everyone will be at the celebration*):**
  - ▶ David
  - ▶ Zadok and Abiathar
  - ▶ Several more Levites
- **Instruct kids to act out the celebration, shouting, and dancing at the appropriate times.**
- **Distribute the instruments to use as they act out the celebration.**
- **At the close of the story, remind the kids that David celebrated our good and great God because He is worthy of our honor and praise.**
- **Lead boys and girls to say the Text Truth with you: **Our good and great God is worthy of honor and praise.****





## MODEL ARK

*Tools: toothpicks, small foam or wooden blocks, glue, "Ark of the Covenant" (DVD-ROM), "Review Questions" (enhanced CD)*

- Give each kid 2 toothpicks and 1 foam or wooden block.
- Say: "Each of you will build a small model of the ark of the covenant to use as a reminder of what we learned today."
- Show them how to make a simple replica by gluing the toothpicks underneath the block.
- Show the "Ark of the Covenant" visual as they build.
- Remind kids that the ark was a reminder of God's presence with His people.
- As kids work, review the Bible story by inviting kids to answer review questions. If time allows, you may choose to use previous weeks' review questions.
- Review the Text Truth: **Our good and great God is worthy of honor and praise.**



## CELEBRATION

*Tools: snacks, drinks, praise music, "Allergy Alert" (enhanced CD)*

- Plan a simple celebration with food and music. Be sure to post the "Allergy Alert" poster for the food you bring. Bring music that you can easily stop and start.
- Review the Text Truth: **Our good and great God is worthy of honor and praise.**
- Tell the group that you will follow David's example from 1 Chronicles and celebrate God's faithfulness together.
- Explain that they can enjoy snacks and drinks and that you'll play praise music.
- Say: "Enjoy the party, but when the music stops, be very quiet and we'll let one person share something they are thankful for."
- Let the kids get up and move during the music, but direct them to freeze in place when the music stops.
- Call on a volunteer to express their thanks to God, then start the music again.
- Leave time for kids to help with cleanup after the celebration.



# DAVID PREPARED FOR THE TEMPLE

**1 Chronicles 22:2-19; 28**

Since God had given his kingdom peace, David set about making preparations for the temple which would be constructed by his son, Solomon, following David's death. Since David could not build the temple, he prepared the way for Solomon.

Thinking of all the things that would be needed to construct a grand and glorious temple worthy of God's presence, David collected supplies. He gathered a massive amount of metal for the making of nails, and he had stonecutters cut stones and finish them so they would be ready when the time came to build the structure. Scripture says that David also collected a massive amount of bronze and more cedar logs than could be counted. The preparations had been made, but was Solomon ready?

David knew that Solomon, who was likely still a teenager at the time, was young and inexperienced. David had blueprints drawn up to ensure the structure would be the finest place of worship in all of Israel, and for that matter, in any nation that surrounded Israel. David called Solomon and charged him with the construction of the temple. David knew the reason God did not want David to build the temple was because he had been a man of war. Instead, God wanted Solomon, who had not seen war, to build the temple. David knew that Solomon would enjoy the peace of God and freedom from enemies, and the kingdom would enjoy God's blessing. David warned Solomon to always follow God and His commands so God would continue to bless him.

Later, David called all of Israel together to formally commission Solomon and challenge all of Israel to support Solomon in the building of the temple. Again, David reminded Solomon, in the presence of the people, to be a faithful follower of God and not be discouraged or afraid because God would be with him. As David encouraged Solomon, we, too, are called to know God, serve Him, and seek Him always.

## SESSION FOCUS

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** 1 Chronicles 22:2-19; 28

**MEMORY VERSE:** 1 Chronicles 28:9b

**TEXT TRUTH:** We are called to know God, serve Him, and seek Him always.

**CHRIST IN CONTEXT:** The Book of 1 Chronicles expands on God's promise to send a perfect King through the line of David. David's son, Solomon, built the temple to be the place God dwelled with His people. Jesus is Immanuel—God with us. One day, Jesus will return and God's people will dwell with Him in His Kingdom forever.

### GET STARTED TOOLS

(10 MINUTES)

- Bible Skills:** *Bibles, "1 Chronicles" and "Bible Books" (Books of the Bible Posters)*

### BIBLE STUDY TOOLS

(35 MINUTES)

- Jump In:** *"Fancy Houses" (Poster Pack), "Temple Illustration" (DVD-ROM)*
- Examine the Text:** *Bibles, "Christ in Context: 1 Chronicles" and "Text Truth Strips" (Poster Pack)*
- Play the Video:** *Explore the Bible on Location Videos*
- Memory Verse:** *"1 Chronicles 28:9b" (Poster Pack), Family Cards*
- Prayer:** *none*

### SMALL GROUP TOOLS

(30 MINUTES)

- Explorer Guides:** *Bibles, Explorer Guides, pens*
- Move:** *6 wooden toy blocks, 6 small rocks, 6 silver coins, timer*
- Make:** *copy paper, graph paper, colored pencils*
- Explore:** *"Stonecutter, Mason, Carpenter Descriptions" (enhanced CD)*

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# DAVID PREPARED FOR THE TEMPLE

## 1 Chronicles 22:2-19; 28

*God promised David that his son would get to build a house for God. The house would be known as the temple. Even though David couldn't build the temple, he did what he could to help his son by gathering supplies for the temple.*

*David knew that Solomon would be the next king, but he also knew that Solomon was young. "The house of the Lord must be great and glorious, so I will make plans for it," David said.*

*David called Solomon to come see him, "My son, I wanted to build God a house but God said that my son, Solomon, will build the house for God. God will establish the throne of his kingdom forever."*

*Next David told Solomon, "May God give you insight and wisdom to obey His law so you will succeed. Be strong and courageous. I have provided supplies for the house of the Lord."*

*Iron was gathered to make nails for the doors. Bronze was gathered, such a great amount that it couldn't be measured. So many cedar logs were collected that they couldn't all be counted.*

*David had gathered 3,775 tons of gold; 37,750 tons of silver; bronze; iron; timber; and stone. David told Solomon that he would need workers. Stonecutters. Masons. Carpenters. People with skills in gold, silver, and iron. Many workers would be needed to build the temple.*

*Then David ordered all of the Israelite leaders to help Solomon and he reminded them, "Determine in your mind and heart to seek the Lord."*

*David also gave Solomon the plans for the temple. He had plans for the rooms of the temple and for all of the furniture and pieces that would be used in the temple. He planned how much the tables would weigh and how the priests would take care of the temple. David told Solomon again, "Be strong and courageous. God is with you. He will be with you as you build the temple."*

### KEY POINTS

- David wanted Solomon and Israel to always seek God.
- God chose Solomon to build the temple.

### TEXT CONNECTION

- David was excited about the prospect of the temple being built. Since David knew that he would not build the temple himself, he made all the preparations for the structure and commissioned his son, Solomon, to build the temple. David's collections for the temple were so numerous they could not even be counted.
- Solomon was very young while David was collecting construction materials. David knew that his son would need help and wisdom when he led the temple construction, so David not only collected the materials, he also had a draftsman draw up the plans for the temple. Solomon would know exactly what he needed to do.
- David's passion for collecting items for the building of the temple is exactly the type of passion Paul asked the Galatians to have for Jesus Christ.
- Paul encouraged the believers to passionately share the message that one can only have freedom through faith in Jesus Christ.

### EXPLORE THE BIBLE AT HOME

See the enhanced CD for additional family resources.

## GET STARTED (10 MINUTES)

### TOOLS:

- Bible Skills: Bibles, “1 Chronicles” and “Bible Books” (Books of the Bible Posters)

### BIBLE SKILLS

- As kids enter the room, give them a Bible if they don't have one.
- Tell them that you will practice finding books of the Bible without using the table of contents.
- Point out the “Bible Books” poster and explain that they can use that for help. While it doesn't give page numbers, it will help them to know which books come before and after.
- Tell them that you will start with 1 Chronicles, since that is the book for today's Bible study.
- When you say, “Go,” encourage everyone to find 1 Chronicles in their Bibles.
- Don't make it a race, but rather as an exercise for everyone to be successful.
- Repeat the activity, calling out at least one book from the divisions of the Old Testament: Law, History, Poetry and Wisdom, Major Prophets, and Minor Prophets.
- Close by reviewing some facts about 1 Chronicles using the “1 Chronicles” poster.
- Dismiss to Bible Study.

## BIBLE SKILLS SPOTLIGHT

- Locates all the books of the Bible in a limited time frame.
- Names the 10 divisions of the Old and New Testaments in a limited time frame and identifies examples of books in each division.

## BIBLE STUDY (35 MINUTES)

### JUMP IN

- As kids prepare for Bible study, tell them to look around the room at the fancy houses you have displayed.
- Instruct kids to stand near the picture that they would most like to visit.
- Explain that these are famous buildings in the world. Ask a volunteer to read the caption under each picture.
- Say that the world is filled with fancy buildings, but most of these are significant to the country's or world's history. It's not just a beautiful building, it's a place that is very special to the people.
- Show the "Temple Illustration" visual and explain that this building was very special to the Israelites. An artist has drawn what the building might have looked like based on what the Bible tells us about it.
- Say: "Today we'll study about the temple that David prepared for Solomon to build. He wanted only the very best and most expensive supplies, but he wanted these things so that the temple would honor God."

### EXAMINE THE TEXT

- Display the "Christ in Context: 1 Chronicles" and invite a volunteer to read the statement aloud.
- Direct kids to turn in their Bibles to 1 Chronicles 22.
- Ask a volunteer to read aloud 1 Chronicles 22:5.
- Say: "What words in this verse tell us that David wanted the temple to be very special?" (*Words like exceedingly great, famous, glorious, lavish preparations*)
- As you tell the Bible story in your own words, explain the meaning of some of those words so the group can understand that David only wanted to use the very best for God. A Bible story page is provided for you to use as a guide.
- Ask another volunteer to read 1 Chronicles 28:20
- Ask: "Why was David helping Solomon so much?" (*Because Solomon was very young*) "Why did David tell Solomon to be strong and courageous and to know that God is with him?" (*So that Solomon would stay focused on God and not be afraid of doing what he had to do*)
- Discuss times in our lives when we prepare to give God our best. For example, you prepare to teach in order to give God your best with the kids. Perhaps some of the kids have practiced a song that they sang at church or studied hard for a test or gave an offering to God.
- Explain that David wanted Solomon to give God his very best. It wasn't just about an expensive building, it was about honoring God and obeying the plans that God had given them.
- Ask a volunteer to read the "Text Truth Strip." **We are called to know God, serve Him, and seek Him always.**

### TOOLS:

- Jump In: "Fancy Houses" (Poster Pack), "Temple Illustration" (DVD-ROM)
- Examine the Text: Bibles, "Christ in Context: 1 Chronicles" and "Text Truth Strips" (Poster Pack)
- Play the Video: Explore the Bible on Location Videos
- Memory Verse: "1 Chronicles 28:9b" (Poster Pack), Family Cards
- Prayer: none

### JUMP IN PREPARATION:

- Cut apart and display the "Fancy Houses" around the room.

- Remind kids that at every age we are called to know God and give Him our best.

**PLAY THE VIDEO**

- Play the Session 5 video.
- Ask: “Where did Kaileigh go? What did she learn about? What makes a person beautiful? What did David show us about worshiping God?”

**MEMORY VERSE**

- Show the “1 Chronicles 28:9b” poster.
- Read aloud the verse together.
- Ask kids to turn and face one wall and say the verse again.
- Continue to repeat the verse while turning to face a different direction.
- Remind kids that no matter what we face, we can know God and serve Him with our whole hearts.
- Distribute the Family Cards for kids to take home.

**PRAYER**

- Review the Text Truth: **We are called to know God, serve Him, and seek Him always.**
- Leave a moment for kids to pray silently about how they can seek and serve God more. Can they spend more time praying or reading their Bibles? Can they do more to serve others?
- Tell them to ask God to show them how to best seek and serve Him.
- Close the prayer time thanking God for each kid that is at church because that is a way that they are seeking Him.
- Dismiss to Small Group.

## SMALL GROUP (30 MINUTES)

### EXPLORER GUIDES

- Distribute Explorer Guides and help kids locate today's pages, "David Prepared for the Temple."
- Select a volunteer to read about today's object, the "Temple Illustration."
- Invite another volunteer to read "Splendid Supplies." Help kids use their Bibles to identify what others materials were gathered for the temple.
- Guide kids to complete the "Letter Swap."
- Choose a volunteer to read "The Temple Mount Today."

### TECH CONNECT (OPTIONAL)

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

### ACTIVITIES

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

### TOOLS:

- Explorer Guides: Bibles, Explorer Guides, pens

## TEMPLE SUPPLIES

*Tools: 6 wooden toy blocks, 6 small rocks, 6 silver coins, timer*

- Before the activity, hide the supplies around the room.

- Review the Text Truth: **We are called to know God, serve Him, and seek Him always.**
- Ask: "Do you think David knew God, served Him, and sought Him? Why do you think David wanted to build a temple? Why did he gather supplies for the temple?"
- Tell the group that they will pretend to be the people in charge of the supplies used to build the temple: stone (*rocks*), wood (*toy blocks*), and metal (*coins*).
- When you say, "Go" they will move through the room, collecting supplies.
- Give them a time limit of one minute to collect supplies.
- Say: "Go!" and start the timer.
- After one minute, tell all the kids to bring their supplies to you for inspection.
- Pretend to "inspect" the resources and deem them "acceptable" for the temple.
- When you have finished the activity, remind kids of the many people who helped to build the temple.
- Tell boys and girls that like the people in 1 Chronicles who willingly served God, we should seek God and serve Him, too.
- Play again allowing kids to take turns hiding the supplies.





## BUILDING PLANS

*Tools: copy paper, graph paper, colored pencils*

- Distribute paper and colored pencils. Challenge kids to draw plans for something they would like to build one day.
- Encourage kids to share about their designs as they work. What details are they including? What materials would they use to build?
- Remind kids that the temple that David planned and Solomon built for God was a very special building to the Israelite people.
- Say: “Every piece of wood, metal, and stone, and every worker was important to the completion of the temple.”
- Ask: “Why was the temple built?” Allow kids to share their thoughts. Remind kids that the temple was a place the people could worship God and give Him offerings. It was a place where they could seek God and learn about God.
- Challenge kids that when they look at their picture to remember that **we are called to know God, serve Him, and seek Him always.**



## STONECUTTERS, MASON, CARPENTERS

*Tools: “Stonecutter, Mason, Carpenter Descriptions” (enhanced CD)*

- Print the descriptions and have them ready to give to kids.

- Say: “When David was preparing for the temple to be built, he needed people who had a special skill. Let’s read about some of the people who were used to build the temple.”
- Ask for volunteers to read the descriptions of the skilled craftsmen.
- Ask: “How would these people be useful to build the temple?”
- Remind kids that these people were willing to use their skills for God.
- Say: “Even kids have skills they can use for God!”
- Ask: “What are some things you’re good at that could be used here at church?”
- Review the Text Truth: **we are called to know God, serve Him, and seek Him always.**
- Close the discussion by reminding the kids that if we seek God, He will show us how to best serve Him.



Session

6



## GOD'S COVENANT WITH ABRAHAM

**Genesis 15:1-6; 17:1-9,15-22; 21:1-7**

God had instructed Abram to leave his father's house and travel to a land God would show him. Abram in obedience to the Lord, had gathered his household belongings, his family—including his nephew Lot and Lot's family—and followed the word of the Lord to reside in the land of Canaan.

As Genesis 15 opens, Abram had a vision sent from God. As is typical in vision accounts in Scripture, Abram was warned to not be afraid. Abram and his family had just fought a battle where Abram had to rescue his nephew Lot. God promised Abram that God would be a shield and protector to him. God also promised Abram a great reward.

Abram was curious about God's promise of blessing and offspring since he had no heir and was quite old. God told Abram to go outside his tent and look into the heavens at the stars. If you have ever been fortunate to see the clear sky away from city lights and distractions, you have a great idea of what Abram saw. God's promise to Abram was that his offspring would be more numerous than the stars he saw. Abram believed God and God credited Abram's belief as righteousness.

Later God changed Abram's name to Abraham. The name *Abram* meant "father is exalted." The name *Abraham* meant "father of a multitude." *Sarai* and *Sarah* meant "princess" and spoke of the fact that kings would come from her sons. Abraham, still questioning God's promise, laughed and asked if Ishmael could fulfill God's promise. God once again told Abraham that a child would be born of Sarah and they would name him Isaac, which meant "laughter."

God always keeps His promises and fulfills them in His perfect timing, and true to His promise, Isaac was born. For 25 years Abraham and Sarah waited for God's promise to be fulfilled, and with joy they welcomed Isaac, the son of that promise.

