



**EXPLORE** PRESCHOOL  
the Bible.



Leader Guide > Fall 2018  
James Merritt, General Editor

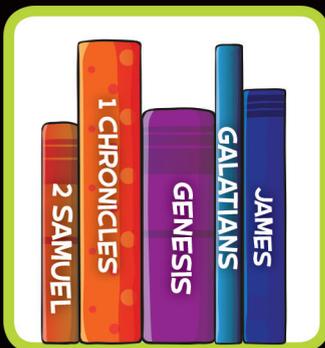
2 SAMUEL, 1 CHRONICLES,  
GENESIS, GALATIANS, & JAMES

LifeWay | **Preschool**

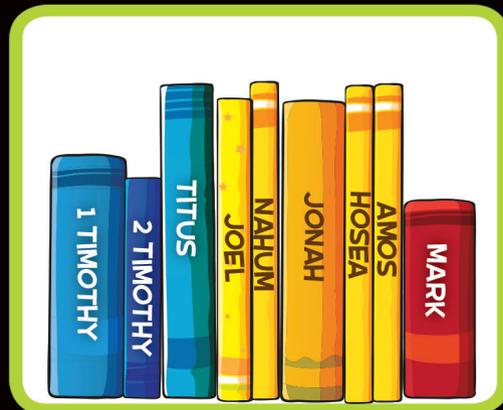
# BIBLICAL OVERVIEW 2018-19

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

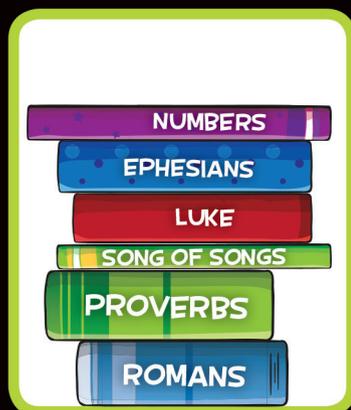
**FALL 2018**



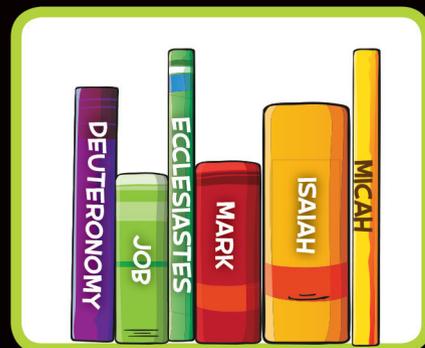
**WINTER 2018-19**



**SPRING 2019**



**SUMMER 2019**



# EXPLORE THE BIBLE PRESCHOOL LEADER GUIDE



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|---|--|
| <b>6</b> <b>OUR GOD IS TRUE</b><br>Session 1<br>SUGGESTED FOR THE WEEK OF SEPT. 2           | <b>62</b> <b>TRUST GOD</b><br>Session 8<br>SUGGESTED FOR THE WEEK OF OCT. 21           |
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| <b>38</b> <b>FOLLOWING GOD'S PLAN</b><br>Session 5<br>SUGGESTED FOR THE WEEK OF SEPT. 30    | <b>94</b> <b>HEAR AND DO</b><br>Session 12<br>SUGGESTED FOR THE WEEK OF NOV. 18        |
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For free online training on how to lead a group, visit  
[ministrygrid.com/web/exploretheBible](http://ministrygrid.com/web/exploretheBible).



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Fall 2018  
Volume 5 • Number 1

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Printed in the United States of America.

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

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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).

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

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# GET TO KNOW YOUR LEADER GUIDE

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

## TERMS TO KNOW

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

## EXPLORE THE BIBLE LEADER GUIDE

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

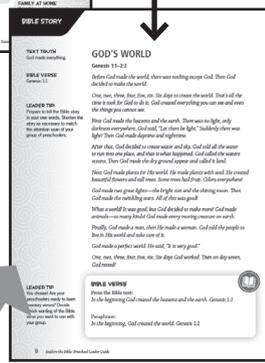
## BACKGROUND STUDY FOR TEACHERS



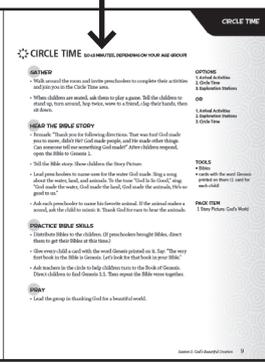
## QUICK OVERVIEW AND EARLY ARRIVAL ACTIVITIES



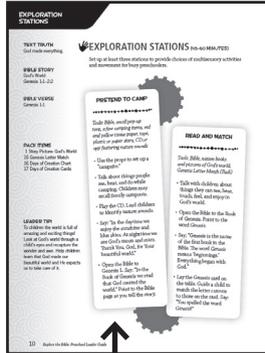
## BIBLE INFORMATION FOR THE SESSION



## STEP-BY-STEP PROCEDURES FOR LARGE GROUP EXPERIENCES

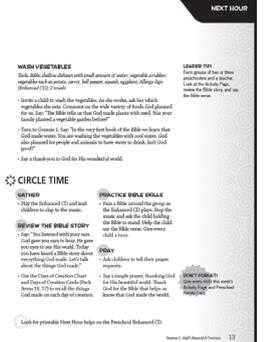


CHECK OUT LEADER TIPS!  
QUICK "DID YOU KNOWS?"  
• HOW CHILDREN LEARN  
• TIMESAVER TIPS  
• ORGANIZATIONAL IDEAS  
• PREP STEPS  
• GENTLE REMINDERS



## MORE EXPLORATIONS FOR THE NEXT HOUR

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



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

# TEACHING TIPS

## PREPARE FOR TEACHING

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

## FOCUS ON BIBLE EXPLORATION

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

## SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

### • ARRIVAL-5 MINUTES

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

### • EXPLORATIONS-45-60 MINUTES

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

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

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

### • NEXT HOUR-60 MINUTES

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

## DON'T FORGET!

Label children's belongings.

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

Keep the classroom door closed for the safety of children.

Focus on the children and your Bible-teaching goals.

# AT-A-GLANCE

SESSION	SUGGESTED FOR THE WEEK OF	SESSION TITLE	TEXT TRUTH
<b>1</b>	Sept. 2	Our God Is True	God keeps His promises.
<b>2</b>	Sept. 9	Show Kindness	Be kind and loving to others.
<b>3</b>	Sept. 16	God, Strong and Good	Our help comes from God.
<b>4</b>	Sept. 23	A Day of Celebration	Give thanks to God and praise Him.
<b>5</b>	Sept. 30	Following God's Plan	God will help us obey Him.
<b>6</b>	Oct. 7	God's Plan for His People	God had a special plan for Abram.
<b>7</b>	Oct. 14	Choose Kindness	Kindness to others shows God's love.
<b>8</b>	Oct. 21	Trust God	God loves people and cares for them.
<b>9</b>	Oct. 28	God's Help	God had something important for Joseph to do.
<b>10</b>	Nov. 4	Forgiveness	Love and forgive others.
<b>11</b>	Nov. 11	Tell the Good News	Help other people know and love Jesus.
<b>12</b>	Nov. 18	Hear and Do	Do what the Bible says.
<b>13</b>	Nov. 25	Live Like Jesus	Remember Jesus and live like Him.

# EXPLORE THE BIBLE: PRESCHOOL FALL 2018

	BIBLE STORY	BIBLE VERSE
	A Promise for David (based on 2 Samuel 7:1-29)	2 Samuel 7:28
	David Helped a Friend's Son (based on 2 Samuel 9:1-13; 21:7)	Ephesians 4:32
	David's Song About God (based on 2 Samuel 22:1-51)	2 Samuel 22:31
	A Celebration in Jerusalem (based on 1 Chronicles 15:1-29; 16:1-37)	1 Chronicles 16:34
	Plans for the Temple (based on 1 Chronicles 22:1-19; 28:1-21)	1 Chronicles 28:9b
	God's Plan for Abram (based on Genesis 15; 17:1-22; 21:1-7)	Genesis 17:7
	Isaac Showed Kindness (based on Genesis 26:1-6,12-33)	Genesis 26:24b
	Jacob's Journey (based on Genesis 32:1-30; 33:1-20)	Jeremiah 29:11
	God Helped Joseph (based on Genesis 37:1-4,12-36; 39:1-6; 41:1-45)	Genesis 50:19-20
	Joseph and His Brothers (based on Genesis 42-45)	Genesis 50:19-20
	Paul's Letter to Church Friends (based on Galatians 1-6)	Galatians 6:9a
	James' Letter (based on James 1:1-3:18)	James 1:22
	James' Important Reminders (based on James 4:1-5:20)	James 4:8a



Session

1

# OUR GOD IS TRUE

FOR THE  
LEADER

## 2 Samuel 7:1-29

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

### TEXT TRUTH

God keeps His promises.

### BIBLE STORY

2 Samuel 7:1-29

### BIBLE VERSE

2 Samuel 7:28

### CHRIST IN CONTEXT

God promised that the perfect King would come through the line of David. Jesus is the King of kings.

### BIBLE SKILLS

- Understand the Bible teaches us what God and Jesus are like.
- Know that everything in the Bible is true.

## ARRIVAL ACTIVITIES (5 MINUTES)

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

#### ▶ Thread yarn around Bible picture cards.

*Tools: Bible, laminated Bible Lacing Cards (Pack Item 18), 14-inch lengths of yarn (Tie one end through a hole on lacing card.)*

#### ▶ Engage in pretend play with toy house and people.

*Tools: Bible, dollhouse, toy people figures*

#### ▶ Dot paint over the letters of the word *Bible*.

*Tools: Bible, heavyweight paper, washable paint, paper plates, pencil, clothespins, pom-poms, glue (Glue pom-poms on clothespins.)*

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



### EXPLORE THE BIBLE TEXT CONNECTION

- 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. 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.

### FAMILY AT HOME

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

**TEXT TRUTH**

God keeps His promises.