## SESSION FOCUS

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Genesis 15:1-6; 17:1-9,15-22; 21:1-7

**MEMORY VERSE:** Genesis 17:7

**TEXT TRUTH:** God fulfills His promises in His perfect time.

**CHRIST IN CONTEXT:** The Book of Genesis is a book of beginnings. In the beginning, God created a perfect world. Sin separated mankind from God and showed that people need a Savior. God called Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob with a promise that one of their descendants would be the Messiah. Jesus is the Messiah, the One who came to rescue people from their sin.

### GET STARTED TOOLS

(10 MINUTES)

- Bible Skills:** “Bible Books” and “Genesis” (Books of the Bible Posters), soft foam ball or inflatable ball

### BIBLE STUDY TOOLS

(35 MINUTES)

- Jump In:** “Torah Scroll” (DVD-ROM), glow-in-the-dark stars
- Examine the Text:** Bibles, “Text Truth Strips” and “Christ in Context: Genesis” (Poster Pack)
- Play the Video:** Explore the Bible on Location Videos
- Memory Verse:** “Genesis 17:7” (Poster Pack), “Star Memory Verse” (enhanced CD), crayons
- Prayer:** Family Cards, plastic or paper star

### SMALL GROUP TOOLS

(30 MINUTES)

- Explorer Guides:** Bibles, Explorer Guides, pens
- Move:** “Review Questions” (enhanced CD)
- Make:** “Star” (enhanced CD), canning jar rings, yarn, yellow foam, pencils, permanent markers, scissors, “Text Truth Strips” (Poster Pack), metal washers and nuts in various sizes, hole punch
- Explore:** “Abraham’s Journey Map” (enhanced CD), pencils or markers

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

## GOD'S COVENANT WITH ABRAHAM

**Genesis 15:1-6; 17:1-9,15-22; 21:1-7**

*God had told Abram to move to a new land. Abram had obeyed God. One day God spoke to Abram in a vision. "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield. Your reward will be great."*

*God took Abram outside and said, "Look at the sky and count the stars, if you can. Your descendants will be that numerous." Abram believed God and God credited it to Abram as righteousness.*

*When Abram was 99 years old, the Lord appeared to him. The Lord said, "I am God Almighty. I will establish My covenant between Me and you, and I will multiply you greatly. You will become the father of many nations. Your name will no longer be Abram but will now be Abraham. I will make you the father of many nations."*

*God also told Abraham, "As for your wife Sarai, do not call her Sarai anymore. Sarah will be her name. I will bless her; indeed, I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she will produce nations. Kings of people will come from her descendants."*

*Abraham laughed and said to himself, "Can a child be born to a man that is a hundred years old? Can Sarah, a ninety-year-old woman, have a son?"*

*God said, "Your wife Sarah will have a son and you will name him Isaac. I will continue the covenant I have with you with Isaac. This time next year, Sarah will have your son Isaac."*

*God kept His special promise to Sarah. Sarah became pregnant with Abraham's son just as God had said. Abraham named his son Isaac. Abraham was one hundred years old when Isaac was born.*

*Abraham and Sarah waited and waited for God's promise to come true, and it did. God always keeps His promises in His time.*

### KEY POINTS

- Abraham believed God.
- Abraham's belief in God was credited to him as righteousness.

### TEXT CONNECTION

- God called Abram to gather his family and move. Abram was faithful to God and moved to a new land he had never been to before. Abram was blessed by God because of his obedience and God had something special planned for Abram.
- God promised Abram that his family would have more people than the stars in the sky. Abram believed what God said and God credited Abram's belief as righteousness.
- God had a plan to fulfill the promise He had made with Abram. Ultimately God's fulfillment came through the birth of Jesus Christ, the king from Abram's family who would rule forever.
- Though Abram had to wait for God's fulfillment, God always fulfills His promises and keeps them in His perfect timing.
- Abram's belief in God was credited as righteousness. Paul reminded the Christians in Galatia that evidence of their faith in Jesus Christ would come through the godly character they possessed.

### EXPLORE THE BIBLE AT HOME

See the enhanced CD for additional family resources.

## GET STARTED (10 MINUTES)

### TOOLS:

- Bible Skills: “Bible Books” and “Genesis” (Books of the Bible Posters), soft foam ball or inflatable ball

### BIBLE SKILLS

- Welcome kids as they come in and direct them to sit in a circle.
- When kids have gathered, explain that you have been working on being able to recite all the books of the Old Testament from memory.
- Start by saying “Genesis,” then tossing the ball to someone in the circle. The next person who catches the ball should say the next book, and then toss the ball to someone else.
- Continue until you have said all the Old Testament books. Tell kids that they can look at the “Bible Books” poster if they need help.
- Each week, invite kids who want to recite the books from memory to do so.
- Draw attention to the information on the “Genesis” poster and explain that the truths that we study in Scripture are true and still apply to our lives today.
- Dismiss to Bible Study.

## BIBLE SKILLS SPOTLIGHT

- Understands the truths in the Bible are without error and will last forever.
- Names all the books of the Old Testament and all the books of the New Testament.

## BIBLE STUDY (35 MINUTES)

### JUMP IN

- Display the “Torah Scroll.”
- Ask: “Can anyone guess what today’s object is? It is a Torah Scroll. Does anyone know what the word *Torah* means? Torah is the Hebrew word for “law.” When people talk about the Torah, they are referring to the first five books of the Bible (*Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy*).”
- Continue: “Written on this scroll is part of the Bible that we are learning about today—Genesis 15. And it is written in the language that Genesis was first written in, Hebrew. Why is this important? Genesis 15 records an amazing promise made by God.”
- If space allows, direct kids to lie on their backs, pretending to look at a starry sky. If you used glow-in-the-dark stars, turn off some of the lights so kids can see the stars.
- Ask kids about their experiences looking at a starry sky. Ask if kids have seen a shooting star.
- Turn on the lights and ask the group to sit upright.
- Say: “It would be impossible for us to count the stars in the sky. Plus, there are so many stars that we can’t even see from the earth! But God knows about every one of them. He knows how many stars are in the sky.”
- Say: “Today we’ll hear about a promise that God made to Abram, and it was big, like the number of stars in the sky.”

### EXAMINE THE TEXT

- Ask: “What is something worth waiting for?” Lead kids to think about their birthday or Christmas, perhaps, if they can’t think of anything.
- Share something from your own life, like waiting for your spouse or waiting for a job opportunity.
- Say: “In the Bible, we read about Abram and Sarah and a gift that was worth waiting for.”
- Direct kids to turn in their Bibles to Genesis 15. Say: “In this chapter, we read about the promise—or covenant—that God made to Abram.”
- Ask a volunteer to read Genesis 15:5-6.
- Ask: “What does it mean that Abram’s belief or faith was credited to him as righteousness?” (*Because He believed in God and the words of God, Abram was in a right relationship with God.*)
- Tell the rest of the Bible story in your own words. A Bible story page has been provided for you to use as a guide.
- Say: “I think Isaac was a gift worth waiting for! Don’t you?”
- Explain that God fulfilled His promise and kept his covenant with Abraham through the birth of Isaac. Abraham would now have many, many descendants that would form a whole nation of people who followed God.

### TOOLS:

- Jump In: “Torah Scroll” (DVD-ROM), glow-in-the-dark stars
- Examine the Text: Bibles, “Text Truth Strips” and “Christ in Context: Genesis” (Poster Pack)
- Play the Video: Explore the Bible on Location Videos
- Memory Verse: “Genesis 17:7” (Poster Pack), “Star Memory Verse” (enhanced CD), crayons
- Prayer: Family Cards, plastic or paper star

### OPTION:

- As you finish the Bible story, show boys and girls the picture of Abraham, Sarah, and Isaac on page 89 of the *Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary for Kids*.

- Ask a volunteer to read the “Text Truth Strip,” and say: “God’s timing is perfect for each of us, too!”
- Display the “Christ in Context: Genesis” poster. Explain that Jesus is also part of God’s fulfillment of the covenant He made with Abraham.

**PLAY THE VIDEO**

- Play the Session 6 video.
- Ask: “What did Joel learn about God’s promises? How many people could fit inside the stadium Joel visited?” (70,788) “How does that number compare to the number of descendants God promised Abraham?”

**MEMORY VERSE**

- Give each kid a copy of the “Star Memory Verse.”
- Show kids the “Genesis 17:7” poster and read the verse together.
- Direct kids to write each word of the Memory Verse in a different star.
- Let them practice saying the verse from memory with a partner.
- If time allows, allow them to color the stars.
- Tell kids to take their “Star Memory Verse” home and practice the Memory Verse this week.

**PRAYER**

- Stand in a circle and hold a star in your hand.
- Tell the kids that the stars can remind us of God’s faithfulness and that He always fulfills His promises in His time.
- Say a prayer aloud, then pass the star to the next person.
- Tell the kids that if they do not want to pray aloud, that they should simply hand the star to the person next to them.
- If they do want to pray aloud, they should hold the star while they pray.
- After the prayer, distribute the Family Cards for kids to take home. Remind kids to share the cards with their families and review today’s Bible story together.
- Dismiss to Small Group.

## SMALL GROUP (30 MINUTES)

### EXPLORER GUIDES

- Distribute Explorer Guides and help girls and boys locate today's pages, "God's Covenant with Abraham."
- Choose volunteers to read aloud "Explore Our Galaxy."
- Review today's object, the "Torah Scroll."
- Invite boys and girls to recall today's Bible story as they complete the activity, "Who Said It."
- Challenge kids to use their Bibles to locate some of the "Faithful Verses."

### TECH CONNECT (OPTIONAL)

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

### ACTIVITIES

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

### TOOLS:

- Explorer Guides: Bibles, Explorer Guides, pens

## SHOOTING STARS

*Tools: "Review Questions" (enhanced CD)*

- Make sure kids have room to run across the room and back.

- Review the Text Truth: **God fulfills His promises in His perfect time.** Explain that you will review more of today's Bible study by playing a game.
- Form two teams.
- Explain that you will ask kids a review question from the Bible story.
- The first person who answers correctly gets to be a shooting star by running across the room and back.
- If both people answer at the same time, they both get to be shooting stars.
- Give each team one point for every "shooting star" or correct answer.
- Congratulate the team who wins with the most shooting stars.
- Continue the game by asking review questions from previous sessions.





## TRUTH STAR CHIMES

*Tools: “Star” (enhanced CD), canning jar rings, yarn, yellow foam, pencils, permanent markers, scissors, “Text Truth Strips” (Poster Pack), metal washers and nuts in various sizes, hole punch*

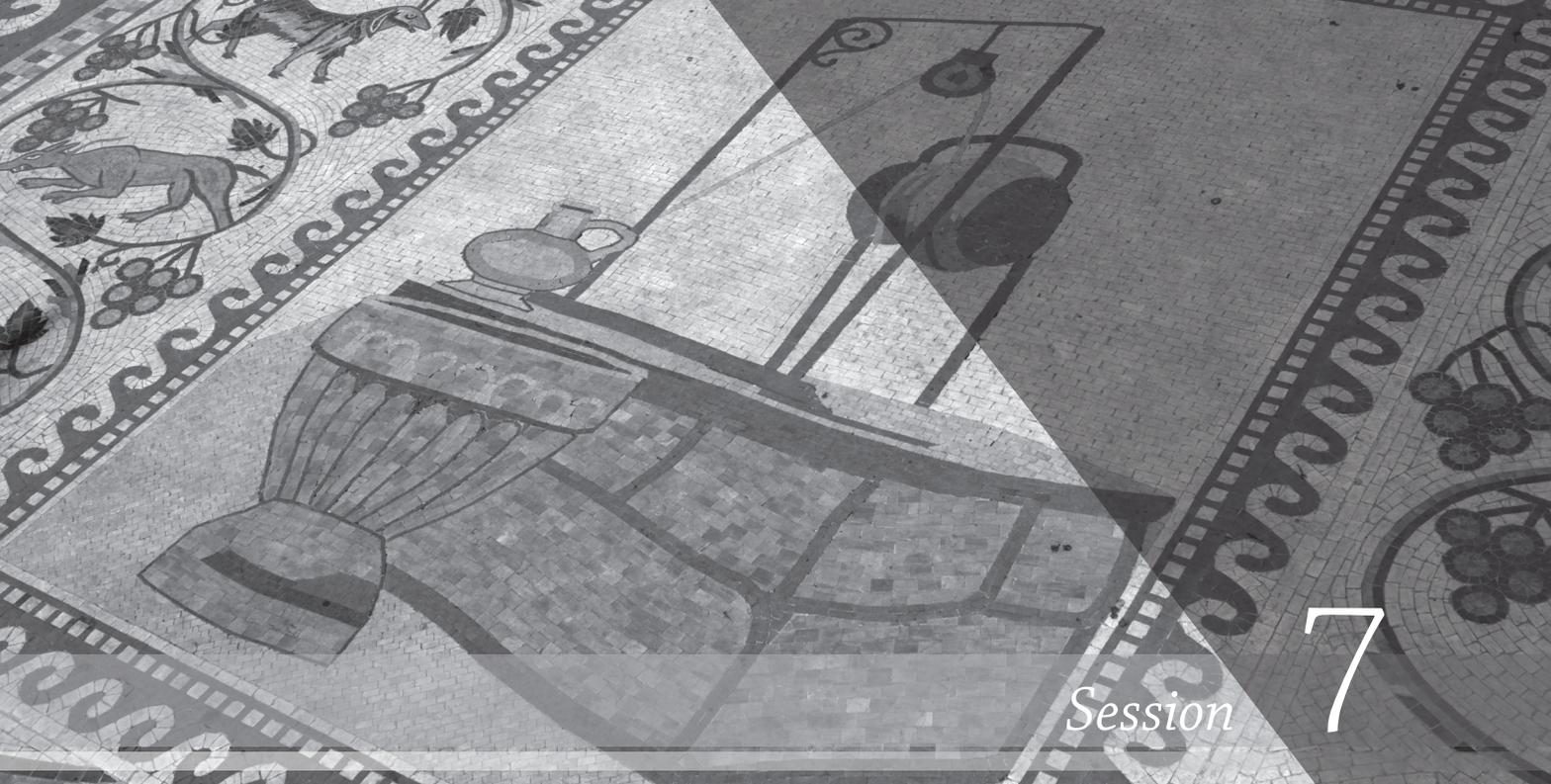
- Make copies of the “Star” and cut apart for kids to use as tracing templates.
- Cut 12-inch lengths of yarn. Each kid will need 4.
- Direct kids to use pencils to trace and cut out four stars from the yellow foam. Stars can be in different sizes.
- Help kids punch a hole at the top of each star.
- Show the “Text Truth Strip” and lead boys and girls to use a permanent marker to write two words from the Text Truth on each star.
- Next kids should tie one end of each strand of yarn to the canning ring.
- Guide kids to tie various washers and nuts along the yarn strands leaving 2 inches of yarn at the bottom.
- Invite kids to tie the end of each yarn strand to a star, making sure to put the Text Truth words in the correct order.
- Review the Text Truth: **God fulfills His promises in His perfect time.** Tell kids to take their star chimes home as a reminder of God’s promises and God’s perfect timing.



## WHERE DID ABRAHAM GO?

*Tools: “Abraham’s Journey Map” (enhanced CD), pencils or markers*

- Make a copy of “Abraham’s Journey Map” for each person in the group. Print one copy of the completed map to show kids at the end.
- Review the Text Truth: **God fulfills His promises in His perfect time.**
- Give everyone a copy of the map.
- Remind kids that God told Abraham to leave his home in Ur and travel to Canaan, which would be his new home.
- Tell kids to put their pencils or markers at Ur and that as you call out each city, they should draw a line, showing Abraham’s journey.
- Say: “Abraham started at Ur and went along the Euphrates River toward Babylon. Next he moved along the river to Mari. Next they followed the river, until they could go north to Haran. Then they went to Carchemish and down to Aleppo. On their journey, they passed Ebla, Hamath, and Qatna. Then they traveled through the desert to Shechem before settling in Canaan.”
- Show kids the completed maps so they can see how the route that they drew compares.
- Say: “Abraham followed God on this journey because he believed God and His promises.”



Session

7



# GOD BLESSED ISAAC

**Genesis 26:1-6,12-33**

Now grown, the son of promise, Isaac, was on his own living in the land of Canaan. In a vision, as had happened with his father, Abraham, God told Isaac to stay in Gerar even though a famine gripped the land. God promised to provide for Isaac and his family and to bless them where they lived. God also reiterated the promise He had given to Abraham, promising to make Isaac's offspring as numerous as the stars and to give the land he lived in as a possession to his descendants forever. Isaac did as God instructed and remained in the land of Gerar.

Over time, Isaac's wealth in livestock and grain began to strain his relationship with the residents of Gerar. God had blessed Isaac with an abundant return of crops on what Isaac had planted. Even during a famine, God caused Isaac's crops to produce a hundredfold what he had sown. Isaac's neighbors began to get annoyed that Isaac's crops were growing so well and his livestock continued to thrive and increase. When Isaac went to draw water from a well his father, Abraham, had dug, he discovered that the Philistines had filled the well in with dirt to prevent him from using it. The Philistines were making it clear that they did not want Isaac living in "their" land anymore.

Instead of quarreling with the Philistines, Isaac moved to an area where Abraham had previously dug many wells. The Philistines had already covered those with dirt, so Isaac and his helpers dug out those wells and began to water their livestock. Before long, the people of the nearby town claimed those wells as their own and Isaac once again moved to another area and opened the wells Abraham had dug. Another argument ensued, Isaac moved again, dug a new well, and finally found peace in the land.

Isaac trusted God to care for him. Isaac showed God's kindness and sought peace with those around him, and God blessed Isaac and his family with rest.

## SESSION FOCUS

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Genesis 26:1-6,12-33

**MEMORY VERSE:** Genesis 26:24b

**TEXT TRUTH:** Isaac trusted God and chose to seek peace.

**CHRIST IN CONTEXT:** The Book of Genesis is a book of beginnings. In the beginning, God created a perfect world. Sin separated mankind from God and showed that people need a Savior. God called Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob with a promise that one of their descendants would be the Messiah. Jesus is the Messiah, the One who came to rescue people from their sin.

### GET STARTED TOOLS

(10 MINUTES)

- Bible Skills:** “Who’s in Genesis? Cards” (enhanced CD), Bibles

### BIBLE STUDY TOOLS

(35 MINUTES)

- Jump In:** “Well Pictures” (Poster Pack), “Well Mosaic” (DVD-ROM), a cup of water, a cup of mud, plastic spoons, bowl
- Examine the Text:** Bibles, “Text Truth Strips” (Poster Pack)
- Play the Video:** Explore the Bible on Location Videos
- Memory Verse:** “Genesis 26:24b” (Poster Pack), construction paper, marker
- Prayer:** bowl, index cards, pencils, Family Cards

### SMALL GROUP TOOLS

(30 MINUTES)

- Explorer Guides:** Bibles, Explorer Guides, pens
- Move:** 4 buckets (2 filled with water), 2 plastic cups, plastic sheeting or towels
- Make:** Bible, modeling clay
- Explore:** “Choosing Peace Cards” (enhanced CD)

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

## GOD BLESSED ISAAC

### Genesis 26:1-6,12-33

*God made a covenant with Abraham. He told Abraham that the covenant would also be for Abraham's descendants. One day God spoke to Abraham's son, Isaac. A famine had come to the land but God said, "Stay in this land. I will be with you and bless you. I will give this land to you and your descendants. All the nations of the earth will be blessed by your descendants because Abraham listened and obeyed My instructions."*

*Isaac planted seed and grew over 100 times what he planted. God was blessing Isaac. Isaac became very wealthy, but the Philistines were envious of Isaac. The Philistines filled up all the wells that Abraham's servants had dug. Now instead of water, the wells were full of dirt. The leader of the Philistines, Abimelech, told Isaac to leave.*

*Isaac left and settled in a new spot, the Valley of Gerar. He reopened some other wells that his father had dug long ago. Next Isaac's servants dug and found a well of spring water. But the herdsmen of Gerar argued with Isaac's herdsmen over the spring water. Another well was dug, but they argued over that well too.*

*So Isaac moved and dug a new well. Isaac knew that God was with him and would take care of him. Isaac and his family moved to Beer-sheba. That night God appeared to Isaac. "Do not be afraid. I am with you. I will bless you and your descendants." Isaac built an altar to praise God. Then Isaac pitched his tent and his servants dug a new well.*

*Later Abimelech came to visit Isaac. Isaac asked him, "Why have you come? You told me to leave."*

*Abimelech told Isaac, "We have seen that God has been with you. We want to make a covenant with you." Isaac agreed to have peace. After the men left, Isaac's servants came to tell him that they had dug a new well and found water. God was with Isaac and taking care of him.*

### KEY POINTS

- Choose peace.
- Trust God to provide.
- Isaac trusted God to provide for him.

### TEXT CONNECTION

- Isaac, the son God had promised to Abraham, had grown up in Canaan, the land where Abraham lived. Isaac had become very wealthy and had many crops and animals. The people who lived in the land became jealous of Isaac's wealth and told him to leave.
- Trusting God, Isaac chose to have peace with the people. Instead of starting a fight, Isaac moved to another area and opened up the wells of his father, Abraham. (The Philistines had earlier filled in all the wells Abraham used to keep Isaac from having continued success.)
- Three times Isaac moved and worked to dig wells that had already been filled in. Finally, Isaac found peace in the land. Isaac chose to seek peace and trusted God to care for him. God blessed Isaac and his family with rest.
- God blessed Isaac for his peacefulness. Paul wrote to the Galatian churches that mature believers seek to restore broken relationships through peace, and to be good stewards of the resources God has given.

### EXPLORE THE BIBLE AT HOME

See the enhanced CD for additional family resources.

## GET STARTED (10 MINUTES)

### TOOLS:

- Bible Skills: “Who’s in Genesis? Cards” (enhanced CD), Bibles

### ANSWERS:

- Adam (Genesis)
- Noah (Genesis)
- Abraham (Genesis)
- Isaac (Genesis)
- Jacob (Genesis)
- Joseph (Genesis)
- Moses (Exodus)
- David (1 Samuel–2 Chronicles)
- Ruth (Ruth)
- Daniel (Daniel)
- Samson (Judges)
- Joshua (Joshua)

### BIBLE SKILLS

- Welcome kids to your group and direct them to the “Who’s in Genesis? Cards” you’ve mixed up and put facedown on the floor.
- Give each kid a turn choosing a person whose story they think is in Genesis.
- As they find ones that are featured in Genesis, make a separate stack of those cards.
- When you have found all the cards from Genesis, say: “Look at the important people in history whose stories we can read in Genesis. From Genesis to Revelation, the message of the Bible and each of these people’s lives is that God rescues us and brings us closer to Him.”
- Guide kids to find the Book of Genesis in their Bibles. Explain that today’s Bible story will be about Isaac, Abraham’s son.
- Dismiss to Bible Study.

## BIBLE SKILLS SPOTLIGHT

- Identifies prominent Bible people by the books in which their stories are recorded.
- Learns the Bible is God’s message about Himself and how He rescues and transforms us.

## BIBLE STUDY (35 MINUTES)

### JUMP IN

- Display the “Well Pictures” poster. Invite kids to look at the different types of wells.
- Most kids will not have used a well to get water before, but ask if anyone has or has seen one.
- Show the “Well Mosaic” visual and explain that in Bible times wells were very important because they were often the only source of water for a town. In many places in the world without running water, wells are still very important.
- Show the cup of water and invite the kids to take turns spooning the water into a bowl. Count the number of spoonfuls of water in the cup.
- Now bring out the cup filled with mud. Ask the kids to do the same thing, trying to get out spoonfuls of water.
- Ask the kids why they can’t get any more water out. (*Because the dirt has absorbed the water and it’s just mud now*)
- Say: “This is going to be important to our story today. Let’s find out more about it.”

### EXAMINE THE TEXT

- Direct kids to open their Bibles to Genesis 26.
- Ask a volunteer to read Genesis 26:1-6 to set the story.
- Now tell the rest of the Bible story in your own words. A Bible story page has been provided for you to use as a guide.
- Ask the kids to stand while you tell the story. Every time you mention that Isaac had to move, move to another part of the room and invite the kids to follow.
- When you get to the part about Isaac moving to Beer-sheba and building the altar, invite the kids to sit down.
- Say: “Finally Isaac could stay in this land with his family and all his flocks.”
- Ask: “Do you think Isaac had reason to be mad on this trip?” (*Of course! He was often treated unfairly and had to keep moving just to get clean water. That would make anyone mad.*)
- Ask: “What are some ways Isaac could have handled his anger?” (*Revenge, violence, filling up their wells with dirt*)
- Say: “Instead **Isaac trusted God and chose to seek peace.**”
- Display and point out the “Text Truth Strip.”

### PLAY THE VIDEO

- Play the Session 7 video.
- Ask: “Who did Kaileigh meet? Why did Morgan Grace travel to Asia? What happened while she was there? Why do Christians want others to have good, clean water?”

### TOOLS:

- Jump In: “Well Pictures” (Poster Pack), “Well Mosaic” (DVD-ROM), a cup of water, a cup of mud, plastic spoons, bowl
- Examine the Text: Bibles, “Text Truth Strips” (Poster Pack)
- Play the Video: Explore the Bible on Location Videos
- Memory Verse: “Genesis 26:24b” (Poster Pack), construction paper, marker
- Prayer: bowl, index cards, pencils, Family Cards

**MEMORY VERSE****PREPARATION:**

- Write each phrase of the Memory Verse on a separate paper.

**MEMORY VERSE**

- Show the “Genesis 26:24b” poster and read the Memory Verse together.
- Give the phrases of the verse that you’ve written on the paper to the kids and ask them to put themselves in order. Each time the kids get in order, say the verse again.
- Give each kid a chance to hold a part of the verse as new groups of kids put the verse in order.

**PRAYER**

- Distribute Family Cards and review today’s object, the “Well Mosaic.”
- Give kids index cards and pencils.
- Put the bowl in the middle of the group and explain that this will symbolize a well.
- Ask kids to write a sentence prayer to God.
- Invite them to put their cards in the “well” and remember that we can trust God like Isaac did.
- Tell them that you will take home the cards and pray for each of them this week. (*Make sure you follow through!*)
- Close with a short prayer aloud.
- Dismiss to Small Group.

## SMALL GROUP (30 MINUTES)

### EXPLORER GUIDES

- Distribute Explorer Guides and assist kids in locating today's pages, "God Blessed Isaac."
- Invite kids to review today's object, the "Well Mosaic."
- Guide boys and girls to complete the "Mosaic" activity.
- Allow kids to take turns reading about "How Wells Work."
- Direct kids to examine the map in "Isaac on the Map."
- Lead girls and boys to discuss the situations in "Choosing Peace."

### TECH CONNECT (OPTIONAL)

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

### ACTIVITIES

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

### TOOLS:

- Explorer Guides: Bibles, Explorer Guides, pens

## WATER FROM THE WELL

*Tools: 4 buckets (2 filled with water), 2 plastic cups, plastic sheeting or towels*

- If possible, consider going outside for this activity.
  - Set up the game with the two buckets with water at one end of the room and the empty buckets at the other.
  - If indoors, cover the floor with plastic sheeting or towels to keep the floor from getting wet.
- Form two teams.
  - Tell kids that this will be a relay to transfer the water from one "well" (or bucket) to the next.
  - When you say "Go," the first players in line will take the cup, run to the water bucket, fill it with water, and carefully walk to their empty bucket.
  - Encourage kids to be careful and try not to spill.
  - When the race is over, congratulate the team who transferred the most water.
  - Say: "Water was something that God provided for Isaac and He provides it for us. We should remember that we can trust God."
  - Review the Text Truth: **Isaac trusted God and chose to seek peace.**





## CLAY ALTARS

*Tools: Bible, modeling clay*

- Provide enough modeling clay for each kid to have enough to make a small altar out of clay “stones.”
- Ask a volunteer to read Genesis 26:23-25.
- Say: “People in the Bible would build an altar to God when they wanted to remember something special that God had done and to honor Him.”
- Review the Text Truth: **Isaac trusted God and chose to seek peace.**
- Say: “Instead of getting angry and fighting, Isaac chose peace and led his family safely to the land that God had prepared for them. That is the place where Isaac built his altar.”
- Instruct the group to make small balls or “stones” from the clay and stack them to make a small altar.
- If you prefer, work together as a group to make a larger altar.
- As kids work, discuss: “Is there anything God has done that you want to honor Him for? We don’t usually build altars today to honor God. What are some ways that we can honor God?”



## CHOOSE PEACE

*Tools: “Choosing Peace Cards” (enhanced CD)*

- Review the Text Truth: **Isaac trusted God and chose to seek peace.**
- Say: “It probably wasn’t easy to stay peaceful when Isaac was being treated badly and had to keep moving. It’s not always easy for us to choose peace either.”
- Ask for a volunteer to select a card and read the situation.
- Take time to answer the question on each card.
- Remind kids that God will be with us and will help us resist anger and wrong choices if we ask Him for help.



# GOD'S PLAN FOR JACOB



**Genesis 27–28; 32:1–32; 33:1–4**

Jacob, one of Isaac's twin sons, left home after tricking his brother, Esau, who vowed to harm Jacob. Jacob had been living with his uncle, Laban, for many years. God continually blessed Jacob, and he became very wealthy. Over time Laban and his sons became dissatisfied that Jacob still lived among them. Because he had apparently overstayed his welcome, Jacob decided to return to his home with his wives, 11 children, and numerous flocks.

Since Jacob had no way of knowing Esau's frame of mind, he sent men ahead of him to alert Esau of his arrival and to try to decipher Esau's true feelings towards him. The servants returned only with a message that Esau was coming to meet Jacob and he had 400 men with him. Fearful that Esau would attack, Jacob separated his family and flocks into two groups in hopes that if the first group was attacked, the other could safely escape.

Later that night Jacob sent his family across the river while he remained alone. Jacob was approached by a man who wrestled with him all night long. While the text does not immediately give clues to the identity of this unnamed "man" or give reasons for the struggle, it is clear that Jacob persisted. Neither man was victorious until dawn when the stranger dislocated Jacob's hip. Jacob refused to let go until he was blessed. Clearly Jacob understood that the man he was wrestling was no ordinary man.

In response to Jacob's request, the man asked Jacob his name. Once Jacob gave his name, which meant "cheater" or "supplanter," the visitor announced Jacob would no longer be called *Jacob*, but would be called *Israel*, a name which meant "he struggles with God."

Jacob's life characterized a struggle with God and even though Jacob sinned, God still used him. Just as God did with Jacob, He can redeem our sin and create something good. God loves people and cares for them, and God wants people to always follow Him.

## SESSION FOCUS

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Genesis 27–28; 32:1-32; 33:1-4

**MEMORY VERSE:** Jeremiah 29:11

**TEXT TRUTH:** God can redeem our sin and create something good.

**CHRIST IN CONTEXT:** The Book of Genesis is a book of beginnings. In the beginning, God created a perfect world. Sin separated mankind from God and showed that people need a Savior. God called Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob with a promise that one of their descendants would be the Messiah. Jesus is the Messiah, the One who came to rescue people from their sin.

### GET STARTED TOOLS

(10 MINUTES)

- Bible Skills:** *Bibles, commentaries or Genesis study materials, “Genesis” and “Bible Books” (Books of the Bible Posters)*

### BIBLE STUDY TOOLS

(35 MINUTES)

- Jump In:** *“Travels of Jacob Map” (DVD-ROM)*
- Examine the Text:** *Bibles, “Text Truth Strips” (Poster Pack), “The Gospel” (enhanced CD)*
- Play the Video:** *Explore the Bible on Location Videos*
- Memory Verse:** *“Jeremiah 29:11” (Poster Pack)*
- Prayer:** *Family Cards*

### SMALL GROUP TOOLS

(30 MINUTES)

- Explorer Guides:** *Bibles, Explorer Guides, pens*
- Move:** *“Jacob or Esau Statements” (enhanced CD), construction paper, marker, tape*
- Make:** *Bibles, regular size chocolate candy bars, markers, copy paper, tape, scissors, stickers*
- Explore:** *“Jacob and Esau Script” (enhanced CD)*

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

## GOD'S PLAN FOR JACOB

**Genesis 27–28; 32:1-32; 33:1-4**

*Isaac had twin sons, Jacob and Esau. One day as Isaac was getting older, he asked Esau to go hunting and bring back some food. Isaac planned to bless Esau. Rebekah, Esau and Jacob's mother, overheard Isaac's plan and she came up with a plan to trick Isaac. With Rebekah's help, Jacob tricked his father into thinking he was Esau and Jacob was given the special blessing.*

*When Esau discovered what happened, he was furious. Rebekah decided to send Jacob away to live with her brother. On Jacob's way, he stopped for the night. Jacob had a dream. He saw a staircase come down from heaven. Angels were going up and down the staircase. Then Jacob saw God and God said, "I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go." God promised to Jacob the same things that he promised to Isaac and Abraham. One day Jacob's descendants would live in the land that Jacob was leaving.*

*The next morning Jacob set a stone up as a marker. He poured oil over the stone and named the place Bethel. Jacob promised to follow God.*

*Years passed. Jacob got married. He had many children. One day, God told Jacob it was time to go back home. Jacob packed up his family and all of his belongings and began the trip. Jacob sent messengers to Esau to tell him that he, Jacob, was coming home. The messengers came back and told Jacob that Esau and 400 of his men were coming to meet them. Jacob was worried. What if Esau was still mad? What if Esau wanted to harm Jacob and his family? Jacob prayed to God and asked for His help.*

*The next night, Jacob took his family and sent them across the river ahead of him. While Jacob was alone, a man wrestled with him until daybreak. The man told Jacob, "Let me go." But Jacob refused, "Not until you bless me." So the man told Jacob, "Your name will now be Israel because you have struggled with God and with men and have prevailed." Then the man blessed Jacob. Jacob knew that something special had happened.*

*Jacob went to meet Esau. Esau wasn't angry with Jacob anymore. The brothers hugged and cried when they saw each other.*

*God was with Jacob and had a plan for him.*

### KEY POINTS

- Jacob was a sinner, but God loved Jacob and had a plan for him.