**BIBLE VERSE**

2 Samuel 7:28

**LEADER TIP!**

As you prepare for the lesson each week, be familiar enough with the Bible story to tell it during the session rather than read it. This allows you to better engage the children.

**LEADER TIP**

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

# A PROMISE FOR DAVID

## 2 Samuel 7:1-29

*King David had moved into his beautiful palace (house). It was a good time for David, and there was peace in the land.*

*One day David told his friend Nathan the prophet he thought God needed a beautiful house in which to live. Nathan agreed with David.*

*But then God spoke to Nathan. God told Nathan to give a message to King David. God said, "Tell David I have never lived in a house. I have moved with the tent the Israelites carried from place to place."*

*Nathan went to David. He reminded David that God chose David to rule over the people as king. God had always been with David wherever he went. God Himself would make a place for the people to live, and He would give David children who would rule the land. One of David's children would build the house for God.*

*After hearing this message from God, David sat down and talked to God. "God, You know me. You have shown me wonderful things," David said. "You are great, God, and there is no one like You. You chose us to be Your people and You do great and awesome things. We are Your people forever."*

*David knew God was good and always cared about His people. God always did what He said He would do.*

*David prayed, "God, keep Your promises to me. Your name will be praised forever, God. You are God. Your words are true. Please bless me and my house forever."*

**BIBLE VERSE**

From the Bible text:

*You are God; your words are true. 2 Samuel 7:28*

Paraphrase:

*God's words are true. 2 Samuel 7:28*



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

### GATHER

- Encourage preschoolers to join you in the Circle Time area.
- Display the Thumbs Up/Thumbs Down Signs (Pack). Ask children what the pictures represent. Say: “When we see a thumbs up, it means something is good or right. When we see a thumbs down, it means something is wrong or bad.”

### HEAR THE BIBLE STORY

- Remark: “Today we are learning about a man named David. God made a great promise to David. Do you know what a promise is?”
- Give children time to respond, then say: “A promise is a statement that says you will do what you say you will do. Keeping a promise is a good thing, like the Thumbs Up sign reminds us. Breaking a promise is not good. We give that a thumbs down.”
- Open a Bible to 2 Samuel 7. Begin: “David wanted to build a home for God. This was a good thing, but God had other plans. One of David’s children would build God’s house.”
- Continue to tell the Bible story.
- Hold up the Thumbs Up sign and assure children that God keeps His promises.
- Show preschoolers the Story Picture (Pack), then pass it around the circle.

### PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Comment: “Our truth to remember for today is ‘God keeps His promises.’” Attach the Text Truth Leaf (Pack) to the Text Truth Tree (Pack).
- While sitting in a circle, roll a ball to one child. When the child receives the ball, lead her to say the first word of today’s Bible verse. Then direct her to roll the ball back to you.
- Continue rolling the ball to different children until all have repeated words in the Bible verse.

### PRAY

- Thank God for always keeping His promises.

### OPTIONS

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

### OR

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

### TOOLS

- Bible
- tape
- ball

### PACK ITEMS

- 1 Story Picture: A Promise for David
- 24 Text Truth Tree
- 25 Text Truth Leaves
- 33 Thumbs Up/Thumbs Down Signs

### LEADER TIP!

Attach the Text Truth Tree to the wall before Circle Time. Leave the Tree on display throughout the quarter if possible.

## TEXT TRUTH

God keeps His promises.

## BIBLE STORY

A Promise for David  
2 Samuel 7:1-29

## BIBLE VERSE

2 Samuel 7:28

## PACK ITEMS

- 1 Story Picture: A Promise for David
- 26 Number Cube
- 27 Motions Cube
- 31 Bible Picture Puzzles
- 33 Thumbs Up/Thumbs Down Signs

## LEADER TIP!

Be sure to keep Leader Pack items from week to week. Many will be used multiple times throughout the quarter.

## LEADER TIP!

Begin the promise game by telling children: "The Bible reminds us that God always keeps His promises. God wants us to keep promises we make to others, too."

# EXPLORATION STATIONS (45-60 MINUTES)

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

## PLAY A PROMISE GAME



*Tools: Bible, tape, Thumbs Up/Thumbs Down Signs (Pack)*

- Hang the signs on opposite sides of the room.
- Invite children to play a game. Show them the signs on the walls.
- Say: "I will tell a story. If the person in the story keeps his promise, walk to the 'Thumbs Up' sign. If the person does not keep his promise, walk to the 'Thumbs Down' sign."
- Use these scenarios:  
Story 1: Sam told his mother he would pick up his toys. Instead, he went outside to play.  
Story 2: Sarah promised to play with her sister. After dinner, Sarah played a game with her sister.
- Make up other stories.

## COMPLETE PUZZLES



*Tools: 2 or 3 Bibles, Bible Picture Puzzles (Pack), Story Picture: A Promise for David (Pack)*

- Place strips from the Bible Picture Puzzles throughout pages of a few Bibles.
- One at a time, invite a child to open a Bible and find a puzzle strip and lay it down. When all puzzle strips are found, direct children to arrange puzzle strips side by side to complete Bible pictures.
- Say: "We read the Bible to learn. The Bible is full of God's promises."
- Show the Story Picture as you remind children that David believed all God's words were true.

**MAKE A NAME CHAIN**

*Tools: Bible, strips of construction paper, tape, crayons, stickers, Activity Page*

- Give a strip of paper to each child. Assist the children in writing their names on the strips. (Try dotting letters for younger children to trace.)
- Invite children to decorate their strips, using crayons and stickers.
- Show preschoolers how to loop strips through one another and fasten with tape to form the chain. Display the name chain.
- Say: "God tells us in the Bible that He keeps His promises. God kept His promise to David, and He keeps His promises to us."
- Show the picture on the Activity Page and tell the Bible story.

**CREATE PLAY DOUGH HOUSES**

*Tools: Bible, fresh play dough, craft sticks*

- Say: "David had a beautiful palace. David wanted to build a beautiful place for God. We live in different types of houses. Let's create play dough houses."
- Give children mounds of dough and a craft stick for cutting. Encourage children to make houses for people and animals (nests, fishbowls, doghouses).
- State: "God doesn't live in a house like we do. He doesn't need a house, does He?"
- Listen to children's responses and comments, then show them the Bible verse (2 Samuel 7:28).
- Say: "David knew that everything God said was true. We know God's words are true."

**COUNT & MOVE**

*Tools: several Bibles, Number Cube (Pack), Motions Cube (Pack), paper strips for bookmarks*

- Spread the Bibles on the floor. Use the paper strips to mark the Book of 2 Samuel in each Bible.
- Line up preschoolers on one side of the room. Invite a child to roll the Number Cube and another child to roll the Motions Cube.
- Direct children to move across the room toward the Bibles using the motion and repetitions shown on the cubes.
- Repeat until the group reaches the Bibles. Invite children to open the Bibles to the bookmarks.
- Say: "Our story today is found in the Book of 2 Samuel."
- Tell the Bible story, then lead children to say the Bible verse and reference.

## NEXT HOUR (MORE EXPLORATIONS FOR PRESCHOOLERS)

### OPTIONS

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

### TEXT TRUTH

God keeps His promises.

### BIBLE STORY

A Promise for David

2 Samuel 7:1-29

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

### BIBLE VERSE

2 Samuel 7:28

### LEADER TIP!

Prepare promise notes ahead of time. Write these statements on individual sticky notes:

*God keeps His promises.*

*God's words are true.*

*God lives in heaven.*

*God is always with us.*

*God loves me.*

*God made me.*

*God provides for me.*

*God cares for me.*

*God hears me talk to Him.*

### STAND OR SIT

*Tools: Bible, Story Picture: A Promise for David (Pack Item 1)*

- Say: "Our Bible verse today tells us that all God's words are true." Turn to 2 Samuel 7:28 in a Bible. "If something is true, it is right. If something is false, it is wrong. Let's decide if things are true or false."
- As you share true/false statements, guide children to stand if the statement is true and sit if the statement is false.
- Statements can include ideas such as:  
Apples are purple. God made the world. God keeps His promises. The sky is down. The Bible is God's Word. Carrots grow on trees. Cows meow.
- After a while, show children the Story Picture and tell the Bible story.

### MAKE A PROMISE POSTER

*Tools: Bible, poster board with the title "God's Promises" written at top, large sticky notes, Activity Page, washable markers or crayons*

- Place the prepared promise notes on a table with the markers or crayons. Invite preschoolers to decorate the notes.
- Instruct a child to hold the note she decorated. Read the promise written on the note. Direct the child to place the note on the poster board. Give other children turns to put their notes on the poster board.
- Comment: "These are promises God has given us. These promises are written in the Bible."
- Show preschoolers the Activity Page picture as you talk about God's promises to David.

### TOSS POM-POMS

*Tools: Bible, five different colored pieces of paper, pom-poms in the same five colors*

- Write each word of the Bible verse on a piece of paper. Lay the Bible verse papers in order on the floor. Read the Bible verse to the children.
- Guide children to toss pom-poms on the corresponding colored papers.

- Open the Bible to 2 Samuel 7:28 and show the verse to the children. Lead preschoolers to say the Bible verse and reference.

## MOVE TO MUSIC

*Tools: several Bibles, Enhanced CD*

- Place Bibles throughout the classroom.
- Play the CD as preschoolers move around the room. Stop the music.
- Instruct children to find a Bible and pick it up. If more than one child is near a Bible, invite the children to hold the Bible together. Return Bibles to their locations and repeat the process.
- Say: “I’m glad God gave us the Bible. The Bible is God’s Word. Everything written in God’s Word is true.”

## CIRCLE TIME

### GATHER

- When children are in the circle, pat a rhythm on your knees as you say: “God’s words are true.”
- Continue: “This is such a great promise.”

### REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

- Show children the Story Picture. Review the Bible story, recalling the promises God made to David.
- State: “The Bible is God’s Word. The Bible is true. The Bible is full of promises, just like the promises God made to David. David knew God would keep His promises.”

### PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Before Circle Time, highlight 2 Samuel 7:28 in your Bible. Open the Bible to the highlighted verse.
- Pass the Bible around the circle. Invite each child to point to the highlighted verse.
- Say the Bible verse together.

### PRAY

- Review a few of God’s promises.
- Say a simple prayer for children to repeat together: “Thank You, God, for keeping Your promises. Your Word is true. We love You, God.”

### LEADER TIP!

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

### DON'T FORGET!

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



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



## Session 2



# SHOW KINDNESS

**2 Samuel 9:1-13; 21:7**

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. Mephibosheth was summoned to appear before the king. Mephibosheth bowed before David, likely unsure of what would 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 Samuel 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

### TEXT TRUTH

Be kind and loving to others.

### BIBLE STORY

2 Samuel 9:1-13; 21:7

### BIBLE VERSE

Ephesians 4:32

### CHRIST IN CONTEXT

God promised that the perfect King would come through the line of David. Jesus is the King of kings.

### BIBLE SKILLS

- Know there are two parts of the Bible—the Old Testament and the New Testament.
- Begin to pronounce the names of the books of the Bible.

## ARRIVAL ACTIVITIES (5 MINUTES)

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

#### ► Write the word *kind* and match colors.

*Tools: Bible; Session Key Words: Kind (Enhanced CD); crayons; colored pom-poms (red, blue, yellow, green)*

#### ► Draw pictures of people you love.

*Tools: Bible, white paper, crayons or colored pencils*

#### ► Take care of dolls and toy animals.

*Tools: Bible, baby dolls, plastic animals, blankets, bottles, empty pet food dish*



### EXPLORE THE BIBLE 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.

### FAMILY AT HOME

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

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

**TEXT TRUTH**

Be kind and loving to others.

**BIBLE VERSE**

Ephesians 4:32

**LEADER TIP!**

If a child struggles to sit still during Circle Time, ask him to sit beside you and hold the Bible or Story Picture while you tell the story.

## DAVID HELPED A FRIEND'S SON

**2 Samuel 9:1-13; 21:7**

*King David's best friend was Jonathan. David loved Jonathan. David made a promise to Jonathan that he would be kind to Jonathan's family.*

*David often thought about his friend, Jonathan. David remembered the promise he had made to Jonathan. One day David asked a servant, "Are any of Jonathan's family still living? I want to show God's kindness to them," David said.*

*The servant, Ziba, answered, "There is a son, Mephibosheth. He is crippled and cannot walk."*

*"Where is this son?" David asked Ziba.*

*Ziba told the king where Jonathan's son lived. David told his servant to find the son and bring him to the palace.*

*When Mephibosheth arrived, he bowed down in front of David.*

*"Don't be afraid," David told Mephibosheth. "I will be kind to you because of your father, Jonathan. I will always take care of you. You may have all the land that belonged to your grandfather, King Saul. You will always eat at my table."*

*Then David told his servant, Ziba, "I have given Mephibosheth everything that belonged to his grandfather Saul. I want you and all your servants to farm the land and grow crops for Mephibosheth's family."*

*David kept his promise to his friend, Jonathan, and was kind to Jonathan's family.*

**LEADER TIP**

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

**BIBLE VERSE**

From the Bible text:

*Be kind and compassionate to one another. Ephesians 4:32*

Paraphrase:

*Be kind and loving to one another. Ephesians 4:32*



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

### GATHER

- Encourage children to complete activities and join you in the Circle Time area.
- Say: “I’m so glad all of my friends are here with me today at church. Let’s all give each other ‘high fives’ to say hello.”

### HEAR THE BIBLE STORY

- State: “I love having friends. Do any of you have a best friend?” Go around the circle, giving each child an opportunity to say the name of her best friend. “Today we are going to continue learning about our friend, King David. David’s best friend was Jonathan. Let’s learn how David was kind to Jonathan’s family.”
- Open a Bible to 2 Samuel 9:1-13. Point to the passage. Remark that this is the place in the Bible where we read about David and something he did for his friend.
- Display the Story Picture as you tell the Bible story.
- Conclude: “David was very kind to Jonathan’s son, Mephibosheth. God wants us to be kind to others, too. Our truth to remember for today is ‘Be kind and loving to others.’”
- Attach the Text Truth Leaf (Pack) to the Text Truth Tree (Pack).

### PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Say: “There are two sections in the Bible—the Old Testament and the New Testament. Our Bible story today is in 2 Samuel, a book in the Old Testament. The Old Testament is in the front of the Bible.” Show children the Bible Bookmark (Pack).
- Turn to Ephesians 4. Say: “Our Bible verse is found in Ephesians. Ephesians is a book in the New Testament, which is in the back of our Bible.”
- Repeat the names of the two Bible books and ask children to tell whether each is in the Old or New Testament.

### PRAY

- Ask God to help children and grown-ups be kind and loving to others.

### OPTIONS

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

### OR

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

### TOOLS

- Bible
- tape

### PACK ITEMS

- 2 Story Picture: David Helped a Friend’s Son
- 21 Bible Bookmarks
- 24 Text Truth Tree
- 25 Text Truth Leaves

## TEXT TRUTH

Be kind and loving to others.

## BIBLE STORY

David Helped a Friend's Son  
2 Samuel 9:1-13; 21:7

## BIBLE VERSE

Ephesians 4:32

## PACK ITEMS

- 2 Story Picture: David Helped a Friend's Son
- 29 Faces
- 31 Bible Picture Puzzles
- 34 Kindness Matching Cards

## LEADER TIP!

Sing the following words about kindness. Use the tune "God is So Good":

*I can be kind, I can be kind,  
I can be kind, be kind to others.*

# EXPLORATION STATIONS (45-60 MINUTES)

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

## SWAY & SING



*Tools: Bible, Faces (Pack) or magazine cutouts of people of all ages, craft sticks, paper bag, tape, book about friends*

- Tape pictures to craft sticks. Place craft sticks in the bag.
- Picture-read the book, then talk with children about friends. Thank God for the children's friends.
- Hold the bag and invite children to each get a picture stick. Invite children to wave their sticks above their heads as the group sings a song about kindness.
- Give children the opportunity to exchange sticks and sing again.
- Remark: "The Bible tells us to be kind and loving to others." Point to Ephesians 4:32 in the Bible.

## MAKE A HEART PICTURE



*Tools: Bible, washable paint, heavyweight paper, paper plates, permanent marker, new dish sponges cut into heart shapes, Story Picture: David Helped a Friend's Son (Pack)*

- Pour a small amount of paint in the paper plates. Write the Bible verse on each paper.
- Guide a child to stamp-paint hearts on his paper. Show him the Story Picture. Comment that hearts remind you of love. Say: "David showed love to his friend's son."
- Continue: "God wants us to be kind and loving." Open the Bible to Ephesians 4:32 and point to the verse.

## HUNT FOR HEARTS

*Tools: Bible, heart-shaped sticky notes, plastic place mat (or heart cut-outs and a basket), Activity Page*

- Hide hearts in the room. Place the Bible and Activity Page with the place mat (or basket).
- Invite preschoolers to hunt for hidden hearts. Say: “When you find a heart, place it on the place mat (or drop it in the basket) and say the name of someone whom you love.”
- When all the hearts are discovered, state: “The Bible tells us to be kind and loving to one another. David was kind to Mephibosheth and showed love to him.”
- Show children the picture on the Activity Page and tell the Bible story.

## MATCH CARDS & WORK PUZZLES

*Tools: Bible, Bible Picture Puzzles (Pack), Kindness Matching Cards (Pack), David Wooden Box Puzzles (LifeWay, 005267309)*

- Say: “Today we are learning about showing kindness to others. In the Bible, God tells us to be kind and loving to others.”
- Invite a child to choose a puzzle to work. He may want to match pictures of people showing kindness, assemble wooden puzzles about David’s life, or put together Bible puzzles.
- Whatever puzzle the child works, relate it to today’s Bible story, Text Truth, or Bible verse. Remind the child that the Bible helps us know what God says to do and how to treat others.

## PLAY OUT THE BIBLE STORY

*Tools: Bible, Bible times dress-up clothes, toy crown, toy walking stick or PVC pipe and fitting (for handle), gauze bandage, Story Picture: David Helped a Friend’s Son (Pack)*

- Wrap gauze around the handle of a walking stick to make it look like the one shown in the Story Picture.
- Put the dress-up items on a table or chair to get children’s attention. Prop the picture nearby.
- Suggest that one child be King David, one Mephibosheth, and one Ziba. Hold the picture so children can see it to get an idea of how to dress for their roles.
- Tell the Bible story, guiding children to play out the story. Then give preschoolers opportunity to exchange roles.
- Thank children for their kindness to one another.

## NEXT HOUR (MORE EXPLORATIONS FOR PRESCHOOLERS)

### OPTIONS

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

### TEXT TRUTH

Be kind and loving to others.

### BIBLE STORY

David Helped a Friend's Son  
2 Samuel 9:1-13; 21:7

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

### BIBLE VERSE

Ephesians 4:32

### COOK A PRETEND MEAL

*Tools: Bible, toy dishes, colorful napkins, toy food, construction paper place mats*

- Invite preschoolers to cook a pretend meal for friends. Say: "David invited Mephibosheth to come to his house and eat with him. David was kind."
- As children prepare food and set the table, talk with them about guests who have eaten meals at their homes. Comment that families can be kind and loving to others, and that is what God wants us to do.
- Open the Bible to Ephesians 4:32 and point to the verse. Help children say the verse together before they "eat" their meal with friends.

### DO ACTS OF KINDNESS

*Tools: Bible, 10 paper strips, pen, tall colorful plastic tumbler*

- Write these statements on strips of paper and put them in the tumbler: *Sweep the floor. Help mother fold clothes. Set the table. Play ball with a friend. Give a high five. Pick up toys. Give a neighbor flowers. Help cook dinner. Take out the trash. Walk the dog.*
- Invite a preschooler to get a paper strip from the tumbler. Read the statement aloud and tell the child to do the action.
- The preschooler may want to do more acts of kindness or ask a friend to take a turn. Say: "Thank you for being kind to others."
- Hold the Bible and say: "The Bible says to be kind and loving to others."