### TEXT CONNECTION

- Jacob, one of the twin sons of Isaac, had moved to live with his uncle Laban. Jacob had left his home because he had tricked his brother Esau, and Esau wanted to do great harm to Jacob.
- Jacob's life with Laban became a struggle for him also. Jacob knew it was time for him to return home. Jacob took his livestock and large family, and left for Canaan.
- While camping at the bank of the Jordan River, Jacob struggled with a man until morning. Jacob knew the man was not an ordinary man and asked him for a blessing.
- The man gave Jacob a new name, Israel. The name *Israel* symbolized the struggle that Jacob encountered, and became the name for a nation which also struggled with God.
- Jacob's struggles are echoed in the words of James, the brother of Christ, who told the believers to whom he wrote that trials will come and can be endured knowing God is still at work in all things.

### EXPLORE THE BIBLE AT HOME

See the enhanced CD for additional family resources.

## GET STARTED (10 MINUTES)

### TOOLS:

- Bible Skills: Bibles, commentaries or Genesis study materials, “Genesis” and “Bible Books” (Books of the Bible Posters)

### BIBLE SKILLS

- Welcome kids and as they enter, assign them one of the divisions of the Old Testament: Law, History, Poetry and Wisdom, Major Prophets, or Minor Prophets.
- Ask them to name one book found in the division you gave them. If they need help, direct them to the “Bible Books” poster.
- When the group is settled, show them the “Genesis” poster and review the facts.
- Distribute the commentaries or study materials and show kids how to look up passages of Scripture.
- Let them work in groups or with a partner to find out three more facts about Genesis.
- Explain that we can use trusted resources to help us in Bible study.
- Dismiss to Bible Study.

## BIBLE SKILLS SPOTLIGHT

- Uses Bible study resources to gather information about Bible writers.
- Names the 10 divisions of the Old and New Testaments in a limited time frame and identifies examples of books in each division.

## BIBLE STUDY (35 MINUTES)

### JUMP IN

- Ask: “Have you ever had a fight with your brother or sister?”
- Give time for kids to share, but be sensitive to keep them from sharing details that other family members might not appreciate!
- Say: “Today we’ll study the story of Jacob, who had a fight with his brother, Esau. In fact, Jacob had to leave his home to get far away from his brother. That is why our object is a map that shows us where Jacob traveled.”
- Show the “Travels of Jacob Map.”
- Ask for a volunteer to trace part of the path that Jacob took on his journey.
- Say: “Let’s find out more about Jacob and what happened on his journey.”

### EXAMINE THE TEXT

- Direct kids to open their Bibles to Genesis 33.
- Tell the Bible story in your own words. A Bible study page has been provided for you.
- As you tell the story, stop at the point before Jacob was reunited with Esau.
- Say: “Raise your hand if you think Esau was still angry with Jacob.” (*Let kids raise their hands.*) “Raise your hand if you think Esau had forgiven Jacob.”
- Ask for a volunteer to read aloud Genesis 33:1-4 to hear what happened when Esau and Jacob were reunited.
- Explain that Jacob was wrong to deceive Isaac and steal Esau’s birthright—the blessing that gave special favor to the firstborn son.
- Say: “What Jacob did was sinful, but God still loved Jacob and had a plan for his life.”
- Ask for a volunteer to read the “Text Truth Strip.”
- Discuss with kids how we need forgiveness when we sin, just like Jacob needed forgiveness from Esau and from God.
- Say: “When we ask God to forgive us, He is faithful to forgive us and make something good—even from our sin.”
- Review “The Gospel” with boys and girls. Provide kids, who would like to respond or ask more questions, an opportunity to speak with a leader.

### PLAY THE VIDEO

- Play the Session 8 video.
- Ask: “Who did Joel meet? What did he learn from the coach? What did Joel learn about Jacob?”

### MEMORY VERSE

- Show the “Jeremiah 29:11” poster and read the verse aloud together.
- Divide the group into partners or smaller groups.

### TOOLS:

- Jump In: “Travels of Jacob Map” (DVD-ROM)
- Examine the Text: Bibles, “Text Truth Strips” (Poster Pack), “The Gospel” (enhanced CD)
- Play the Video: Explore the Bible on Location Videos
- Memory Verse: “Jeremiah 29:11” (Poster Pack)
- Prayer: Family Cards

### TIP:

- A gospel presentation is available on the DVD-ROM to help you prepare to share the gospel. You may also opt to show the video to boys and girls.

- Tell them to practice saying the verse together, making up motions for the words *I, plans, Lord, hope, and future.*

**PRAYER**

- Ask kids to quietly think of a sin they need to ask forgiveness for.
- Give a moment of silence and direct them to ask God to forgive them of that sin.
- Ask if anyone would like to pray aloud in closing, thanking God for His forgiveness and good plans for their lives.
- Give everyone a Family Card to take home.
- Remind kids to share the card with their family and practice the family Bible skill throughout the week.
- Dismiss to Small Group.

## SMALL GROUP (30 MINUTES)

### EXPLORER GUIDES

- Distribute Explorer Guides and lead kids to find today's pages, "God's Plan for Jacob."
- Review today's Bible story by examining today's object, the "Travels of Jacob Map."
- Choose volunteers to read "Name Change."
- Select another volunteer to read aloud "Uncovering Bethel."
- Help kids use their Bibles to discover the answers in "What Does the Bible Say?"
- Encourage kids to spread out and quietly complete the activity, "Reflection."

### TECH CONNECT (OPTIONAL)

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

### ACTIVITIES

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

### TOOLS:

- Explorer Guides: Bibles, Explorer Guides, pens

## JACOB OR ESAU

*Tools: "Jacob or Esau Statements" (enhanced CD), construction paper, marker, tape*

- Make construction paper signs with *Jacob* written on one sign and *Esau* on the other sign.
- Display the signs on opposite walls in your meeting room. Make sure the space is clear for kids to move between them.

- Tell kids that you will review some facts that we learn from the Bible about Jacob and Esau.
- Explain that you will read a fact.
- If they think you are talking about Esau, they should move to that sign. If you are describing Jacob, they should move to that sign.
- Read each statement and give time for kids to move to the sign they choose. If kids move to the wrong place, let them move to the right sign before you continue.
- If you read two statements in a row that describe Jacob, they will stay in place.
- After you have read all the statements, remind kids that God worked to reunite the brothers and did great things in Jacob's life.
- Review the Text Truth: **God can redeem our sin and create something good.**



## JEREMIAH 29:11 ENCOURAGEMENT



Tools: Bibles, regular size chocolate candy bars, markers, copy paper, tape, scissors, stickers

- Ask kids to turn in their Bibles to Jeremiah 29:11.
- Say: “This verse is a popular verse because it reminds us that God has plans for us. Our Text Truth says **God can redeem our sin and create something good**. How did we see this happen in Jacob’s life?”
- Continue: “Today we are going to make a gift that you can give someone that will encourage her to remember that God has plans for her life.”
- Distribute a candy bar to each kid. Help kids wrap the candy bar in the paper. Trim the paper and tape it to fit the candy.
- Encourage kids to write today’s Memory Verse on the wrapped candy bar and decorate the new paper wrapper.
- Challenge kids to pray this week that God will show them someone to give the candy bar to. Emphasize that the candy bar is a gift of encouragement for someone else.
- As time allows, continue to review the Memory Verse allowing kids to take turns trying to say it from memory.

## TALK BETWEEN BROTHERS



Tools: “Jacob and Esau Script” (enhanced CD)

- ☐ Make two copies of the “Jacob and Esau Script.”
- Ask for volunteers to read the parts of Jacob and Esau.
- Say: “Let’s hear what the brothers said to each other when they were finally reunited.”
- Let the kids stand in front of the group and read the script.
- Remind kids that God brought the brothers back together.
- Review the Text Truth: **God can redeem our sin and create something good**.
- Say: “God can redeem our sin, too, and create something good.”



## Session 9



# JOSEPH SENT TO EGYPT

## Genesis 37:1-36; 41

Genesis 37 introduces us to Joseph, the second youngest son of Jacob, and the first born to Rachel. Joseph was one of 12 sons born to Jacob. At the age of 17 Joseph tended the flocks of his father. Joseph brought his father a bad report about several of his brothers and they were upset about Joseph's actions. Joseph had received preferential treatment from Jacob, and his brothers were jealous of this treatment and the special gift Jacob gave to Joseph.

One night, Joseph had a dream in which sheaves of grain bowed down to his sheaf of grain. When Joseph shared this dream, his brothers became more angry. Another dream involving the sun and moon was equally chided, not only by Joseph's brothers, but also by his father. Jacob assured Joseph that he and Joseph's brothers would not bow down to Joseph one day.

Later, Jacob sent Joseph to check on his brothers who were shepherding the flocks and bring back word. When the brothers saw Joseph coming they plotted to kill him. Reuben, Joseph's oldest brother, encouraged the others to not kill Joseph but to throw him into a pit. Reuben planned to return later and rescue Joseph, but he did not get that opportunity. The brothers saw a band of traders coming, brought Joseph out of the pit, and sold him to the traders who then took Joseph to Egypt. To cover up what they had done, Joseph's brothers tore his clothes, sprinkled blood from a lamb on them, and presented them to Jacob who assumed Joseph had been killed by a wild animal.

Joseph had a tumultuous time in Egypt and found himself imprisoned for a crime he had not committed. Joseph met a man in prison who mentioned his name to the pharaoh. Eventually, Joseph left the prison to interpret the dreams of the pharaoh, who promoted Joseph to second highest ruler in the kingdom. God was positioning Joseph to save a remnant of His people for God. Israel's family would soon make its way to Egypt.

## SESSION FOCUS

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Genesis 37:1-36; 41

**MEMORY VERSE:** Genesis 50:19-20

**TEXT TRUTH:** God is always with us, even when we suffer.

**CHRIST IN CONTEXT:** The Book of Genesis is a book of beginnings. In the beginning, God created a perfect world. Sin separated mankind from God and showed that people need a Savior. God called Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob with a promise that one of their descendants would be the Messiah. Jesus is the Messiah, the One who came to rescue people from their sin.

### GET STARTED TOOLS

(10 MINUTES)

- Bible Skills: *Bibles*

### BIBLE STUDY TOOLS

(35 MINUTES)

- Jump In: *coats, robes, and sweaters for kids to try on; "Colorful Coat" (DVD-ROM)*
- Examine the Text: *Bibles*
- Play the Video: *Explore the Bible on Location Videos*
- Memory Verse: *"Genesis 50:19-20" (Poster Pack), index cards or strips of paper, marker, coat or robe*
- Prayer: *"Text Truth Strips" (Poster Pack), marker board, dry erase marker, Family Cards*

### SMALL GROUP TOOLS

(30 MINUTES)

- Explorer Guides: *Bibles, Explorer Guides, pens*
- Move: *Bible story page, robe or coat*
- Make: *washi tape in a variety of patterns and colors, pencils, "Review Questions" (enhanced CD)*
- Explore: *pictures of modern-day Egypt (printed from the Internet), "Egypt Map" (Poster Pack)*

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# JOSEPH SENT TO EGYPT

## Genesis 37:1-36; 41

*Jacob had 12 sons, but Jacob loved one of the sons, Joseph, more than he loved the other sons. Jacob even made Joseph a special robe of many colors to show his love for Joseph. But Joseph's brothers were upset. They understood that Jacob loved Joseph more than he loved them, so they hated Joseph.*

*One day Joseph had a dream. He told his brothers, "In my dream, we were gathering our sheaves of grain in the field. Suddenly my sheaf stood up. Your sheaves gathered around it and bowed down." When Joseph's brothers heard this, they hated Joseph even more. They said, "Do you really think you will rule over us one day?"*

*Joseph had another dream that the sun, moon, and stars bowed down before him. This dream made the brothers even more jealous of Joseph.*

*Now Jacob sent Joseph to see if the brothers were doing a good job watching the flocks. Joseph's brothers saw him coming. They made a plan to kill Joseph. They wanted to throw Joseph down in a pit. One of the brothers, Reuben, told the other brothers not to kill Joseph. "Let's throw him in the pit but not hurt him." Reuben planned to come back later and rescue Joseph.*

*The brothers grabbed Joseph. They stole his special coat and tossed him into the pit. As the brothers sat and ate, a group of traders traveled by. Judah suggested they sell Joseph to the traders. The traders took Joseph to Egypt and the brothers led their father to think that Joseph was dead.*

*In Egypt, Joseph worked for a man named Potiphar until Potiphar's wife told an evil lie about Joseph. Joseph was thrown in prison. Even though Joseph was in prison, God was with Joseph.*

*One night, the pharaoh of Egypt had a dream. In his dream 7 skinny cows ate 7 fat cows. Then he had another dream that 7 skinny heads of grain ate 7 fat heads of grain. Pharaoh heard that Joseph could tell him what the dreams meant. God helped Joseph explain the dreams. The dreams were a warning that a famine was coming. Pharaoh put Joseph in charge of preparing for the famine.*

*Joseph was now the second in command in Egypt. For 7 years, Joseph helped the people save and store food for the famine.*

### KEY POINTS

- God was always with Joseph.

### TEXT CONNECTION

- Joseph was the second youngest of Jacob's 12 sons. Jacob had given Joseph a special robe and treated him differently from the other brothers. Jacob's other sons were jealous of the special treatment Jacob showed.
- One day the older brothers were tending their sheep. When the brothers saw Joseph coming, they took him, threw him in a pit, and took his special robe. They dipped the robe in the blood of a sheep and presented it to Jacob who was convinced Joseph was dead. In reality, Joseph was sold into slavery and taken to Egypt.
- God was with Joseph during his time in Egypt and even though Joseph suffered many trials and hardships, God was with Joseph. Ultimately, Pharaoh put Joseph in charge of securing grain to feed the Egyptians and the neighboring lands during a coming famine.
- In response to God's work in his life, Joseph was obedient to God while in Egypt. James assured believers that their response to Jesus' work in their lives should be obedience to His Word.

### EXPLORE THE BIBLE AT HOME

See the enhanced CD for additional family resources.

## GET STARTED (10 MINUTES)

**TOOLS:**

- Bible Skills: Bibles

**PREVIOUS MEMORY VERSES:**

- 2 Samuel 7:28
- Ephesians 4:32
- 2 Samuel 22:31
- 1 Chronicles 16:34
- 1 Chronicles 28:9b
- Genesis 17:7
- Genesis 26:24b
- Jeremiah 29:11

**BIBLE SKILLS**

- As kids gather, ask for volunteers to recite the books of the Old Testament from memory. You might also have some who can recite all the books of the Bible.
- Provide a time each week for those who want to say the books of the Bible from memory to do so.
- Distribute Bibles and direct kids to find Genesis 50:19-20. Ask for a volunteer to read it aloud.
- Repeat the activity, finding and reading other previous memory verses.
- Say: “These are important and well-known verses in the Bible. God’s Word is important for us to memorize.”
- Encourage kids to continue to practice finding some of these verses this week.
- Dismiss to Bible Study.

### BIBLE SKILLS SPOTLIGHT

- Memorizes Bible passages and quotes individual verses when given the reference.
- Locates from memory often-used Bible passages and memory verses.

## BIBLE STUDY (35 MINUTES)

### JUMP IN

- Show kids the robes, coats, and sweaters you've brought.
- Invite them to each choose one and try it on.
- Say: "In Bible times, it was considered an honor to give someone a coat or robe. The nicer the fabric, the better the gift seemed."
- Explain that in today's story, Joseph received a very special robe of many colors from his father.
- Show the "Colorful Coat" visual to demonstrate the many colors that might have been in the robe.
- Ask: "If you were getting a new robe, what colors would you choose for your robe?" Allow kids to answer.
- Say: "Let's find out more about Joseph and his coat of many colors."

### EXAMINE THE TEXT

- Distribute Bibles and direct kids to open to Genesis 37.
- Say: "This is the chapter where Joseph's story begins and we read about Joseph until the end of Genesis."
- Tell the Bible story in your own words. A Bible story page is provided for you.
- Ask: "What do you think Joseph's robe symbolized to his brothers?" (*That Jacob loved Joseph more than them*)
- Ask for volunteers to look up and read aloud the following passages: Genesis 37:3; 37:5-7; 37:18-20.
- Say: "Let's talk about how each of these people acted in a way that they probably shouldn't have."
  - ▶ Jacob/Israel—he showed favor to Joseph
  - ▶ Joseph—sharing dreams about his brothers bowing down to him
  - ▶ Brothers—let their anger turn to violence and hatred
- After discussion, say: "Even though Joseph might have made his family mad by saying that they would bow down to him, he didn't deserve to be treated like that. Joseph really suffered and was mistreated."
- Ask: "What are some ways that Joseph was mistreated?" (*Sold into slavery by his brothers, Potiphar's wife lied about him, thrown into jail*)
- Say: "The important thing to remember when we study a story like Joseph's is that God had a plan for Joseph and was always with him. We need to remember that he is always with us, too. **God is always with us, even when we suffer.**"
- Conclude: "Next week we will learn more about why God allowed all of these bad things to happen to Joseph. God knew that He would use all of these bad things to create something good for Joseph and his family."

### TOOLS:

- Jump In: coats, robes, and sweaters for kids to try on; "Colorful Coat" (DVD-ROM)
- Examine the Text: Bibles
- Play the Video: Explore the Bible on Location Videos
- Memory Verse: "Genesis 50:19-20" (Poster Pack), index cards or strips of paper, marker, coat or robe
- Prayer: "Text Truth Strips" (Poster Pack), marker board, dry erase marker, Family Cards

**MEMORY VERSE****PREPARATION:**

- Divide the Memory Verse into phrases and write the phrases on index cards or strips of paper.
- Put phrases of Genesis 50:19-20 in the pockets of a coat or robe (or many coats).

**PLAY THE VIDEO**

- Play the Session 9 video.
- Ask: “What challenge did Joel face? What did Joel learn about Joseph? Who should we be listening to and trusting each day?”

**MEMORY VERSE**

- Display the “Genesis 50:19-20” poster and ask kids to recite it together.
- Remind kids that this verse was a happy ending to Joseph’s story. Even though his brothers sold him and he was mistreated, God protected him and led him to be one of the rulers of Egypt!
- Tell kids to look in the coat pockets for the phrases of the Memory Verse.
- When they have found all the parts, direct them to put them in order and read it together again.

**PRAYER**

- Ask a volunteer to read the “Text Truth Strip.” **God is always with us, even when we suffer.**
- Say: “Since that’s what we’re thinking about today, let’s think of people we know who are suffering and need our prayers.”
- Invite kids to go to the marker board and write down the name, initials, or nickname of someone they know who is hurting in some way physically, emotionally, or spiritually.
- Ask kids to take a minute to look at the names on the board and pray silently, before you close in praying aloud.
- Distribute the Family Cards and encourage kids to share what they’ve learned with their families.
- Dismiss to Small Group.

## SMALL GROUP (30 MINUTES)

### EXPLORER GUIDES

- Distribute Explorer Guides and help boys and girls find today's pages, "Joseph Sent to Egypt."
- Invite kids to review today's Bible story by solving the clues in the "Reverse Crossword."
- Choose a volunteer to read about today's object, "Joseph's Colorful Coat."
- Select another volunteer to read aloud "Dreams and Visions."
- Guide kids to quietly examine "Ancient Silos" as you read the information aloud.
- Direct kids to choose a friend and talk through the possible responses to the "Tough Times" situations.

### TECH CONNECT (OPTIONAL)

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

### ACTIVITIES

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

### TOOLS:

- Explorer Guides: Bibles, Explorer Guides, pens

## JOSEPH AND HIS BROTHERS SKIT



*Tools: Bible story page, robe or coat to represent Joseph's coat*

- Provide a copy of the Bible story page or be prepared to tell in your own words the story of Joseph. If you have strong readers in your group, consider letting them read the story while the other kids act it out. Make sure the room is clear enough for kids to move around.
- **Say:** "The story of Joseph has all the parts of an exciting movie: danger, suspense, action. Let's act it out together."
- **Assign** the roles of Jacob, Joseph, the brothers, traders, Potiphar, Potiphar's wife, Pharaoh.
- **If your group is small, one person can play more than one role.**
- **Say:** "Ready! Set! Action!"
- **Read the story, letting kids act it out and move around the room as needed.**
- **When it's over, give them a standing ovation.**
- **Remind the group that when they think of this story, they should remember that God was with Joseph throughout his life and He will be with us, too.**
- **Conclude by reviewing the Text Truth: God is always with us, even when we suffer.**

## COLORFUL PENCILS



*Tools: washi tape in a variety of patterns and colors, pencils, "Review Questions" (enhanced CD)*

- Ask: "What did Joseph's father give him? Why did Joseph's brothers not like him? Who was with Joseph everywhere he went?"
- Explain that the kids will make something colorful to remind them of how God took care of Joseph and how He will take care of us.
- Distribute the washi tapes and direct kids to wrap it around a pencil. The tape should tear easily when they want to switch colors or patterns.
- Allow kids to make more than one pencil if they want.
- As kids work, ask today's "Review Questions."
- Conclude by reviewing the Text Truth: **God is always with us, even when we suffer.**

## A CLOSER LOOK AT EGYPT



*Tools: pictures of modern-day Egypt (from Internet), "Egypt Map" (Poster Pack)*

- Find pictures on the Internet of Egypt and print them for your group to see. Include ancient sites like the Pyramids and Sphinx, but also scenes of the modern cities.
- Review the Text Truth: **God is always with us, even when we suffer.**
- Say: "Joseph was sold into slavery and taken to Egypt. This is the same country that exists today."
- Display the "Egypt Map" and ask a volunteer to point out Egypt.
- Show the pictures of Egypt and point out that it is a country that has many ancient things and also modern things.
- Ask kids what they know about Egypt from the Bible or from their other studies.
- They have probably heard of mummies, pyramids, and the deserts.
- Say: "Egypt is an important part of the Bible. We need to remember that God is still at work in countries like Egypt, just as He was in the Bible."
- Continue: "There are Christians living in Egypt now. People are still sharing about God and the good news of Jesus in Egypt today."
- Close by praying for the Christians in Egypt who are trying to share the gospel with others.



## Session 10

# JOSEPH FORGAVE HIS BROTHERS



### Genesis 42–45

Joseph had been given the job to prepare Egypt for the coming famine. For seven years, Joseph led a team to take the excess grain and store it away so that Egypt and those who came to Egypt for assistance would be taken care of. Famine impacted the land of Canaan where Joseph's father, Jacob, and siblings lived. Jacob discovered Egypt had food, so he sent his ten sons to Egypt to get food. Benjamin, Joseph's youngest brother, remained at home with Jacob.

When the brothers arrived in Egypt and approached the manager concerning food disbursement, Joseph immediately recognized his brothers. Joseph, as one of the youngest brothers, had aged and was unrecognizable to his siblings. It is likely that Joseph was also adorned in Egyptian dress that would have made him more unrecognizable. Joseph decided to test his brothers to see if they had repented of their actions. Joseph challenged the brothers' intentions and even accused them of being spies. With their insistence they were good and honest men, Joseph finally released them with grain, keeping one of them—Simeon—in prison while the others returned home to bring back the brother who was still at home with their father.

When the brothers returned home Jacob wondered at the circumstances that left Simeon in prison. Eventually seeing his family was about to run out of food once again, Jacob sent the brothers back to Egypt, this time with Benjamin. Joseph again tested the brothers, and after discovering their remorse for their actions, asked for the room to be cleared so he could speak privately to his brothers. Joseph revealed his true identity and the brothers became frightened. Joseph assured the brothers he was not angry and that God Himself had orchestrated the events that brought the brothers back together. Jacob and his family moved to Egypt where they would remain as a remnant until God sent a deliverer to lead them to freedom.

## SESSION FOCUS

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Genesis 42–45

**MEMORY VERSE:** Genesis 50:19-20

**TEXT TRUTH:** Even when we can't see it, God is using our tough times to create good for us.

**CHRIST IN CONTEXT:** The Book of Genesis is a book of beginnings. In the beginning, God created a perfect world. Sin separated mankind from God and showed that people need a Savior. God called Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob with a promise that one of their descendants would be the Messiah. Jesus is the Messiah, the One who came to rescue people from their sin.

### GET STARTED TOOLS

(10 MINUTES)

- Bible Skills: *Bibles, "Find It Today" (enhanced CD)*

### BIBLE STUDY TOOLS

(35 MINUTES)

- Jump In: *"Egyptian Clothing" (DVD-ROM)*
- Examine the Text: *"Text Truth Strips" (Poster Pack), Bibles*
- Play the Video: *Explore the Bible on Location Videos*
- Memory Verse: *"Genesis 50:19-20" (Poster Pack)*
- Prayer: *Family Cards, "Text Truth Strips" (Poster Pack)*

### SMALL GROUP TOOLS

(30 MINUTES)

- Explorer Guides: *Bibles, Explorer Guides, pens*
- Move: *"Situation Charade Strips" (enhanced CD), basket*
- Make: *"Egyptian Collars" (enhanced CD), construction paper, glitter, glue, plastic jewels, "Genesis 50:19-20" (Poster Pack), markers, "Joseph Forgave His Brothers" (DVD-ROM)*
- Explore: *"Joseph's Timeline" (enhanced CD)*

**NOTE:** Downloadable versions of DVD items are available in the Digital Video Bundle.

Downloadable versions of enhanced CD items are available in the Music and Print Extras Bundle.

For free online training on how to lead a group, visit [ministrygrid.com/web/explorethebible](http://ministrygrid.com/web/explorethebible).

# JOSEPH FORGAVE HIS BROTHERS

## Genesis 42–45

*One day, the pharaoh of Egypt had a dream. He heard that Joseph could tell him what the dream meant. God helped Joseph explain the dream. The dream was a warning that a famine was coming. The pharaoh put Joseph in charge of preparing for the famine.*

*Joseph was now the second in command in Egypt. For seven years, Joseph helped the people save and store food for the famine.*

*Meanwhile, Joseph's brothers and father, Jacob, were back in Canaan. In Canaan, the famine came, but the people weren't prepared. They had a hard time finding food. Jacob heard that Egypt had food, so he sent 10 of his sons to Egypt.*

*Joseph's brothers traveled to Egypt and bowed before Joseph to ask for food. Joseph recognized his brothers, but his brothers did not recognize him. They told Joseph that they had one brother at home with their dad and another brother who had died. Joseph decided to test his brothers to see if they had changed.*

*"You are spies," Joseph said, and he had them put in jail. Joseph agreed to allow one brother to stay while the other brothers took grain home and came back with their youngest brother.*

*Eventually, Jacob agreed to allow the brothers to return to Egypt for more grain and to take their youngest brother, Benjamin. Joseph tested his brothers again. He tried to take Benjamin, but Judah begged him not to. "Please," he said, "our father loves him and will die if Benjamin does not return home."*

*Joseph knew that his brothers had changed. He began to cry and told his brothers, "I am Joseph! God sent me here to help you. There will be 5 more years of famine. God sent me here to establish a remnant and to keep you alive."*

*Joseph told his brothers to return home and bring back their father Jacob and their families. Joseph promised to take care of everyone during the famine. Joseph had experienced many difficult times in his life, but God used all of those difficult times to create something good for Joseph and his family.*

### KEY POINTS

- Joseph chose to have peace with his brothers.
- Joseph forgave his brothers and was compassionate toward them.

### TEXT CONNECTION

- Joseph always trusted God to provide for him no matter his circumstances. Now in charge of helping to save Egypt and the surrounding nations from famine, Joseph came face to face with his brothers who were asking for help. Joseph had a choice to make—honor God or take revenge.
- Joseph's faith in God drove Joseph to choose to honor God, but Joseph tested his brothers to see if they had changed. Joseph discovered their hearts had changed and they were repentant, so Joseph finally revealed his true identity to them.
- Once the brothers realized to whom they had been talking, they became afraid. Joseph assured the brothers that he was not angry. Their former actions had been used by God to create good for his family.
- James wrote to believers that true faith produces visible change. Joseph tested his brothers to see if they had changed, and likewise, believers in Christ should show a change in direction and attitude through their faith in Christ.

### EXPLORE THE BIBLE AT HOME

See the enhanced CD for additional family resources.

## GET STARTED (10 MINUTES)

### TOOLS:

- Bible Skills: Bibles, “Find It Today” (enhanced CD)

### BIBLE SKILLS

- As kids come in, ask them to stand in a circle with their Bibles.
- Ask for volunteers to call out a book in the Old Testament, and then practice finding it in one minute (*or 30 seconds, if your group is very strong with Bible skills.*)
- Allow 5-6 rounds, before saying: “If you practice finding books of the Bible and Bible verses every day, you will get faster. It’ll be easier to find the books you are looking for.”
- Distribute “Find It Today” and encourage kids to practice finding the books of the Bible for each day of the week ahead.
- Suggest that they ask their family members to practice with them.
- Ask: “Which book did we study last week?” (*Genesis*) “We are going to finish our study of Genesis today.”
- Dismiss to Bible Study.

## BIBLE SKILLS SPOTLIGHT

- Locates all the books of the Bible in a limited time frame.
- Establishes the discipline of daily Bible reading.

## BIBLE STUDY (35 MINUTES)

### JUMP IN

- As you transition to Bible study, ask kids to think of a crazy dream that they have had.
- Be prepared to share a dream of your own with your group, and then leave time for kids to share some of their dreams.
- Ask: “Do you think your dreams mean something?”
- Leave time for their thoughts, and then say: “Not all dreams mean something, but God can use dreams to speak to people. In the Bible, God spoke to people through dreams and He gave Joseph the ability to tell people what their dreams meant.”
- Briefly review the part of last week’s story where Joseph was sent to Egypt.
- Show the “Egyptian Clothing” visual.
- Share: “Our object today shows us how the Egyptians’ clothing was different than what Joseph wore as a boy at home with his family. After living in Egypt and being made second in command, Joseph probably dressed like the Egyptians. His Egyptian style of clothing and the fact that Joseph had grown up from a teenager to an adult meant that some special visitors to Egypt, who had known Joseph as a boy, didn’t recognize him. Let’s continue our study of Genesis and discover the rest of Joseph’s story.”

### EXAMINE THE TEXT

- Direct kids to turn to Genesis 42, where the story of Joseph continues.
- Tell the Bible story in your own words. A Bible story page has been provided for you to use as a guide.
- Say: “I want you to pay attention to a few really neat things in this story.”
- Ask a volunteer to turn back to Genesis 37:5-7 and read it aloud.
- Then ask someone else to read aloud Genesis 42:5-7.
- Ask: “What is so cool about these verses?” (*Joseph’s dream came true!*)
- Ask: “Why do you think Joseph accused his brothers of being spies, put them in jail, then sent them back home while keeping Simeon in prison?” (*To see if the brothers were truly sorry for their past actions and if they had changed*)
- Discuss how important it was that Joseph was a leader in Egypt at that time. (*He was able to care for his family and make sure that they had grain. God also used him to care for many Egyptians who wouldn’t have had food during the famine.*)
- Say: “God had plans all along to use the hard times in Joseph’s life for good! Joseph’s family was rescued from the famine. All of these hard, difficult times in Joseph’s life ultimately led to God saving Joseph’s entire family. Wow!”
- Display the “Text Truth Strip.” Read aloud the statement: **Even when we can’t see it, God is using our tough times to create good for us.**

### TOOLS:

- Jump In: “Egyptian Clothing” (DVD-ROM)
- Examine the Text: “Text Truth Strips” (Poster Pack), Bibles
- Play the Video: Explore the Bible on Location Videos
- Memory Verse: “Genesis 50:19-20” (Poster Pack)
- Prayer: Family Cards, “Text Truth Strips” (Poster Pack)

**PLAY THE VIDEO**

- Play the Session 10 video.
- Ask: “Who did Kaileigh encounter in today’s adventure? What did Kaileigh learn about Joseph? Who sees us and is with us during tough times?”

**MEMORY VERSE**

- Show the “Genesis 50:19-20” poster and read the verse aloud together.
- Pair kids together and tell them to practice the verse together.
- Tell them to practice saying one word at a time, going back and forth between them. (*Ex. Jason says “But,” Carrie says “Joseph,” Jason says “said” and so on.*)
- Encourage them to look at the poster at first, and then try to say the verses from memory without looking.

**PRAYER**

- Remind kids of the “Text Truth Strip” that is displayed in your room.
- Ask kids to share good things that have happened to them, that might have started with something sad or bad.
- Ask for volunteers to pray aloud, thanking God for the good things that He brings from sadness and hurt.
- Distribute the Family Cards and encourage kids to tell what they’ve learned about Joseph to their families.
- Dismiss to Small Group.

## SMALL GROUP (30 MINUTES)

### EXPLORER GUIDES

- Distribute Explorer Guides and help kids find today's pages, "Joseph Forgave His Brothers."
- Invite kids to read about the "Famous Pharaohs" in Egypt's past.
- Read aloud "Egypt in Joseph's Time."
- Guide kids to complete the "Hieroglyphics" activity to review today's Bible study. Then select someone to read about today's object, "Joseph's Egyptian Clothing."
- Conclude by challenging kids to honestly think through the statements on the "Forgiveness Scale" and mark their responses.