### PLAY A RIDDLE GAME

*Tools: Bible, highlighter, Activity Page*

- Highlight Ephesians 4:32 in the Bible.
- Invite a child to touch the highlighted words and repeat the Bible verse with you. Say: "God wants us to be kind and loving to one another."
- Show the child the picture of David on the Activity Page and note that David was kind and loving to his friend's son.
- Say: "I saw people in our room being kind. Let's guess who was kind."

- Describe children, giving clues such as: “I saw someone helping a friend cook a meal. This person is wearing a yellow shirt. Who is this person?”
- Give more clues about other children or teachers who have been helpful, kind, and loving.

## FIND THE BIBLE WORD

*Tools: 2 Bibles, small sticky notes, washable marker, solid-color place mat*

- Give a child a Bible and say: “The Bible helps us learn about God and what He says to do. Let’s find some important words in the Bible.”
- Show the child the notes on the place mat. Then assist him in locating the words in the Bible, primarily in 2 Samuel 9 or Ephesians 4.
- When the child finds a word, tell him to put the sticky note on that page.

### LEADER TIP!

Write these Bible words on individual sticky notes (one word per note):  
*God, kind, David, love, Ephesians, 2 Samuel*  
Put the notes on the place mat.

## CIRCLE TIME

### GATHER

- Direct children to move to the Circle Time area.
- Call the names of two friends to change chairs.
- Give everyone a turn to change chairs.

### REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

- Say: “Friends have fun together. Do you remember who was kind to his friend?”
- Show preschoolers the Story Picture (Pack) and point to David.
- Ask other questions to help

children remember the story. As children respond, tell them they have been good listeners today.

### PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Give a Bible to pairs of children.
- Ask teachers to help children find the Books of 2 Samuel and Ephesians.
- Say: “The story about David is in 2 Samuel, and the Bible verse is in Ephesians.”

### PRAY

- Ask God to help us be kind and loving to others.

### LEADER TIP!

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

### DON'T FORGET!

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



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



Session 3



## GOD, STRONG AND GOOD

### 2 Samuel 22:1-51

Chapters 21–24 of 2 Samuel are considered to be an appendix to the book that presents 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

### TEXT TRUTH

Our help comes from God.

### BIBLE STORY

2 Samuel 22:1-51

### BIBLE VERSE

2 Samuel 22:31

### CHRIST IN CONTEXT

God promised that the perfect King would come through the line of David. Jesus is the King of kings.

### BIBLE SKILLS

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

## ARRIVAL ACTIVITIES (5 MINUTES)

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

► **Listen and sing to worship music and work puzzles.**

*Tools: Bible, 2 or 3 puzzles, kids' worship music CD*

► **Arrange letters to spell the word Bible.**

*Tools: Bible, Letter Matching Letters (Pack Item 22), Letter Matching Cards (Pack Item 23)*

► **Draw with sidewalk chalk.**

*Tools: Bible, large piece of paper taped to a table, marker to write heading God Helps Us in large letters, sidewalk chalk, tape*



### EXPLORE THE BIBLE 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 David 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.

### FAMILY AT HOME

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

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

**TEXT TRUTH**

Our help comes from God.

**BIBLE VERSE**

2 Samuel 22:31

## DAVID'S SONG ABOUT GOD

### 2 Samuel 22:1-51

*God chose David to be the king after Saul. God was with David and helped him know what to do to lead the Israelites.*

*But Saul was jealous of David and wanted to stop him from being king. Saul thought of ways to hurt David.*

*God always took care of David, though. God showed David what to do and where to go. And David listened to God and obeyed Him.*

*For a long time, Saul fought David. But God always protected David. After Saul died, David wrote a song to God. David wanted people to know how good God was to him. David's song told about the ways God helped David, especially when David was afraid or sad.*

*David wrote: "I called to God. When I talked to Him, God heard my voice. He heard my cry for help. God is my helper. God is worthy of praise."*

*David said, "I will praise You, God. I will sing about You."*

**LEADER TIP**

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

**BIBLE VERSE**

From the Bible text:

*God is a shield to all who take refuge in him. 2 Samuel 22:31*

Paraphrase:

*God helps people who ask Him. 2 Samuel 22:31*



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

### GATHER

- Walk around the room and remind children to finish their activities.
- Begin playing music from the Enhanced CD and lead preschoolers to the Circle Time Area.
- After children are seated, play the same song from the CD and lead children to sing with you.

### HEAR THE BIBLE STORY

- Open a Bible to 2 Samuel. Remark: “Today’s Bible story comes from the Book of 2 Samuel. We will learn more about King David. We read about David in the Bible. God chose David to be king, but one man was not happy about that. Let’s listen to a story about that.”
- Hold the Story Picture (Pack) and point to David. Then tell the Bible story.
- Comment: “David sang a song about how good God was to him. David thanked God for helping him be safe. We can ask God for help, too. An important truth to remember is ‘Our help comes from God.’”
- Call on a preschooler to attach the Text Truth Leaf (Pack) to the Text Truth Tree (Pack).

### PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Play the Enhanced CD and tell preschoolers to pass the beanbag around the circle. Stop the music and call on a child to say the Bible verse and reference.
- Resume the music and stop again. Do this enough times to give every child a turn to say the verse.
- Turn to 2 Samuel 22:31 and show children the verse in the Bible.
- Remind children they can always ask God for help in any situation.

### PRAY

- Thank God for helping us when we ask Him.

### OPTIONS

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

### OR

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

### TOOLS

- Bible
- Enhanced CD
- tape
- beanbag

### PACK ITEMS

- 3 Story Picture: David’s Song About God
- 21 Bible Bookmarks
- 24 Text Truth Tree
- 25 Text Truth Leaves

## TEXT TRUTH

Our help comes from God.

## BIBLE STORY

David's Song About God  
2 Samuel 22:1-51

## BIBLE VERSE

2 Samuel 22:31

## PACK ITEMS

- 3 Story Picture: David's Song About God
- 19 Book: *God Has a Plan for You*
- 32 David Story Figures
- 36 Emotion Cards

## LEADER TIP!

Before the session, tape two plastic plates together (bottoms facing out), leaving a small opening. Make one tambourine for each child.

# EXPLORATION STATIONS (45-60 MINUTES)

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

## MAKE & SHAKE A TAMBOURINE



*Tools: Bible, small plastic plates (2 per child), clear packing tape, uncooked rice or paper clips, stickers, colored electrical tape, Enhanced CD*

- Give each child a set of plates and direct her to put some rice or a few paper clips through the opening of the taped plates. Seal the opening with packing tape.
- Tell the child she may use stickers and colored tape to decorate her tambourine.
- Play the Enhanced CD and encourage the preschooler to shake her tambourine. Listen for songs about God.
- Say: "David sang a song about God. We can find David's song in the Bible."
- Turn to 2 Samuel 22 and show the preschooler the passage for the Bible story.

## FOLLOW A PATH



*Tools: Bible, Footprints (Enhanced CD), tape, washable marker, Story Picture: David's Song About God (Pack)*

- Write each word of the Bible verse on separate footprints. Tape the feet in order on the floor in a path. Make the path long enough to wind around a few obstacles and end at the Bible and Story Picture.
- Invite children to walk on the path. As they step on footprints, read the words. At the end of the path, look at the Story Picture and talk about the story.
- Say: "David often tried to get away from Saul. God always took care of David."

**PLAY WITH STORY  
FIGURES**

*Tools: Bible, David Story Figures (Pack), wooden blocks, Book: God Has a Plan for You (Pack), Activity Page*

- Prepare the figures and put them near the blocks. Place the book and Activity Page with the Bible.
- While a child builds, show her the Activity Page and point to David. Ask the child what David is doing.
- Comment: "Yes, David is playing a harp. David made music and sang songs to thank God."
- Pick up a David Story Figure and "walk" it to the Bible. Say: "The Bible has stories about David and the things he did. God chose David to be king and God helped David. God had a plan for David."
- Read the book to the child.

**MAKE FACES**

*Tools: Bible, Emotion Cards (Pack), fresh play dough, rollers and cutters, googly eyes*

- Invite a few children to look at the Emotion Cards and make faces like those shown. Talk about feelings associated with the different expressions.
- Tell children that no matter how we may feel, God helps us.
- Give children play dough and supplies to create faces similar to those shown on the cards.
- Open the Bible to 2 Samuel 22 and point to God's name in the text. Say: "God cared about David and loved him. David knew God was always with him and helped him when he was sad or afraid."
- Say: "God helps people who ask Him."

**MATCH SHAPES &  
LEARN A VERSE**

*Tools: Bible, craft foam shapes, permanent marker, gift bag, Enhanced CD*

- Print words of the Bible verse on individual foam shapes. Make a duplicate set.
- Place one set of shapes in the bag. Organize the other set on the table in correct sequence.
- Read the words of the Bible Verse. Invite a child to get a shape from the bag and match it to a shape on the table.
- After all the shapes are matched, point to each word and lead the child to say the Bible verse.
- Open the Bible to 2 Samuel 22:31 and show the child where the verse is located.
- Play the Enhanced CD and listen for songs about God.

## NEXT HOUR (MORE EXPLORATIONS FOR PRESCHOOLERS)

### OPTIONS

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

### TEXT TRUTH

Our help comes from God.

### BIBLE STORY

David's Song About God  
2 Samuel 22:1-51

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

### BIBLE VERSE

2 Samuel 22:31

### LEADER TIP!

Prepare the Bible Story Circle ahead of time.

### PLAY A MOVEMENT GAME

*Tools: Bible, Motions Cube (Pack Item 27), Activity Page*

- Show preschoolers the sides of the cube and read the motions.
- Invite a child to toss the cube. Tell the child he may do the motion himself, call on a friend, or lead the group to do the motion.
- Give every child a turn to toss the cube and choose what to do.
- After a while, show children the Activity Page. Show the picture of David playing his harp. Comment that God loved David and helped him. David wrote a thank-you song to God, and we can find that song in the Bible.
- Turn to 2 Samuel 22 and recall the Bible story.