### TECH CONNECT (OPTIONAL)

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

### ACTIVITIES

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

### TOOLS:

- Explorer Guides: Bibles, Explorer Guides, pens

## SITUATION CHARADES

*Tools: "Situation Charade Strips" (enhanced CD), basket*

- Make sure there is room for kids to act out scenes from the "Situation Charade Strips." Cut the strips apart and put them in a basket.

- Explain that kids will take turns choosing a strip from the basket and acting out the scene that's described.
- The other kids will guess what is happening in the scene.
- After each scene, discuss ways that God could turn that negative situation into something positive.
- Review the Text Truth: **Even when we can't see it, God is using our tough times to create good for us.**



## EGYPTIAN COLLARS



Tools: “Egyptian Collar” (enhanced CD), construction paper, glitter, glue, plastic jewels, “Genesis 50:19-20” (Poster Pack), markers, “Joseph Forgave His Brothers” (DVD-ROM)

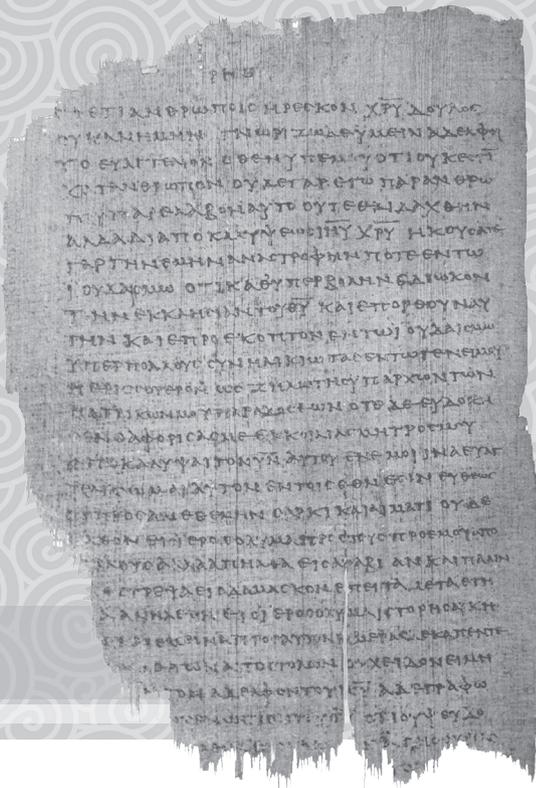
- Make a copy of the “Egyptian Collars” for each member of your group.
- Display the Bible story picture, “Joseph Forgave His Brothers.” Allow kids to compare Joseph’s clothing with his brothers’ clothing. Note that you will make a collar like Joseph has to remember today’s story.
- Distribute the “Egyptian Collar” pictures and lead kids to glue their collar to construction paper to make it sturdier.
- Point out the “Genesis 50:19-20” poster and tell kids to write the verse on the collar, however they want to display it.
- Give kids time to decorate their collars using the craft supplies provided.
- Encourage kids to take the collars home and remember how God used Joseph in Egypt and how He is always with us.
- Review the Text Truth: **Even when we can’t see it, God is using our tough times to create good for us.**

## JOSEPH’S TIMELINE



Tools: “Joseph’s Timeline” (enhanced CD)

- Cut “Joseph’s Timeline” into squares and put them facedown on the floor. Print an extra copy of the timeline to help you remember the correct order.
- Explain that boys and girls can take turns choosing a square and that together you’ll try to put the major events of Joseph’s life in order.
- The first person to draw a card will read it aloud and lay it on a table or another place on the floor.
- The second will draw a card, read it, and decide if it goes before or after the first card.
- Let the kids work together to get the cards in order.
- Use the extra timeline to help them if needed.
- When all the cards are in order, tell kids to look at each of these events and remember how God was with Joseph, even in the bad times.
- Review the Text Truth: **Even when we can’t see it, God is using our tough times to create good for us.**



# Session 11



## THE BOOK OF GALATIANS

**Galatians 2:15-21; 3:1-29; 5:13-26; 6:1-10**

Paul wrote this letter to the Galatian churches from prison. Paul's letter to the Galatians is one of the harshest letters he ever wrote. The churches in this region had been infiltrated with Judaizers, a group of Jews who preached a false gospel encouraging Gentiles who were converted to take on outward signs of the Jews. Judaizers taught that true conversion could not take place unless a Gentile became like a Jew. Paul was angry at this teaching, and wrote this letter to help the churches know that true salvation came only through faith in Jesus Christ.

In Galatians 2:15-21, Paul sets forth his argument of salvation through faith in Christ alone. Paul's common ground with the Galatians was that salvation was through faith. Paul differed with the Galatians by teaching that nothing else was required for that salvation. Paul clearly stated that works of the hand were not required to bring about salvation. Paul introduced in this section the term *justification*, which means that God does not see a guilty sinner but one who has been judged to be righteous through the sacrifice of Christ. The entire act of justification can only be accomplished by God, not through works or customs. Paul clearly rebuffed the Judaizers in this teaching.

Paul then scolded the Galatians for being sidetracked from the truth by these false teachings. Paul's plea to the Galatians was for them to abandon these false teachings and to again follow God. Paul used examples from Israel's history to highlight the futility of trying to earn salvation through human means. Paul claimed that works had not earned salvation for the early Israelites and it would not earn salvation now. God's plan was always for Israel to be reconciled to Him by faith in the sacrifice of Christ on the cross.

Paul ended his letter by encouraging the Galatians to support each other and to care for one another. By doing this the Galatians, and all people, will fulfill the law of Christ.

## SESSION FOCUS

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Galatians 2:15-21; 3:1-29; 5:13-26; 6:1-10

**MEMORY VERSE:** Galatians 6:9a

**TEXT TRUTH:** We cannot earn our salvation in any way. Salvation comes only by faith in Jesus.

**CHRIST IN CONTEXT:** The Book of Galatians affirms the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Paul shares that salvation comes only by grace alone through faith alone and people can do nothing to earn that salvation. Jesus kept the law perfectly and paid the penalty for our sin. By His death and resurrection He redeems people and provides eternal life in His Kingdom. It is through Jesus that we are made new and can live like Him.

### GET STARTED TOOLS

(10 MINUTES)

- Bible Skills:** *Bibles*, “*Bible Books Fill-In*” (enhanced CD), “*Christ in Context: Galatians*” (Poster Pack)

### BIBLE STUDY TOOLS

(35 MINUTES)

- Jump In:** “*Galatians Papyrus*” (DVD-ROM)
- Examine the Text:** *Bibles*, “*Text Truth Strips*” and “*Fruit of the Spirit*” (Poster Pack), “*Galatians*” (Books of the Bible Posters)
- Play the Video:** *Explore the Bible on Location Videos*
- Memory Verse:** *construction paper*, *marker*, “*Galatians 6:9a*” (Poster Pack)
- Prayer:** “*The Gospel*” (enhanced CD), *Family Cards*

### SMALL GROUP TOOLS

(30 MINUTES)

- Explorer Guides:** *Bibles*, *Explorer Guides*, *pens*
- Move:** “*Directions*” (enhanced CD), *basket*
- Make:** “*One Way Sign*” (enhanced CD), *crayons or markers*, “*Text Truth Strips*” (Poster Pack)
- Explore:** “*The Gospel*” (enhanced CD)

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# THE BOOK OF GALATIANS

**Galatians 2:15-21; 3:1-29; 5:13-26; 6:1-10**

*Paul wanted to tell everyone about Jesus. Paul traveled to new towns and told people about Jesus. When the people believed, Paul would help them start a church so they could gather together and continue learning about Jesus. Then Paul would travel to a new city. Sometimes Paul visited the cities again and stayed to help the church grow and learn more about Jesus. Sometimes Paul wrote letters to the churches to teach them.*

*One day Paul wrote a letter to the churches of Galatia. One of the challenges the early church faced was knowing what was true about God and Jesus and knowing what was false. Paul wanted to help the churches of Galatia know the true gospel, not what people had made up and lied about.*

*Paul told the church, “We are justified by faith in Jesus.” Then Paul explained that if people could be righteous by obeying the law, then Jesus’ death on the cross would have been for nothing. But we needed Jesus to pay the price for our sin. We cannot earn our salvation. Just as Abraham believed in God and it was credited to him as righteousness, so we believe.*

*Paul explained that the law had a purpose. The law showed us our sin and helped us see when we needed to repent. Now that Jesus has come, we are justified by our faith.*

*Later in his letter, Paul gave the believers some instructions, “Serve each other with love. Listen to the Holy Spirit and follow His leadership in your life. Don’t be tempted by the flesh (your sinful nature). The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Believers should obey the Holy Spirit and resist sin. Help each other out. Examine your own work and do not compare your work to someone else’s work. What a person sows, he will reap. Do not grow tired of doing what is good. Work for the good of all, especially other believers.”*

## KEY POINTS

- We can have a relationship with God because Jesus paid the price for our sin.
- Justification comes through faith.

## TEXT CONNECTION

- Paul wrote this letter to the church in Galatia to help believers know what justification looked like. *Justification* is a term that means a person has been declared innocent by God. Instead of seeing sin, God sees the risen Jesus who paid the penalty for sin.
- Judaizers had infiltrated the church in Galatia and were preaching that those who became believers needed to also take on physical signs of being a Jew. Paul wanted the church to know that only repentance and faith in Christ was needed for one to be saved. Through Christ’s justification, God views all believers equally.
- Paul reminded the Galatians of the faith they originally followed when he first preached to them. The Galatians had been led astray by the Judaizers, and Paul wanted the church to know that he was concerned about this shift.
- James echoes Paul’s encouragement to remain strong in the faith by encouraging believers to remain strong by having speech that honors God.

## EXPLORE THE BIBLE AT HOME

See the enhanced CD for additional family resources.

## GET STARTED (10 MINUTES)

### TOOLS:

- Bible Skills: Bibles, “Bible Books Fill-In” (enhanced CD), “Christ in Context: Galatians” (Poster Pack)

### BIBLE SKILLS

- Greet kids as they come in and give them a copy of “Bible Books Fill-In.”
- Ask boys and girls to work together to fill in the books.
- Let them check their work using the table of contents from the Bible.
- Ask kids to turn together to the beginning of the New Testament.
- Say: “In the New Testament, we read about Jesus’ life on earth—how He was born, lived, died, and rose again. We call this the gospel or good news—the story of salvation through Jesus.”
- Explain that God’s plan through Jesus can be seen throughout the Old Testament, too, but in the New Testament, we learn details about Him and how we can have eternal life through Jesus.
- Say: “Today we are studying Galatians.”
- Display the “Christ in Context: Galatians” poster.
- Invite kids to read the statement aloud and discuss what Galatians teaches about Jesus.
- Dismiss to Bible Study.

## BIBLE SKILLS SPOTLIGHT

- Names all the books of the Old Testament and all the books of the New Testament.
- Knows that the Bible tells about God’s plan to rescue us. Knows how to use the Bible to tell someone about God and Jesus.

## BIBLE STUDY (35 MINUTES)

### JUMP IN

- Welcome girls and boys as they arrive.
- Display the “Galatians Papyrus.”
- Ask: “Does anyone recognize today’s object? Anyone want to guess what it is?” Allow kids to guess.
- Continue: “Our object is a piece of papyrus (*ancient paper*). Someone, long ago, copied the text of the Book of Galatians onto this papyrus. It is written in Greek. The New Testament was first written in Greek, long before someone translated it to English. Why do you think this is our object?”
- Say: “Today we are studying the Book of Galatians, the same verses that are written on this papyrus.”

### EXAMINE THE TEXT

- Ask kids to turn in their Bibles to Galatians.
- Display the “Galatians” poster and ask a volunteer to read aloud about Paul and his letter.
- Tell the Bible story in your own words. A Bible story page has been provided for you to use as a guide.
- Say: “Let’s look closer at some of the things Paul told the church, that we also need to remember today.”
- Ask a volunteer to look up and read aloud Galatians 5:22-23.
- Display the “Fruit of the Spirit” poster and say: “We call these characteristics the fruit of the spirit, because just like fruit is the good thing that comes from a tree, these are the good things that will come from us when we obey the Holy Spirit.”
- Ask volunteers to also look up and read Galatians 6:9 and 6:14.
- Say: “In these verses, we learn that following Jesus was the most important thing to Paul. And he wanted the church to tell others about Jesus and not get tired of doing good for each other.”
- Show the “Text Truth Strip” and read it together: **we cannot earn our salvation in any way. Salvation comes only by faith in Jesus.**
- Say: “Having faith in Jesus means admitting that we sin, asking for His forgiveness, believing in Jesus as the one way to salvation, and committing to obey Him for the rest of our lives.”
- Take time to share with the kids how you became a follower of Jesus.

### PLAY THE VIDEO

- Play the Session 11 video.
- Ask: “What did Kaileigh learn about today? What simple truth did Paul remind the Galatians about? How do we produce good fruit?”

### TOOLS:

- Jump In: “Galatians Papyrus” (DVD-ROM)
- Examine the Text: Bibles, “Text Truth Strips” and “Fruit of the Spirit” (Poster Pack), “Galatians” (Books of the Bible Posters)
- Play the Video: Explore the Bible on Location Videos
- Memory Verse: construction paper, marker, “Galatians 6:9a” (Poster Pack)
- Prayer: “The Gospel” (enhanced CD), Family Cards

### DEFINITION:

- Justification means to be declared righteous by God. When you trust in Jesus as Savior, God sees Jesus’ sinless life and His sacrifice on the cross for your sin when He looks at you instead of your sin.

**MEMORY VERSE****PREPARATION:**

- Write each word of the Memory Verse on a separate piece of construction paper.

**MEMORY VERSE**

- Display the “Galatians 6:9a” poster. Read the verse aloud a few times with the boys and girls.
- Set the papers out in the room like the stones of a path.
- Direct kids to form a line and step on each word of the verse, as they say the word aloud.
- If time permits, let them walk the path several times, going faster each time.

**PRAYER**

- Review “The Gospel” with boys and girls.
- Be sensitive to kids who are ready to follow Jesus and also to those who may know very little about Jesus.
- Say: “Jesus asks each of us to follow Him and receive His gift of salvation. If you have any questions about becoming a Christian or the gospel, please talk to an adult leader or your parents.”
- Give kids the Family Cards to take home and encourage them to talk about how to follow Jesus with their families.
- Dismiss to Small Group.

## SMALL GROUP (30 MINUTES)

### EXPLORER GUIDES

- Distribute Explorer Guides and lead girls and boys to locate today's pages, "The Book of Galatians."
- Invite a volunteer to read aloud "What Is an Epistle?"
- Review today's object, the "Papyrus of Galatians 1."
- Help kids recall the fruit of the Spirit by solving the "Fruity Wordsearch."
- Select a volunteer to read "Galatia on a Map."
- Read "One Way."
- Guide kids to complete the activity, "What Is the Gospel?"

### TECH CONNECT (OPTIONAL)

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

### ACTIVITIES

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

### TOOLS:

- Explorer Guides: Bibles, Explorer Guides, pens

## HOW TO

Tools: "Directions" (enhanced CD), basket

- Cut apart the directions for kids to choose out of a basket.

- Ask for a volunteer to choose a set of directions from the basket and do his best to explain to the group how to do the direction listed on his paper.
- The other kids should stand up and act out the directions as the volunteer explains it.
- Repeat with the other sets of directions, selecting a new volunteer each time.
- After the activity, say: "God gives us directions in the Bible of how to follow Him. There's nothing we can do to earn our salvation, we receive salvation through faith in Jesus."
- Lead kids to say the Text Truth and allow kids to ask any questions they have about the gospel and salvation.  
**We cannot earn our salvation in any way. Salvation comes only by faith in Jesus.**





## ONE WAY SIGN

Tools: “One Way Sign” (enhanced CD), crayons or markers, “Text Truth Strips” (Poster Pack)

- Review the Text Truth: **We cannot earn our salvation in any way. Salvation comes only by faith in Jesus.**
- Ask for kids to raise their hands and share directions for how to get from your room to familiar places: the church worship center, the church kitchen, home, a local restaurant, their school.
- Since kids don’t drive, giving directions to places far away will be hard. Try to choose places around the church or places the kids could walk to from your church.
- Say: “There is usually more than one way to get to a place around us. But there is only one way to get to Jesus.”
- Distribute a copy of the “One Way Sign” to each kid.
- Ask kids to make their own signs to take home so they can remember that there is only one way to have eternal life with Jesus.
- Show the “Text Truth Strip” and encourage kids to write the Text Truth on their signs, before they begin decorating them.



## SHARING THE GOSPEL

Tools: “The Gospel” (enhanced CD)

- Make a copy of “The Gospel” for each kid.