### MAKE A BIBLE VERSE POSTER

*Tools: Bible, poster board, markers, colorful shape stickers*

- Print the Bible verse in the center of the poster board. Open the Bible to 2 Samuel 22 and lay it near the poster.
- Read the verse to children as they show interest in the stickers and markers. Invite children to decorate the poster.
- As children work together, pick up the Bible and comment that this is where we find the Bible verse.
- Lead the children in saying the Bible verse together.

### SPIN AND TELL

*Tools: Bible, Bible Story Circle (Pack Item 35), Story Picture: David's Song About God (Pack Item 3)*

- Invite two or three preschoolers to join you for a memory game. Show children the Bible Story Circle and the Story Picture. Say: "You have heard teachers talk about David and the things that happened to him. Let's think more about the story."
- Direct a child to spin the arrow on the Circle. Read the question and wait for the child to respond. Give another child a turn.

- Say: “David knew God loved him and cared for him. God loves and cares for you, too.”

## WORK PUZZLES

*Tools: Bible, David Wooden Box Puzzles (LifeWay, 005267309), 4 sheets of construction paper*

- Put each of the four puzzles on a separate paper. Invite a child to choose a puzzle. Remark that all the puzzles are about David.
- Turn to 2 Samuel 22 and point to David’s name or God’s name. Say: “God loved David and took care of him. David trusted God and knew God would always be near him and help him.”
- As a child completes a puzzle, suggest he trade puzzles with a friend.

## CIRCLE TIME

### GATHER

- Play the Enhanced CD and lead children to hop to the music. Lead children to the circle.

### REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

- Pass the Story Picture (Pack) around the circle.
- Remark: “David asked God to protect him and help him. And God did. David was so thankful, he sang a song to praise God.”
- Recall the Bible story, emphasizing that David asked God to help him. Say: “God will help us, too, when we ask Him.”

### PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Give a Bible to pairs of children. Ask teachers in the circle to help preschoolers locate the Book of 2 Samuel.
- Say: “This Bible book tells about the things David did and how God cared for him. Let’s say a Bible verse from 2 Samuel.”
- Lead children to say the Bible verse together.

### PRAY

- Pray briefly, thanking God for His constant love and care.
- Thank God for the Bible.

### LEADER TIP!

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

### DON'T FORGET!

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



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



## Session 4



# A DAY OF CELEBRATION

**1 Chronicles 15:1-29; 16:1-37**

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

### TEXT TRUTH

Give thanks to God and praise Him.

### BIBLE STORY

1 Chronicles 15:1-29; 16:1-37

### BIBLE VERSE

1 Chronicles 16:34

### CHRIST IN CONTEXT

The temple was the physical place where God dwelled with His people. God, through Jesus, is with us now. Upon Jesus' return, God's people will dwell with Him in His Kingdom forever.

### BIBLE SKILLS

- Remember and retell a familiar Bible story and Bible fact.
- Begin to recognize names of books in the Bible.

## ARRIVAL ACTIVITIES (5 MINUTES)

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

#### ► Sit in a tent to read books.

*Tools: Bible; child's pop-up tent; books about God, the Bible, and preschoolers*

#### ► Try on helper hats and clothing.

*Tools: Bible, dress-up items related to different occupations, stand-up mirror*

#### ► Play and guess the sounds of musical instruments.

*Tools: Bible, app with musical instrument sounds (or a sound book with instrument sounds), a few musical instruments*



### EXPLORE THE BIBLE TEXT CONNECTION

- Though God did not allow David to build the temple, David wanted to move the ark of the covenant to Jerusalem where Solomon would 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.

### FAMILY AT HOME

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

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

## TEXT TRUTH

Give thanks to God and praise Him.

## BIBLE VERSE

1 Chronicles 16:34

## LEADER TIP!

Many popular songs about giving thanks to God may be familiar to preschoolers. “God Is So Good,” “How Great is Our God,” and “Praise Him, Praise Him” are just a few you might sing with the children.

## LEADER TIP

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

# A CELEBRATION IN JERUSALEM

## 1 Chronicles 15:1-29; 16:1-37

*King David lived in the city of Jerusalem. He had built many buildings in Jerusalem, but there was no place for the ark. David knew the ark was special because it contained the tablets on which God’s laws were written. Only the priests could carry the ark.*

*David decided to make a tent in which to place the ark. The tent would be a place where the people could go to pray and worship God.*

*Work, work, work. All the people worked on the tent. When the tent was finished, King David called the people together. He gave some of the people important jobs. David chose some people to move church things into the tent. Other people were chosen to sing songs and play instruments.*

*When the day came to move into the tent, King David asked all the people to come. Everyone was excited. King David and the leaders put on special clothes for the celebration.*

*Some of the people carried the church things down the road to the tent. Other people played cymbals, trumpets, and harps. Still others sang songs to God. Everyone walked together to the tent.*

*King David was happy. It was time to celebrate. David sang a song to thank God. David told the people: “Give thanks to God. Sing songs to thank Him. Remember all the wonderful things God has done. Tell everyone about the wonderful things God does. God is great.”*

*All the people said “Amen” and “Praise the Lord,” then they went back to their homes.*

## BIBLE VERSE

From the Bible text:

*Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his faithful love endures forever.*  
1 Chronicles 16:34

Paraphrase:

*Give thanks to God for He is good. 1 Chronicles 16:34*



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

### GATHER

- Direct children to complete their activities and join you in the Circle Time area.
- Give an instrument to each child. Say: “Today we are learning about a great celebration that happened in a place called Jerusalem.”
- Lead children in singing a familiar worship song while playing their instruments.

### HEAR THE BIBLE STORY

- Remark: “We honor God when we sing praises to Him. He wants to hear our songs. Let’s open the Bible to the Book of 1 Chronicles and hear about a celebration the Israelites had to worship God.”
- Open the Bible to the marker placed at 1 Chronicles 15 and tell the Bible story.
- Show preschoolers the Story Picture (Pack). Say: “David and the people made a tent where they could worship God. Just as David praised God for the many things He had done, we can also praise God and give Him thanks.”
- Continue: “Our truth to remember is ‘Give thanks to God and praise Him.’” Call on a child to attach the Text Truth Leaf (Pack) to the Text Truth Tree (Pack).

### PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Hold the Bible to show children 1 Chronicles 16:34. Read the Bible verse aloud, then use the following motions to say the Bible verse together.  
*Give thanks:* place both hands together as if you are praying.  
*To God:* point one finger to the sky.  
*For He is good:* place right hand against your lips, then move your right hand into the palm of your left hand with both hands facing upward.
- Repeat the verse a few times with children.

### PRAY

- Ask children if they have prayer requests.
- Thank God for His goodness and faithfulness. Thank Him for caring about us and hearing our praises to Him.

### OPTIONS

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

### OR

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

### TOOLS

- Bible
- musical instruments (one per child)
- tape

### PACK ITEMS

- 4 Story Picture: A Celebration in Jerusalem
- 21 Bible Bookmarks
- 24 Text Truth Tree
- 25 Text Truth Leaves

## TEXT TRUTH

Give thanks to God and praise Him.

## BIBLE STORY

A Celebration in Jerusalem  
1 Chronicles 15:1-29; 16:1-37

## BIBLE VERSE

1 Chronicles 16:34

## PACK ITEMS

4 Story Picture: A Celebration in Jerusalem  
20 Tent/Temple Pictures  
32 David Story Figures

## LEADER TIP!

As much as possible, be a participant in the children's activities. Engage in conversations and pretend play. This provides opportunities for deeper relationships to be formed.

# EXPLORATION STATIONS (45-60 MINUTES)

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

## FIND & STACK BIBLES



*Tools: several Bibles, colored paper strips*

- Mark 1 Chronicles in each Bible with a paper strip. Hide Bibles in the room.
- Invite preschoolers to find the Bibles. When a child finds a Bible, direct him to take the Bible to the center of the room.
- Open the Bible to the paper strip and say: "First Chronicles."
- As the Bibles are found, repeat the actions. Direct children to stack Bibles to create a tower.
- Say: "The Bible is God's Word. It is the most important book we have. One thing we learn from the Bible is to give thanks to God. I'm thankful God gave us the Bible so we can learn more about Him."

## MAKE A BANNER



*Tools: Bible, copy paper, marker, simple shape stickers, hole punch, yarn*

- Print the words of the Bible verse and reference on each piece of paper.
- Guide a child to decorate a paper with stickers.
- Read the words on the child's paper. Say: "David and the people worshiped God. They sang songs to praise and thank Him. We can worship God, too."
- Help the child punch holes in the top of his banner. Tie yarn through the holes to make a hanger.
- Lead the child to repeat the Bible verse. Point to the words on his banner.

**WAVE STREAMERS**

*Tools: Bible, Story Picture: A Celebration in Jerusalem (Pack), Enhanced CD, long ribbons or crepe paper streamers*

- Give each child a streamer to wave. Play the Enhanced CD and invite children to move with the music.
- Talk about worshipping God. Say: "We can worship God by giving thanks to Him and singing about His goodness. David led people to give thanks to God when the beautiful tent was completed."
- Look at the Story Picture and tell the Bible story. Open the Bible to 1 Chronicles 15 and point to God's name in the passage.
- Ask children to name ways people can show love to God (sing, pray, talk about Him, and so on).

**BUILD PLACES TO WORSHIP**

*Tools: Bible, David Story Figures (Pack), Story Picture: A Celebration in Jerusalem (Pack), wooden blocks, Tent/ Temple Pictures (Pack), fabric pieces, wood moldings and pieces*

- Show the Tent/Temple Pictures to a child. Say: "These are places where people in Bible times went to worship God."
- Suggest that the child use the materials to build a worship place. Move a David Story Figure inside the worship place.
- Say: "David led the people to build the tent in which they could worship God."
- Show the child the Story Picture and point to the tent and David. Say: "David told the people to thank God for His goodness to them."