- Review the gospel as displayed on “The Gospel” page.
- Form small groups or partners and let them practice telling each other about the gospel.
- Encourage them to look for opportunities to share these truths with their friends.
- As a leader, be aware of kids who have not followed Christ. If needed, be prepared to talk with them further outside of group. Include their families and/or church staff as appropriate for those who want to make decisions public.
- Conclude by reviewing the Text Truth: **We cannot earn our salvation in any way. Salvation comes only by faith in Jesus.**



# Session 12



## THE BOOK OF JAMES

**James 1:2-8,19-27; 2:14-26; 3:1-18**

James, the half-brother of Jesus, is the author of this book. James had grown up as an unbeliever. In 1 Corinthians 15:7, Paul mentions an appearance of the risen Christ to James. Following this event, James believed and became one of the more prominent leaders in the early church. Once Peter departed his ministry in Jerusalem, James became the pastor of the Jerusalem congregation.

According to the first verse, James wrote his letter to the twelve tribes who had been dispersed. James, as pastor of the Jerusalem congregation, was writing to encourage those from his congregation who had escaped from Jerusalem that they still needed to remember the importance of obeying God's commands. James encouraged believers to understand that trials and struggles would come even to faithful believers, but if they put their trust and faith in God and His Word, they would be strengthened by the Spirit.

God's Word is to be honored and James taught the early believers to not just read God's Word but to also do what God's Word teaches. The Book of James begins a treatise on what faith in Christ looks like by giving examples of things believers would be involved in if they truly followed Christ. James said that believers would help fellow believers who have needs such as food and clothing. James also clearly defined the difference between justification by faith and justification by works. James identified the works of a man's hand as those things that show evidence of his justification by faith, not a way to earn it.

James next moved to motivations of the heart and focused on the words that are spoken by believers. James spent a great deal of time speaking about the tongue to help the churches remember how important it was for their words to build up others instead of tear them down. James commanded believers to always use their words to be Christlike. Believers should do what the Bible says. We are always to love and obey God so others will want to know Him, too.

## SESSION FOCUS

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** James 1:2-8,19-27; 2:14-26; 3:1-18

**MEMORY VERSE:** James 1:22

**TEXT TRUTH:** Those who believe in God should obey God's commands.

**CHRIST IN CONTEXT:** The Book of James teaches that Jesus fulfilled God's Law. Jesus' fulfillment of the Law secures believers' salvation and provides a pathway for pursuing Christlikeness. The more we know Jesus, the more we are able to obey God's Word and live like Jesus. Knowing and doing God's Word shows a person's faith in Jesus.

### GET STARTED TOOLS

(10 MINUTES)

- Bible Skills: *Bibles*

### BIBLE STUDY TOOLS

(35 MINUTES)

- Jump In: "James 1:22" (*Poster Pack*), "Ancient Boat" (*DVD-ROM*), *paper towels*
- Examine the Text: *Bibles*, "Text Truth Strips" (*Poster Pack*), *marker board*, *dry erase marker*, "James" (*Books of the Bible Posters*)

- Play the Video: *Explore the Bible on Location Videos*

- Memory Verse: "James 1:22" (*Poster Pack*)
- Prayer: *Family Cards*, "Prayer Walk Pictures" (*Poster Pack*), *tape*, *scissors*

### SMALL GROUP TOOLS

(30 MINUTES)

- Explorer Guides: *Bibles*, *Explorer Guides*, *pens*
- Move: "James Jumble Commands" (*enhanced CD*), *basket*, *chairs*

- Make: *large box*, *wrapping paper* or *bulletin paper*, *crayons*, *markers*, *tape*
- Explore: "Service Event Planning" (*enhanced CD*)

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

# THE BOOK OF JAMES

**James 1:2-8,19-27; 2:14-26; 3:1-18**

*James was the half-brother of Jesus. Before Jesus died on the cross and was resurrected, James did not believe that Jesus was the Messiah. After Jesus was resurrected, He appeared to James and James believed. James became a leader in the early church in Jerusalem and he wrote a letter to Jewish believers living in a variety of places in and around Israel.*

*James understood that the believers were facing difficult times. He encouraged them that facing difficult times was testing their faith and would bring endurance. Endurance will help a believer mature. “If anyone needs wisdom,” James wrote, “ask God. He gives with generosity. Ask with faith and do not doubt. Someone who doubts is like a sea when it is tossed by the wind.”*

*James also wanted the believers to understand that their actions were important. “Be quick to hear, slow to speak, and slow to get angry. Getting angry does not meet God’s standards of what is right. Get rid of any sin and evil in your lives. Don’t just listen to God’s Word—obey it. Control your tongue. Honoring God includes looking after the orphans and widows who need help.”*

*James understood that no one can earn their salvation by doing good deeds. He also understood that when someone repents of their sin and trusts Jesus as their Savior and Lord, their actions should be different.*

*James told the believers, “If someone needs clothes and food you don’t tell them, ‘go in peace, stay warm, and eat well,’ without helping them with what they need. People should be able to look at your actions and understand that you have faith. Faith without actions is not real faith. It is a dead faith.”*

*Then James wrote to the believers about the things they say. “A bit in a horse’s mouth controls the horse. A rudder on a ship controls the ship. The tongue is a small part of the body, but it can do a lot of damage. You cannot praise God one minute and say ugly things about people the next. Wisdom that comes from God is pure. It loves peace. It is gentle and obedient. This wisdom is full of mercy and doesn’t show favoritism or hypocrisy. Those who seek peace are showing the fruit of God’s work in their lives.”*

## KEY POINTS

- Believers’ actions should show they follow God.
- We must obey God’s words.

## TEXT CONNECTION

- James, Jesus’ half-brother, was the pastor of the Jerusalem church. James wrote a letter to his congregants who had been scattered during the Roman persecution. James wanted to continue to encourage those who were no longer in Jerusalem.
- James began by reminding the believers that the way they acted should reflect their love and obedience to God. James lists several things that believers should do to show their devotion to God.
- James was careful to help the church know that it was not their actions that were bringing about their salvation, but that their actions were a result of their salvation. James said that believers’ speech and actions should be in line with their witness.
- James had harsh words for the church’s open criticism of others, and reminded them that God, not the church itself, was the judge of men. James, as did other New Testament writers, reminded the believers to be obedient followers of God.

## EXPLORE THE BIBLE AT HOME

See the enhanced CD for additional family resources.

## GET STARTED (10 MINUTES)

### TOOLS:

- Bible Skills: Bibles

### BIBLE SKILLS

- As kids gather, practice saying the books of the New Testament from memory.
- Recite them together and ask for volunteers who want to say all the books of the Bible from memory.
- Tell the group that you will be looking in the New Testament Book of James.
- Ask for half of the group to turn to James 1:19 and the other half to look up James 1:22.
- Give them a few minutes to discuss the meaning of their verse in their groups.
- Ask for a volunteer from each group to read the verse and share what they think the meaning of the verse is.
- Say: “These are just two of many verses in James that we can apply to our lives. James 1:22 will be our Memory Verse for this week.”
- Dismiss to Bible Study.

## BIBLE SKILLS SPOTLIGHT

- Begins to tell others the meaning of the biblical content of a verse or passage.
- Applies biblical principles to personal and social issues.

## BIBLE STUDY (35 MINUTES)

### JUMP IN

- Show kids the “James 1:22” poster and introduce it as today’s Memory Verse.
- Tell the group that you’re going to do an experiment using the Memory Verse.
- Distribute paper towels and ask kids to actually hold the end of their tongues with the paper towel while reciting the Memory Verse.
- Say: “That’s hard, isn’t it? And you sure do sound funny!”
- Explain that one of the things that James warns believers is to “hold their tongue.”
- Ask them what they think that means.
- Say: “We need to be very careful about what we say and how we say it. Sometimes it’s best not to say anything at all.”
- Show the “Ancient Boat” visual and ask who knows what a boat rudder is used for. Read James 3:4-5.
- Say: “That little piece can control the whole boat! It’s powerful! The things that we say are powerful, too. That’s why we need to be very careful with our words as James warned the believers in his letter.”

### EXAMINE THE TEXT

- Ask: “Who are some people that we obey?” Make a list on a marker board. (*Answers might include: parents, teachers, adults, police, government officials, Jesus*)
- Ask kids to turn in the Bibles to James 1 and say: “James has a lot to say about obedience. Let’s take a closer look.”
- Show the “James” poster and ask for a volunteer to read the information about this book.
- Tell the Bible story in your own words. A Bible page has been provided for you.
- As you tell the story, ask kids to stand up—or sit down if they are standing—every time they hear a command James told the believers.
- Say: “Wow! That’s a lot of commands! But we need to remember that these commands are to help us be better people and serve Jesus and others.”
- Ask a volunteer to read aloud James 2:15-17.
- Ask: “Why do you think it’s so important for us to help people in need?”
- Discuss ministries at your church that help people in need.
- Say: “Sometimes it seems hard to obey and we might not want to. But as we love God more and more, it becomes easier to obey Him.”
- Review the “Text Truth Strip.” **Those who believe in God should obey God’s commands.**

### TOOLS:

- Jump In: “James 1:22” (Poster Pack), “Ancient Boat” (DVD-ROM), paper towels
- Examine the Text: Bibles, “Text Truth Strips” (Poster Pack), marker board, dry erase marker, “James” (Books of the Bible Posters)
- Play the Video: Explore the Bible on Location Videos
- Memory Verse: “James 1:22” (Poster Pack)
- Prayer: Family Cards, “Prayer Walk Pictures” (Poster Pack), tape, scissors

**PLAY THE VIDEO**

- Play the Session 12 video.
- Ask: “Where did Joel go? Who did he talk to? What did Joel learn about living like Jesus?”

**MEMORY VERSE**

- Show the “James 1:22” poster and recite the verse together.
- Repeat the verse directing kids to sing it, shout it, whisper it, and rap it.
- Ask kids if they have another funny way to repeat the verse.
- Encourage kids to keep practicing their Memory Verses through the week.

**PRAYER PREPARATION:**

- Cut apart the “Prayer Walk Pictures” and display around the room.

**PRAYER**

- Say: “James tells us to help others because serving people in need is part of how we show our love for Jesus.”
- As a group, move around the room and look at the “Prayer Walk Pictures” you’ve displayed.
- At each picture, stop and briefly discuss how you can pray for and serve someone like the person in the picture.
- Ask for a volunteer to pray for the people represented by the picture.
- After the prayer walk, distribute the Family Cards and encourage kids to take them home and discuss with their families how James encouraged believers to live.
- Dismiss to Small Group.

## SMALL GROUP (30 MINUTES)

### EXPLORER GUIDES

- Distribute Explorer Guides and lead kids to locate today's pages, "The Book of James."
- Choose a volunteer to read "Astounding Analogies."
- Review this week's object, the "Boat."
- Help kids complete the activity, "God's Commands."
- Select a volunteer to read "Keep Going!"
- Guide kids to complete "Live It Out."

### TECH CONNECT (OPTIONAL)

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

### ACTIVITIES

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

### TOOLS:

- Explorer Guides: Bibles, Explorer Guides, pens

## JAMES JUMBLE



*Tools: "James Jumble Commands" (enhanced CD), basket, chairs*

- Make a circle of chairs, with one less chair than the number of kids. Cut out the commands and put the strips into a basket.
- Tell the kids to sit in the circle, with one volunteer in the middle.
- The person in the middle will choose and read the commands.
- If kids in the circle think the command is from the Book of James, they should move one seat to the right. If they don't think it's from James, they should move one chair to the left.
- If the person in the middle reads "James Jumble," everyone should jump up and find a new seat across the circle.
- The person in the middle will try to find a seat in the circle when "James Jumble" is called.
- The person left without a seat will then move to the middle.
- Review the Text Truth: **Those who believe in God should obey God's commands.**



## COLLECTION BOX

*Tools: large box, wrapping paper or bulletin paper, crayons, markers, tape*

- Find out what ministries of the church could use donations (socks for homeless ministry, canned goods for food pantry, and so forth.) Bring supplies for kids to decorate a collection box to be displayed at church.
- Review the Text Truth: **those who believe in God should obey God's commands.**
- Tell kids that since you've been talking about obeying God's commands and serving others, it's time to get busy!
- Choose a ministry from the church or community that could use donations of some kind.
- Direct some of the kids to decorate a collection box to put in the church for the items you choose.
- Ask other kids to make clear signs so people in the church will know what the box is for.
- Try to get an announcement in the church bulletin or message board, inviting the church to participate.
- If you have a large group, consider creating more than one box for donations.



## SERVICE EVENT PLANNING

*Tools: "Service Event Planning" (enhanced CD)*

- Make a copy of "Service Event Planning" for each kid. Think of a few ideas for service events that would be appropriate for your group. Some suggestions are listed below.
  - Review the Text Truth: **those who believe in God should obey God's commands.**
  - Distribute copies of "Service Event Planning" and explain that they are not too young to lead a special event for the church that serves others.
  - Present several ideas and let the group decide together which event to pursue.
  - Lead them to think through some of the logistics listed and fill out their papers.
  - Make plans with your church staff to carry out the event with the kids planning and leading (*with adult support*).
- Service Event Suggestions:**
- **Soup Lunch:** The kids can help to make large pots of soup and plan to serve it in your church kitchen or another location.
  - **Widow and Widowers Lunch:** Plan a special lunch after church for widows and widowers in your church.
  - **Car Wash:** Plan a free car wash in the church parking lot or have the kids wash windshields right after church.
  - **Off-Site Projects:** Take kids to volunteer at a local homeless shelter, nursing home, or food pantry.
  - **Church ministries:** Plan for kids to take part in an existing ministry of your church.



Session

13



## LIVE TO HONOR GOD

**James 4:1-17; 5:7-18**

James begins Chapter 4 by telling believers they did not have what they needed because they had not asked God for the things they needed. The prayers of the people had been more focused on asking for things they wanted rather than being sensitive to the Holy Spirit's leading to ask for the things the Spirit led them to ask for. Selfish ambition in prayer was not, and is not, rewarded by God.

Envy, the deep desire to possess the things of others, and selfishness, the desire to think only of oneself, were the two things James warned the church against in the last few chapters of his letter. The Christians to whom James wrote had been more concerned about the way they looked to those outside the church than they were concerned about the living God. Many times we fall into the same trap, and James' message is for us as well.

Following his criticism of the church, James taught about God's response to human action and encouraged the church that God resists the proud, but gives grace to those who humble themselves before Him. James' letter teaches that if Christians resist the devil, he will flee. That's good news for us today, too. If we are focused on God and on His kingdom and approach God with humility, then God will bless us.

James reminds us as Christians that life is but a puff of smoke, and, as we live our lives, we should do so humbly and in response to the goodness God has shown us. Though in our finite minds life seems long, to God it is but a moment. Christians should fill their days with God-honoring living.

James closed his letter with three distinct challenges the church should remember. First, James said to wait patiently for Christ's return, knowing He would be faithful to His promise. Second, James asked believers to always be truthful in their speech and their actions. Finally, James encouraged believers to always be faithful in prayer.

## SESSION FOCUS

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** James 4:1-17; 5:7-18

**MEMORY VERSE:** James 4:8a

**TEXT TRUTH:** God blesses those who are humble.

**CHRIST IN CONTEXT:** The Book of James teaches that Jesus fulfilled God's Law. Jesus' fulfillment of the Law secures believers' salvation and provides a pathway for pursuing Christlikeness. The more we know Jesus, the more we are able to obey God's Word and live like Jesus. Knowing and doing God's Word shows a person's faith in Jesus.

### GET STARTED TOOLS

(10 MINUTES)

- Bible Skills:** *"Bible Book Cards"* (enhanced CD), construction paper, marker, *"Christ in Context: James"* (Poster Pack)

### BIBLE STUDY TOOLS

(35 MINUTES)

- Jump In:** *"Inkpot"* (DVD-ROM), *"Words and Definitions from James"* (enhanced CD), 2 envelopes

- Examine the Text:** *Bibles, "James" (Books of the Bible Posters), "Text Truth Strips"* (Poster Pack)

- Play the Video:** *Explore the Bible on Location Videos*

- Memory Verse:** *"James 4:8a"* (Poster Pack)

- Prayer:** *index cards, pens, tape, Family Cards*

### SMALL GROUP TOOLS

(30 MINUTES)

- Explorer Guides:** *Explorer Guides, Bibles, pens, colored pencils*
- Move:** *marker board, dry erase markers, Bibles*
- Make:** *Bibles, alphabet beads, pony beads, bracelet string*
- Explore:** *none*

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# LIVE TO HONOR GOD

**James 4:1-17; 5:7-18**

*James was the half-brother of Jesus. Before Jesus died on the cross and was resurrected, James did not believe that Jesus was the Messiah. After Jesus was resurrected, He appeared to James and James believed. James became a leader in the early church in Jerusalem and he wrote a letter to Jewish believers living in a variety of places in and around Israel.*

*James warned the believers about loving the world and the evil things of the world. Loving the things of the world is the opposite of loving God. God's grace is greater than our unfaithfulness. James said, "God rejects the proud but will give grace to those who are humble. Submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee. Draw close to God. He will draw close to you. Repent of your sin. Become humble. Don't boast and be arrogant. It is a sin to know the right thing to do and to not do it."*

*James also reminded the believers about Jesus' second coming. "Be patient while you wait for the Lord to come again. Just as the farmer waits patiently for his crop, you must be patient. Don't complain about others. Look to the prophets for an example of enduring tough times and being patient. Those who have endured are blessed. Remember Job's endurance. The Lord is compassionate and merciful."*

*Finally James wrote, "If you are suffering, pray. If you are happy, praise God. Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other. Remember Elijah, who prayed that it would not rain and it did not. When he prayed for rain, it rained. Remember to help each other follow God. Help those who are struggling in their faith."*

## KEY POINTS

- God gives grace to those who are humble.
- Pray for one another.
- Prayer is powerful.
- Humbly seek God through prayer.