**CARRY THE ARK**

*Tools: Bible, two foam pool noodles, box, duct tape, toy cymbals and other musical instruments, Activity Page*

- Construct an ark by taping pool noodles to the sides of a medium-size box.
- Children may be curious about the box and noodles. Show them the picture on the Activity Page. Point to the men carrying the ark.
- Say: "David wanted to place the ark in the new tent. So David told men to carry the ark on their shoulders as they walked to the tent. Let's pretend we are carrying the ark to the tent."
- Help four children rest the pool noodle "handles" on their shoulders and carry the box across the room. Others can play instruments to celebrate.
- Encourage children to take turns carrying the box and creating music.

## NEXT HOUR (MORE EXPLORATIONS FOR PRESCHOOLERS)

### OPTIONS

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

### TEXT TRUTH

Give thanks to God and praise Him.

### BIBLE STORY

A Celebration in Jerusalem  
 1 Chronicles 15:1-29; 16:1-37  
*The Bible story is printed on the back of the Story Picture.*

### BIBLE VERSE

1 Chronicles 16:34

### MOVE CHURCH ITEMS

*Tools: Bible; child's play tent; items typically found in a church (Bibles, offering plates, and so on); child's wagon or cart*

- Set up the tent in a corner of the room. Put the church items in a pile on the other side of the room. Place the Bible in the wagon.
- Pull the wagon, then get the Bible. Turn to 1 Chronicles 15 or 16 and say: "When the tent was ready, David told the people to take the church items to the tent. David gave every person a job to do. Let's move church items to our play tent."
- Give children turns to load and pull the wagon and others to unload the items into the tent.

### TOSS & TALK

*Tools: Bible, beach ball, Story Picture: A Celebration in Jerusalem (Pack Item 4)*

- Gather children in a circle. Toss the beach ball to a child. Ask her to name one thing she does at church. Continue tossing the ball until all children have a turn to respond.
- Say: "I like to come to church. I like to sing praises to God and thank Him for His goodness. That is what David and the people did when the special tent was ready."
- Show children the Story Picture and recall the Bible story.

### MARCH IN A PRAISE PARADE

*Tools: Bible, musical instruments (one per child), Enhanced CD, Activity Page*

- Say: "Parades are fun! Tell me about parades you have seen." Give children time to respond.
- Show children the picture on the Activity Page. Say: "The Bible tells about a special parade King David led to the new tent. The people praised God."
- Play the Enhanced CD. Invite children to play instruments as they march in a praise parade.

- Show preschoolers the picture on the Activity Page. State: “Just as the people praised God when the tent was finished, we can praise God for all He does for us, too. We give thanks to God because He is good.”

## PLAY MUSICAL CHAIRS

*Tools: Bible, ribbon, one chair per child, Enhanced CD*

- Arrange chairs in a circle facing outward. Mark a Bible at the Book of 1 Chronicles. Place the Bible on a chair.
- Play the CD and invite children to move around the circle of chairs.
- Stop the music and tell children to sit. Tell the child who sits in the chair with the Bible to open it to the ribbon and say “First Chronicles.”
- Repeat until each child has an opportunity to open the Bible.

### LEADER TIP!

Don't remove a chair each time—simply move the Bible to another chair.

## CIRCLE TIME

### GATHER

- When children are in the circle, call on them to tell things they do and see at celebrations or parties.

### REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

- Say: “The Bible tells about a big celebration in Jerusalem. It wasn't like our parties today, but the people had a great time praising God, playing instruments, and singing songs.”
- Open a Bible to 1 Chronicles 15. Retell the Bible story as you show the Story Picture (Pack).

### PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Say: “That story is in the Book of 1 Chronicles. Let's find that book in our Bibles.”
- Distribute classroom and teacher Bibles. Ask teachers to sit between preschoolers and help the children turn to 1 Chronicles 15.
- Say: “The Book of 1 Chronicles is in the part of the Bible called the Old Testament.”

### PRAY

- Thank God for being good to us. Thank Him for the Bible and stories that are true.

### LEADER TIP!

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

### DON'T FORGET!

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



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



Session

5

## FOLLOWING GOD'S PLAN

FOR THE  
LEADER

**1 Chronicles 22:1-19; 28:1-21**

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

### TEXT TRUTH

God will help us obey Him.

### BIBLE STORY

1 Chronicles 22:1-19; 28:1-21

### BIBLE VERSE

1 Chronicles 28:9b

### CHRIST IN CONTEXT

The temple was the physical place where God dwelled with His people. God, through Jesus, is with us now. Upon Jesus' return, God's people will dwell with Him in His Kingdom forever.

### BIBLE SKILLS

- Remember and say simple Bible words, phrases, and verses with biblical references.
- Begin to pronounce the names of the books of the Bible.

## ARRIVAL ACTIVITIES (5 MINUTES)

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

#### ► Match color patterns.

*Tools: Bible, ice cube trays, colored beads or pom-poms (Put one row of colored beads in a tray. Challenge preschoolers to match pattern.)*

#### ► Create with play dough.

*Tools: Bible; fresh play dough; play dough tools (rolling pins, craft sticks, cookie cutters, and so on)*

#### ► Role play stories about David & play with blocks.

*Tools: Bible, David Story Figures (Pack Item 32), plastic interlocking blocks*

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



### EXPLORE THE BIBLE TEXT CONNECTION

- 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 have freedom only through faith in Jesus Christ.

### FAMILY AT HOME

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

**TEXT TRUTH**

God will help us obey Him.

**BIBLE VERSE**

1 Chronicles 28:9b

**LEADER TIP!**

Use the Tent/Temple Pictures (Pack Item 20) as an additional resource when you tell the story.

Help children learn that David built a tent for God; but Solomon built a temple for God.

**LEADER TIP**

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

# PLANS FOR THE TEMPLE

## 1 Chronicles 22:1-19; 28:1-21

*God had told King David that someone in David's family would build the temple, a house for God. So David began to get things ready.*

*David told men in the land to find beautiful stones and cut them. David told others to make nails and cut logs for building the temple.*

*David said, "The house for God must be great and famous and glorious, the most beautiful house in all the land."*

*David called his son Solomon and told him how to build the temple. "My son, I wanted to build the house for God, but He told me I would not do that. God said my son would build the temple. Solomon, you are the one God has chosen to build the temple.*

*"Now, Solomon, may God be with you and help you be successful as you build His house. He will give you wisdom and understanding and put you in charge of Israel. Obey all of God's commands. He will help you. Be strong and courageous. Don't be afraid or discouraged," David told Solomon.*

*Then David ordered all the leaders in all the land to help Solomon.*

*David reminded Solomon to always serve God with his heart and mind. "If you go to God for help, He will hear you."*

*David then gave Solomon God's plans for the temple, all its rooms, porches, special places, and courtyard. Everything was to be built just as God said.*

**BIBLE VERSE**

From the Bible text:

*Know God and serve him with [your] heart and mind. 1 Chronicles 28:9b*

Paraphrase:

*Love God and serve Him. 1 Chronicles 28:9b*



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

### GATHER

- Blow a whistle to indicate cleanup time. Invite children to join you in the Circle Time area when they have put away their activity materials.
- While wearing a construction hat and tool belt, ask children what type of job someone has who wears this uniform.

### HEAR THE BIBLE STORY

- Say: “You are right! People who build things wear items like construction hats and tool belts. The hats protect the workers’ heads, and the belts hold lots of tools.”
- Remove the hat and continue: “When people build something, it is important that they have a plan. The plans are called ‘blueprints.’ The Bible has a story about some special plans for a building in Jerusalem. Listen closely to the story.”
- Open the Bible to today’s Bible Bookmark (Pack) placed at 1 Chronicles 22 or 28. Tell the Bible story.
- Remark: “God gave David specific plans for the temple. The people followed these plans. They obeyed God.”
- Show preschoolers the Story Picture (Pack) and point to David and his son Solomon.
- Say: “Our truth to remember is ‘God will help us obey Him.’” Attach the Text Truth Leaf (Pack) to the Text Truth Tree (Pack).

### PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- State: “Our Bible verse for today is 1 Chronicles 28:9b. The verse says, ‘Love God and serve Him.’ The Book of 1 Chronicles is in the Old Testament.”
- Form two groups of preschoolers. Invite the first group to say “Love God” and the second group to respond with “Serve Him.” After a few rounds, lead the children to switch roles.

### PRAY

- Ask God to help preschoolers obey God, love God, and serve God.

### OPTIONS

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

### OR

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

### TOOLS

- Bible
- tape
- whistle, construction hat, tool belt, a few other construction hand tools

### PACK ITEMS

- 5 Story Picture: Plans for the Temple
- 21 Bible Bookmarks
- 24 Text Truth Tree
- 25 Text Truth Leaves

## TEXT TRUTH

God will help us obey Him.

## BIBLE STORY

Plans for the Temple  
1 Chronicles 22:1-19; 28:1-21

## BIBLE VERSE

1 Chronicles 28:9b

## PACK ITEMS

5 Story Picture: Plans for the Temple  
20 Tent/Temple Pictures  
27 Motions Cube  
32 David Story Figures

## LEADER TIP!

To make play snow, mix ½ cup white hair conditioner with 3 cups baking soda. Depending on class size, you may need to make more than one batch.

## LEADER TIP!

Closely monitor use of the snow mixture to prevent children from tasting or eating the snow.

# EXPLORATION STATIONS (45-60 MINUTES)

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

## CREATE WITH "SNOW"



*Tools: Bible, play "snow" (see Leader Tip), Allergy Sign (Enhanced CD)*

- Invite preschoolers to make creations from the play "snow" mixture.
- Roll a handful of snow into a ball or make your handprint in the snow to give children ideas.
- Relate creative play to the Bible story. For instance, say: "That is a pretty sculpture you have made. King David told people to prepare stones, make nails, and cut logs to make the temple beautiful."
- Open the Bible to 1 Chronicles 22 or 28. Tell the child: "The story about David and Solomon is in the Book of 1 Chronicles. That book is in the Old Testament."

## FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS



*Tools: Bible, Motions Cube (Pack)*

- Invite children to play "Follow the Leader."
- Call on one child to toss the Motions Cube. Whisper the instruction in her ear, then direct her to lead the group in the motion.
- Give every child a turn.
- Remark: "God wanted the people to follow specific instructions to build the temple. God wanted the people to obey what He said to do."
- Turn to 1 Chronicles 28:9b and lead children to say the Bible verse.

**BUILD A TEMPLE WALL**

*Tools: Bible, Tent/Temple Pictures (Pack), shoe boxes covered in white or tan paper, David Story Figures (Pack)*

- Stack a few boxes to get children's attention. When they begin to build, show them the Temple Picture and point to the large stones. Suggest that the covered boxes remind you of the stones cut for the temple walls.
- Pick up a David Story Figure and move it toward the block "wall." Use the figures to recall things the children have heard about David.
- Say: "David loved God and obeyed Him."
- Turn to 1 Chronicles 22 or 28 and find David's name. Look for Solomon's name.

**TOUR YOUR CHURCH**

*Tools: Bible, kids' walking rope, Story Picture: Plans for the Temple (Pack), Door Hangers (Enhanced CD)*

- Show children the Story Picture and recall the story.
- Take children on a tour of your church building. Before leaving, post a sign to tell when you leave the classroom and when you plan to return.
- Make a plan for your tour route. Avoid areas where children might see family members. Enlist additional grown-ups if you take more than 3 children at a time.
- Tell children to hold the rope as you walk. Look for people worshipping, listening, praying, and talking. Remind children to be quiet as they walk.
- Thank God for your church and the people who love God and serve Him.

**ARRANGE LETTERS**

*Tools: Bible, Activity Page, two sets of magnetic letters, Session Key Words: Obey, Love, Serve (Enhanced CD)*

- Print the key words page and cut apart the sections. Spread magnetic letters on the table.
- Give a preschooler a paper and read the word printed on it. Say: "That is a word that reminds us of what God told David to do."
- Find the same word in 1 Chronicles 22 or 28 and show it to the child.
- Ask: "Can you look for letters on the table that match the letters on the paper? You can spell the word, too."
- Help the child arrange the letters to form the word.
- Show the child the picture on the Activity Page. Point to David. Say: "God wanted David to obey Him. And David told Solomon to love God and serve Him."

## NEXT HOUR (MORE EXPLORATIONS FOR PRESCHOOLERS)

### OPTIONS

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

### TEXT TRUTH

God will help us obey Him.

### BIBLE STORY

Plans for the Temple  
 1 Chronicles 22:1-19; 28:1-21  
*The Bible story is printed on the back of the Story Picture.*

### BIBLE VERSE

1 Chronicles 28:9b

### MOVE TO MUSIC

*Tools: Bible, Enhanced CD, Activity Page*

- Choose one child to be the leader. As you play the CD, invite the child to begin doing a motion to the music. (Make suggestions such as wave arms, tap knees, turn, and so on.)
- Lead the group to do the motion together. After a few moments, call on another child to suggest a motion. Continue until every child has a turn.
- At the end of a song, sit down and show preschoolers the Activity Page. Summarize the Bible story for the children.
- Say: “God wants us to love and serve Him. He wants us to obey what He says. Sometimes it can be hard to do what we are told, but God always wants us to be obedient.”

### WORK A FLOOR PUZZLE

*Tools: Bible, Solomon’s Temple Floor Puzzle (LifeWay, 005191769), Story Picture: Plans for the Temple (Pack Item 5)*

- Put the puzzle pieces next to the Bible and invite two children to work on the puzzle together.
- Guide children to look at the picture on the puzzle box for help.
- Say: “This puzzle shows the temple that Solomon built for God. Solomon followed God’s plan for the temple.”
- Show the children the Story Picture and point to Solomon looking at the place where God wanted him to build the temple.

### DESIGN A BOOKMARK

*Tools: Bible, strips or squares of colored cardstock, colorful stickers, crayons*

- Invite children to design bookmarks to use in their Bibles or classroom Bibles.
- As children apply stickers to the cards, recall the Bible verse. Ask children if they would like for you to write the verse on their bookmarks.

- Remark that the words remind us that God wants us to love Him and serve Him. Say: “David told his son Solomon to obey God and do what He said to do.”

## FORM WORDS WITH BLOCKS

*Tools: Bible; wooden blocks; 3 colors of sticky note sheets; word cards for love, God, and obey*

- Write individual letters for each word on one color of sticky notes (one color per word). Stick the notes on blocks.
- Show children the word cards and challenge them to find blocks with matching letters and colors.
- Say the words as children form them with the blocks.

### LEADER TIP!

Write each word on an index card in large letters. Use marker colors to match the sticky notes.

## CIRCLE TIME

### GATHER

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

### REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

- Hold up the Story Picture (Pack) and point to David. Ask children what they remember about David. (Give hints as needed.)
- Recall the Bible story, then pass the picture around the circle.

### PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Pass a Bible around the group as the Enhanced CD plays.
- Stop the music and ask the child with the Bible to stand. Help her say the Bible verse.
- Give every child a turn to say the verse.
- Show preschoolers where the verse is found in the Bible (1 Chronicles 28:9).

### PRAY

- Thank God for helping us obey Him. Ask God to show us how to love and serve Him.

### LEADER TIP!

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

### DON'T FORGET!

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



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



## Session 6

# GOD'S PLAN FOR HIS PEOPLE

FOR THE  
LEADER

**Genesis 15; 17:1-22; 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.

In Genesis 15 we read that 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

### TEXT TRUTH

God had a special plan for Abram.

### BIBLE STORY

Genesis 15; 17:1-22; 21:1-7

### BIBLE VERSE

Genesis 17:7

### CHRIST IN CONTEXT

Genesis is a book about beginnings—the beginning of the world, the beginning of a people chosen by God, and the beginning of God’s plan to restore all people to Him through His Son, Jesus.

### BIBLE SKILLS

- Begin to pronounce the names of the books of the Bible.
- Know that the Old and New Testaments of the Bible are divided into smaller parts called books.

## ARRIVAL ACTIVITIES (5 MINUTES)

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

#### ▶ Drop colored pom-poms on matching papers.

*Tools: Bible, five different colored sheets of paper, colored pom-poms (same colors as paper), tongs*

#### ▶ Decorate a paper plate with star stickers.

*Tools: Bible, paper plates, star stickers, crayons*

#### ▶ Make play dough stars.

*Tools: Bible, fresh play dough, star cookie cutters in different sizes*



### EXPLORE THE BIBLE 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 seen. Abram was blessed by God because of his obedience.
- 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 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.

### FAMILY AT HOME

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

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

**TEXT TRUTH**

God had a special plan for Abram.

**BIBLE VERSE**

Genesis 17:7

**LEADER TIP!**

*Covenant* may be a new word for preschoolers. Explain that *covenant* is another word for *promise*.

**LEADER TIP!**

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

## GOD'S PLAN FOR ABRAM

**Genesis 15; 17:1-22; 21:1-7**

*God had a special plan for Abram. One night God gave a message to Abram. "Do not be afraid, Abram. I will protect you. Your reward will be great," God said.*

*Abram wondered about the reward God was talking about. Abram said, "God, what can you give me? I don't have any children, and everything I have I will give to my servant's son."*

*God then told Abram His plan. God said Abram would have a child of his own. God told Abram to look at the sky and count the stars (as if he could). God told Abram his family would have children and more children until there were more people in his family than stars in the sky.*

*Abram believed what God said. He knew God had a plan for him.*

*God was pleased that Abram believed these things would happen. Later God said, "Your name will be Abraham now. And your wife will be called Sarah. I will give Sarah a son."*

*God kept His promise to Abraham. When Abraham was 100 years old, Sarah had a baby boy, and Abraham named him Isaac.*

*Abraham and Sarah were happy they now had a child. They knew this was God's plan.*

**BIBLE VERSE**

From the Bible text:

*My covenant is to be your God and the God of your offspring. Genesis 17:7*

Paraphrase:

*I will be your God and your children's God. Genesis 17:7*



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

### GATHER

- Dim the lights and ask children to follow you to the Circle Time area.
- As children sit in the circle, say: “When the lights are off in the room, it is dark. What are some things that help provide light indoors? What are some things that help provide light when it is dark outdoors?”
- After children respond, turn on the lights.

### HEAR THE BIBLE STORY

- State: “When you go outdoors at night, you will often see something in the sky. You’ll see the moon and stars. Have you ever tried to count the stars? You could count and count and count and still not be able to count all of them. In our story today, God told someone to try to count the stars in the sky. God wanted to help the person understand a promise.”
- Open the Bible to the Bible Bookmark placed at Genesis 15. Display the Story Picture (Pack) as you tell the Bible story.
- Say: “God had big plans for Abram. God promised Abram he would have a child, even though Abram was old. God promised Abram that his family would have more children than stars in the sky. Abram believed God had a plan for him.”
- Hold the Text Truth Leaf (Pack) for today. Say: “Our truth to remember is ‘God had a special plan for Abram.’” Attach the Text Truth Leaf to the Text Truth Tree (Pack).

### PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Roll a ball to a child in the circle. When the child receives the ball, tell her to say the word *Genesis*. Repeat with other children so each has a turn to say the word.
- Show children that Genesis is the very first book of the Bible.

### PRAY

- Thank God for having a special plan for each of us. Thank Him for the Bible that tells us about that plan and how much God loves us.

### OPTIONS

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

### OR

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

### TOOLS

- Bible
- large ball

### PACK ITEMS

- 6 Story Picture: God’s Plan for Abram
- 21 Bible Bookmarks
- 24 Text Truth Tree
- 25 Text Truth Leaves

## TEXT TRUTH

God had a special plan for Abram.