## TEXT CONNECTION

- James continued his discussion of a faithful Christian life by revealing that the true motivation for godly living is to honor God and not oneself. Christians should live motivated by their respect and honor of God, which will produce works that show their faith.
- James spent time focusing on prayers that should lead believers to approach God with their requests. James told the church that they did not have things because they had failed to ask for things. James encouraged the believers to ask God with boldness for the things they needed.
- Prayer should be focused, not just on an individual's needs, but also on the needs of the church and its members as a congregation.
- James highlighted the brevity of the human existence and challenged the church to live each day expectant of the return of Christ, focused on clean speech which encourages and does not tear down, and committed to faithful, consistent prayer.

## EXPLORE THE BIBLE AT HOME

See the enhanced CD for additional family resources.

## GET STARTED (10 MINUTES)

### TOOLS:

- Bible Skills: “Bible Book Cards” (enhanced CD), construction paper, marker, “Christ in Context: James” (Poster Pack)

### BIBLE SKILLS

- Put the New Testament “Bible Book Cards” facedown on the floor or table.
- Write each of the New Testaments divisions (*Gospels, History, Paul’s Letters, General Letters, Prophecy*) on a separate piece of construction paper and display them on the floor.
- As kids come into the room, ask them to choose a card and put it under the correct division of the New Testament.
- When all the cards have been distributed, give kids the chance to put all the books in order.
- Ask: “What are some things that we learn from these books?”
- Leave time for kids to answer and then emphasize how we learn to live the Christian life by following Jesus.
- Ask: “What does the Book of James teach us about Jesus?”
- Display the “Christ in Context: James” poster. Select a volunteer to read the statement aloud.
- As time allows, ask if anyone wants to recite the books of the Bible from memory.
- Dismiss to Bible Study.

## BIBLE SKILLS SPOTLIGHT

- Learns the Bible teaches people how to live a Christian life by following Jesus.
- Names the 10 divisions of the Old and New Testaments in a limited time frame and identifies examples of books in each division.

## BIBLE STUDY (35 MINUTES)

### JUMP IN

- Ask five volunteers to choose from the “word” envelope and five volunteers to choose from the “definition” envelope.
- Now ask them to “match” by standing next to each other.
- Ask the kids holding *grace* and its definition to step forward.
- Say: “We sing a lot of songs about grace in our churches. Can any of you think of some of those songs?” (*Amazing Grace, This Is Amazing Grace, Your Grace Is Enough*)
- Now ask the kids who are holding the *humility* card and definition to step forward (*or stand back up*).
- Say: “These are some of the words that James wrote about. Does anyone know what supplies James might have used to write his letter?”
- Display the “Inkpot” visual. Continue: “This wasn’t the inkpot that James used, but it is from the same time period that James lived.”

### EXAMINE THE TEXT

- Distribute Bibles and ask kids to turn to James 4–5.
- Using the “James” poster, review some of the things the kids learned about James in the last session.
- Tell the Bible story in your own words. A Bible story page has been provided for you to use as a guide.
- Ask a volunteer to read James 4:6 and 4:10.
- Ask kids to describe someone who is humble and someone who is proud.
- Say: “In verse 10, notice how God lifts up (*exalts*) people who understand that they are below God and who put the needs of others before their own.”
- Now ask a volunteer to read aloud James 5:7-8.
- Say: “An important part of our faith is believing that Jesus is coming back, just as He promised. James wanted the believers to be patient and strong until He came back. We are still waiting today, but we also need to be patient and strong, while knowing that He will return.”
- Show the “Text Truth Strip” and read it as a group: **God blesses those who are humble.** Remind kids that we need to be humble towards God and others. Invite kids to share some of the blessings God gives us.

### PLAY THE VIDEO

- Play the Session 13 video.
- Ask: “What was Joel doing in today’s video? What was your favorite joke that Joel told? What did Joel learn about humility?”

### TOOLS:

- Jump In: “Inkpot” (DVD-ROM), “Words and Definitions from James” (enhanced CD), 2 envelopes
- Examine the Text: Bibles, “James” (Books of the Bible Posters), “Text Truth Strips” (Poster Pack)
- Play the Video: Explore the Bible on Location Videos
- Memory Verse: “James 4:8a” (Poster Pack)
- Prayer: index cards, pens, tape, Family Cards

### JUMP IN PREPARATION:

- Label one envelope *word* and place all the word cards from “Words and Definitions from James” inside.
- Label the other envelope *definitions* and place the definition cards inside it.

**MEMORY VERSE**

- Show the “James 4:8a” poster.
- Ask kids to think of motions for the words *draw, near, God/Him, you*.
- Repeat the verse several times, using the motions. Ask: “How do we draw near to God?” (*Praying, going to church, studying the Bible*)

**PRAYER**

- Remind kids that James says that we should have faith when we pray, believing that God hears us.
- Ask them to write a prayer request on an index card and tape it to the wall or designated area. If kids are sensitive to others seeing their request, suggest they fold their card, or tape it on backwards.
- Close by voicing a prayer asking that your group will grow in humility, grace, and faith.
- Distribute Family Cards and encourage kids to talk with their families about what they have learned from James.
- Dismiss to Small Group.

## SMALL GROUP (30 MINUTES)

### EXPLORER GUIDES

- Distribute Explorer Guides and help boys and girls locate today's pages, "Live to Honor God."
- Review today's object, the "1st Century Inkpot."
- Lead girls and boys to review today's Bible study by solving the "Matching Review."
- Select a volunteer to read "Grace > Sin."
- Choose three volunteers to each read about one of the "Three Men Called James."
- Guide kids to complete the reflection activity, "Think About It!"

### TECH CONNECT (OPTIONAL)

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

### ACTIVITIES

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

### TOOLS:

- Explorer Guides: Bibles, Explorer Guides, pens, colored pencils

## CHARACTER RELAY

*Tools: marker board, dry erase markers, Bibles*  
 Draw a line down the middle of the marker board.

- Form kids into two groups and ask them to stand in a line facing the marker board.
- Tell the kids that they will have 10 seconds each to write as many characteristics as they can think of that we've studied in James. Tell them to be thinking of ways James tells us to act and be. (*Patient, humble, kind, wise—count any positive trait*)
- When you say "Go," the first two people in line will run to the board and begin to write.
- After ten seconds, they will run back and hand the marker to the next kids in line.
- Allow kids who are waiting in line to examine the Book of James to find a characteristic.
- After everyone has had a turn, see which team had the most characteristics listed.
- Remind kids that when we love Jesus and try to live like He did, then we will show or practice these characteristics in our lives (*with His help!*).
- Review the Text Truth: **God blesses those who are humble.**





## PRAYER PARTNER BRACELETS

Tools: Bibles, alphabet beads, pony beads, bracelet string

- Review the Text Truth: **God blesses those who are humble.**
- Share: “One way to stay humble is to pray. Talking to God helps us know Him and learn to live like Jesus.”
- Invite boys and girls to read aloud James 5:16-18.
- Ask: “What does James say about prayer? Why is this important?”
- Continue: “What are some things kids your age pray about?”
- Form prayer groups of 2-3 kids (*you may choose to separate groups by gender*).
- Invite kids to spend a few minutes sharing prayer requests with each other.
- Distribute the craft supplies for kids to make prayer bracelet reminders. Encourage kids to put one alphabet bead on their bracelet for each person in their group. (*Example: An A bead for Abby, a K bead for Kaylee*)
- Challenge kids to pray for the people in their group when they see their initials on their bracelets this week.



## SCHOOL, HOME, CHURCH

Tools: none

- Copy and cut apart the case studies listed below.

- Ask for volunteers to choose a case study, read it aloud.
- Then take a few minutes to help kids discuss how kids should act in that situation in light of what James taught about humility, patience, and grace.
- Review the Text Truth: **God blesses those who are humble.** Remind kids to try to have more humility, patience, and grace in everything they do.
- Case Studies:
  - 1) After Sunday School, some kids are making fun of what the teacher taught. They think that it's silly to believe what the Bible says. How should you respond?
  - 2) Your brother will not get off the computer and you've been waiting to use it all evening. How should you respond?
  - 3) A friend is feeling really badly about how she hurt your feelings. She keeps apologizing over and over, even though you told her already that you forgive her. How should you respond?
  - 4) You are very smart and always get the best grades in the class. Your teacher praises you in front of everyone else and people in your class groan. How do you respond?

# GLOSSARY OF TERMS

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

- **BIBLE SKILLS SPOTLIGHT**

The specific Bible skills practiced in the session.

- **CHRIST IN CONTEXT**

The message of Jesus in a particular Bible book.

- **CONTEXT**

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

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

- **CROSS-REFERENCING**

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

- **GENRE**

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

- **ORIGINAL AUDIENCE**

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

- **TEXT CONNECTION**

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

- **TEXT TRUTH**

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

# COMING NEXT QUARTER

## WINTER 2018-19

DATE	BIBLE STORY	BIBLE PASSAGE	MEMORY VERSE
December 2	Four Friends	Mark 2:1-12	Mark 2:10a
December 9	The Parable of the Sower	Mark 4:1-20	Mark 4:9
December 16	A Woman and Girl Healed	Mark 5:21-43	Mark 5:36b
December 23	The Birth of Christ	Luke 2:1-20; Mark 1:14b-15,35-45	Luke 2:11
December 30	Jesus Walked on Water	Mark 6:45-52	Psalm 56:3
January 6	The Book of 1 Timothy	Selected Passages from 1 Timothy	1 Timothy 4:12
January 13	The Book of 2 Timothy	2 Timothy 1:1-4:8	2 Timothy 3:16
January 20	The Book of Titus	Titus 1; 2:11-15; 3:1-11,14-15	Titus 2:14
January 27	Amos, Prophet to Israel	Amos 1:1-7:9; 8-9	Amos 5:4
February 3	Hosea, Prophet to Israel	Hosea 1-14	Hosea 12:6
February 10	Jonah, Prophet to Nineveh	Jonah 1-4	Jonah 2:9b
February 17	Nahum, Prophet to Israel	Nahum 1-3	Nahum 1:3a
February 24	Joel, Prophet to Judah	Joel 1-3	Joel 3:16b

# TOOLS FOR DIGGING DEEP!

## OLDER KIDS TOOL KIT

**The resources you need to lead one group:**

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

## OLDER KIDS LEADER GUIDE

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

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

## OLDER KIDS EXPLORER GUIDE

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

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

## OLDER KIDS POSTER PACK

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

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

## KIDS FAMILY CARDS

- Equip parents with discussion questions that relate to each session

## KIDS ENHANCED CD

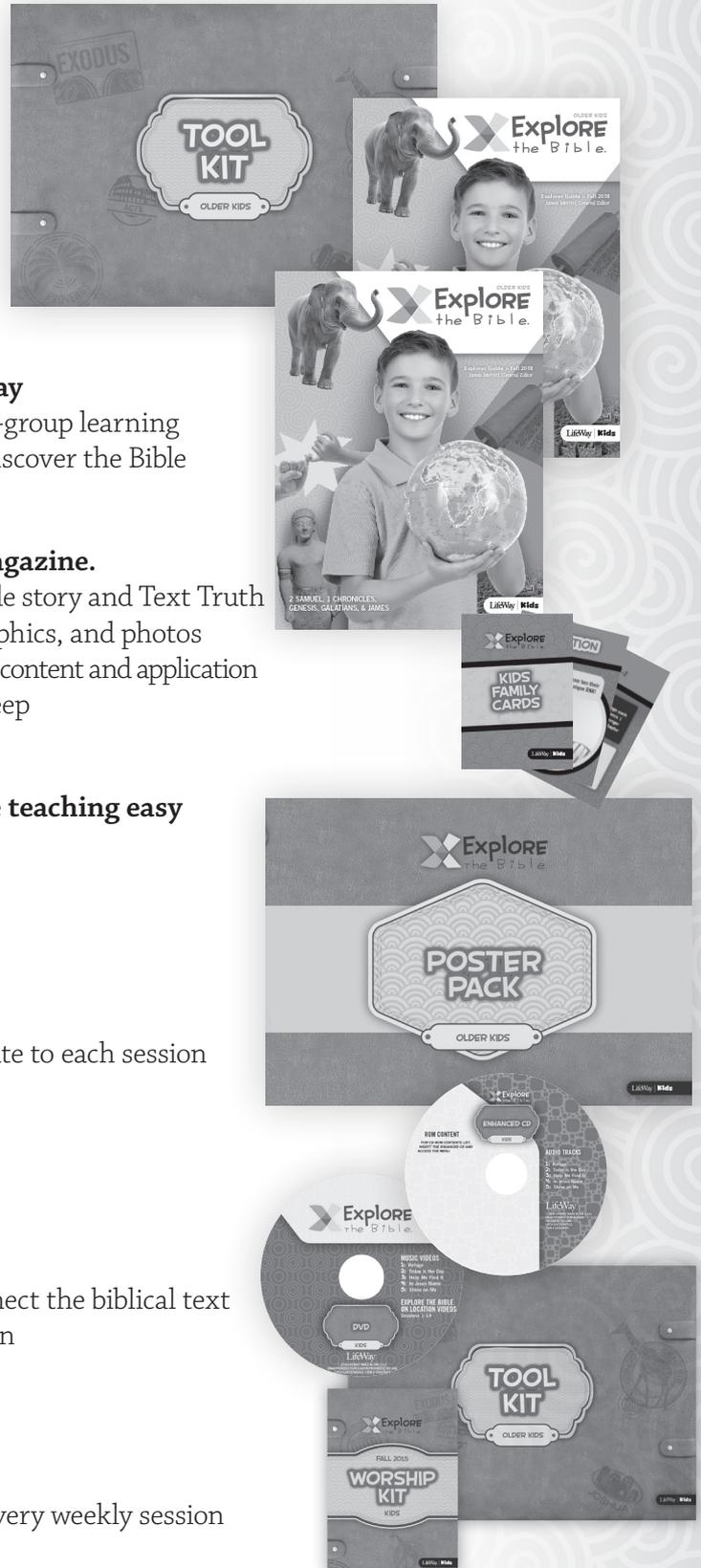
- Bible-related music
- Printable teacher tools and session helps

## KIDS DVD

- Includes a video for each session to help kids connect the biblical text to the cultural and historical context of the session
- Weekly object and Bible story picture files

## KIDS TOOL KIT WITH WORSHIP

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



# THE GOSPEL

## GOD'S PLAN FOR ME

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



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



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



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



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



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

### ADMIT

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

### BELIEVE

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

### CONFESS

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

# HELP KIDS LEARN THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE.



## BOOKS OF THE BIBLE CARDS

LifeWay Kids

HISTORY

### OSHUA

THE TEXT? Unknown, maybe Joshua  
WHO IS THE AUDIENCE? Israelites,  
the promised land before they had

OSHUA WRITTEN? Around 1380 B.C.  
(author) or 1050 B.C. (if Samuel  
WHEN DID THE EVENTS OF  
? About 1406–1380 B.C.

OSHUA WRITTEN? Canaan

WRITTEN? To tell the history of  
conquered the promised land  
of Joshua. Joshua challenged  
to follow God's commands.

THERE ARE LOTS OF INTERESTING ANIMALS MENTIONED IN JOB.

THE OSTRICH, LEVIATHAN, AND BEHEMOTH ARE JUST A FEW!

HOW DO YOU LIKE YOUR EGGS? JOB 6:6 SUGGESTS THAT EGGS ARE SO BLAND THEY NEED SALT!

JOB'S WEALTH IS MEASURED IN TERMS OF LIVESTOCK (JOB 1:3; 42:12) RATHER THAN SILVER AND GOLD.

THE LAW

### GENESIS

WHO WROTE THE TEXT? Moses  
AUDIENCE? Israelites, traveling to land

WHEN WAS GENESIS WRITTEN? C  
between 1445–1406 B.C. WHEN  
OF GENESIS TAKE PLACE? From crea  
1805 B.C. (Joseph's death)

WHERE WAS GENESIS WRITTEN? S  
Israel's journey from slavery in Egypt  
of Canaan

WHY WAS GENESIS WRITTEN? To lay  
foundation for history and theology fo  
Bible. Gen... need for  
and lay... the Re

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