## BIBLE STORY

God's Plan for Abram  
Genesis 15; 17:1-22; 21:1-7

## BIBLE VERSE

Genesis 17:7

## PACK ITEMS

6 Story Picture: God's Plan for Abram  
19 Book: *God Has a Plan for You*

# EXPLORATION STATIONS (45-60 MINUTES)

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

## PAINT A STAR PICTURE



*Tools: Bible, white tempera paint, cotton swabs, paper plates, black construction paper, Story Picture: God's Plan for Abram (Pack)*

- Show preschoolers the Story Picture. Point to the stars in the sky, reminding children of the promise God made to Abram in the Bible.
- Turn to Genesis 15 in the Bible and tell children this is where we read about God's promise to Abram.
- Give a piece of black paper and cotton swab to each child. Direct children to dip the tip of their cotton swab in the paint and dot it all over the black paper.
- Say: "God promised Abram his family would be larger than the number of stars in the sky."

## PLAY WITH PEOPLE FIGURES



*Tools: Bible, wooden blocks, toy dollhouse (opt.), plastic people figures, Activity Page*

- Observe preschoolers as they pretend with the dollhouse and figures.
- Listen for opportunities to relate the children's activity to the emphasis on God's plan for Abram. Remark that God loved Abram and promised that he would have many children.
- Show preschoolers the picture on the Activity Page and summarize the Bible story.
- Open the Bible to Genesis 15 as you tell the Bible story.

**SHINE FLASHLIGHTS**

*Tools: Bible, insulated cups, toothpicks, flashlights*

- Poke small holes in the bottom of insulated cups, using toothpicks. (Discard toothpicks after use.)
- Show the cups and flashlights to children. Move to a dark area of the room if possible.
- Shine a flashlight through a cup to project against a wall. The light should shine out of the holes, making “stars” on the wall.
- Remind preschoolers of God’s promise to Abram. Say: “God promised Abram He would make his family larger than the number of stars in the sky. God had a plan for Abram, and He has a plan for each of us, too.”
- Guide a child to shine a flashlight on the Bible opened to Genesis 15.

**WORK FAMILY PUZZLES**

*Tools: Bible; puzzles  
Family Prayers (LifeWay, 005191559), Going to Church (LifeWay, 005159906), My Family (LifeWay, 005191558); 3 trays*

- Put each puzzle in a separate tray. Open the Bible to Genesis 17:7.
- Invite a child to choose a puzzle to work. Talk with him about the picture on the puzzle. Say: “That is a family. God planned for families. Long ago God planned for Abram to have a family with many children.”
- Encourage preschoolers to take turns working the puzzles. Thank them for cooperating.
- Touch the Bible page and remark: “Listen to this Bible verse, then let’s say it together.”

**ROCK & READ**

*Tools: Bible, child’s rocking chair, several books about families and children, baby doll,  
Book: God Has a Plan for You (Pack)*

- Begin to “read” a book to the doll to get a child’s interest.
- Invite a preschooler to hold the doll and read to it or rock it. Comment that families love and care for their children, and that is part of God’s plan.
- Picture-read the book about God’s plan. After reading, remark that God had a plan for Abram.
- Say: “God’s plan is written in the Bible. God told Abram He would give him many children. God said He would be Abram’s God and love and care for him.”
- Tell the child: “The story about Abram is in the Old Testament in the Book of Genesis. Let’s look for the story in the Bible.”

## NEXT HOUR (MORE EXPLORATIONS FOR PRESCHOOLERS)

### OPTIONS

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

### TEXT TRUTH

God had a special plan for Abram.

### BIBLE STORY

God's Plan for Abram  
 Genesis 15; 17:1-22; 21:1-7  
*The Bible story is printed on the back of the Story Picture.*

### BIBLE VERSE

Genesis 17:7

### LACE A SHAPE

*Tools: Bible, solid-color place mat (cut into 3 large geo shapes), permanent marker, hole punch, shoelaces, Activity Page*

- On each shape print the words *God had a special plan for Abram*. Punch holes around each shape, 1 inch apart and 1 inch from the edge. Tie a shoelace through one hole of each shape.
- Invite a child to thread the shoelace around a shape. Read the words on the shape.
- Comment: "God had a plan for Abram. God has a plan for you, too. The Bible reminds us of this promise."
- Show the preschooler the picture of Abram on the Activity Page.

### TOSS & SAY

*Tools: Bible, beanbag, painter's tape*

- State: "Today we are learning about God's plan for Abram. God had a special plan for Abram. He has a special plan for each of you, too."
- Read Genesis 17:7 aloud. Lead children to say the Bible verse with you.
- Make two parallel tape lines on the floor, several feet apart. Direct children to stand on the lines facing each other.
- Toss a beanbag to each child. As the child catches the beanbag, say: "God has a special plan for \_\_\_\_\_." Tell the child to say her name.
- Toss the beanbag back and forth until each child says his name.

### GUESS THE ITEM

*Tools: Bible, small diaper bag, baby bottle, rattle, sock, comb, diaper, Story Picture: God's Plan for Abram (Pack Item 6)*

- Put the items in the bag and set it in front of children.
- Describe each item for children to guess. Say: "This is something you use to feed a baby. Or, a baby plays with this."

- After the items have been identified, lay them aside and open the Bible to Genesis 15. Tell the Bible story to the children and show them the Story Picture.

## SPELL GENESIS

*Tools: Bible, Bible Bookmarks (Pack Item 21), square sticky notes, washable marker*

- Write individual letters of the word *Genesis* on separate sticky notes.
- Show a child the bookmark for Genesis. Point to the letters and say their names. Help the child open the Bible to the Book of Genesis and find the name. Compare the letters.
- Lead the preschooler to arrange the sticky notes on the table or wall to spell the word *Genesis*. Say: “Genesis is the first book in the Bible.”

## CIRCLE TIME

### GATHER

- Pass a flashlight around the circle. Give each child an opportunity to turn the light on and off.

### REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

- Say: “This light can remind us of the stars in the sky. God made a special promise to Abram. He used the stars in the sky to help Abram understand.”
- Retell the Bible story. Display the Story Picture (Pack).
- Remark: “God had a plan for Abram. God has a plan for each of you, too.”

### PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Open the Bible to Genesis 15. Highlight the name *Abram* at least once in the text.
- State: “We have heard about Abram. Abram’s story is in the Bible in the Book of Genesis.”
- Pass the Bible around the circle and tell preschoolers to notice the word that is highlighted.

### PRAY

- Pray: “Thank You, God, for having a special plan for \_\_\_\_\_.” Include each child’s name in the prayer.

### LEADER TIP!

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

### DON'T FORGET!

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



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



## Session 7



# CHOOSE KINDNESS

**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, Isaac discovered that the Philistines had filled the well with dirt to prevent Isaac 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

### TEXT TRUTH

Kindness to others shows God's love.

### BIBLE STORY

Genesis 26:1-6,12-33

### BIBLE VERSE

Genesis 26:24b

### CHRIST IN CONTEXT

Genesis is a book about beginnings—the beginning of the world, the beginning of a people chosen by God, and the beginning of God's plan to restore all people to Him through His Son, Jesus.

### BIBLE SKILLS

- Name a few Bible books in order.
- Remember the names of familiar Bible people.

## ARRIVAL ACTIVITIES (5 MINUTES)

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

#### ► Paint with watercolors.

*Tools: Bible, copy paper, small cups, water, watercolor paints, paintbrushes*

#### ► Build a well or other structure.

*Tools: Bible, interlocking blocks*

#### ► Match pictures.

*Tools: Bible, Kindness Matching Cards (Pack Item 34), scissors*

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



### EXPLORE THE BIBLE TEXT CONNECTION

- Isaac, the son God had promised to Abraham, grew up in Canaan, the land where Abraham lived. Isaac became 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. Rather than 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 dug 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 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.

### FAMILY AT HOME

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

## TEXT TRUTH

Kindness to others shows God's love.

## BIBLE VERSE

Genesis 26:24b

# ISAAC SHOWED KINDNESS

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

*Isaac's family lived in the land where Isaac's father Abraham lived. A famine came to the land and no crops could grow. Isaac thought about moving his family to Egypt where they could get food, but God told Isaac to stay where he was. God would provide for Isaac and his family.*

*Isaac obeyed God. Isaac planted seed in the ground, and God caused crops to grow, better than Isaac had ever seen. Isaac became rich. He had sheep, cattle, servants, and plenty of food.*

*People living in the land were jealous of Isaac. They were not happy that he was rich. So the people decided to close up Isaac's water wells. The people put dirt in the wells.*

*Now Isaac's animals did not have water to drink. So Isaac moved and found a new place to live. Isaac's servants dug another well. But it happened again! The angry neighbors said the water belonged to them and they did not want to share it with Isaac.*

*Once more, Isaac packed up his home, his animals, and all that he had. He moved to another place and dug a well to get water.*

*People in this place fussed, too. "This is our water," they said.*

*Isaac moved again. Every time he moved, he did not grumble. He was kind to the people, even though they were not kind to him.*

*This time the people did not argue with Isaac's helpers. The people saw how Isaac acted. They saw Isaac's kindness and patience. The people said, "We see that God takes care of you. Let us be kind to one another from now on."*

*So Isaac and the people ate together and promised to be kind.*

## LEADER TIP

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

## BIBLE VERSE

From the Bible text:

*Do not be afraid, for I am with you. I will bless you. Genesis 26:24b*

Paraphrase:

*Do not be afraid, for I am with you. I will bless you. Genesis 26:24b*



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

### GATHER

- Sing a clean-up song as you encourage children to complete their activities and join you in the Circle Time area.
- Hold up a bottle of water. Say: “When you want a drink of water, you can just open up a water bottle and take a drink. Or you can get water from your refrigerator or a water fountain.”
- Pretend to drink water. Say: “Sometimes people dig into the ground to find water. Then they build a well to get the water when they need it. Listen to a Bible story about someone who dug wells.”

### HEAR THE BIBLE STORY

- Open the Bible to Genesis 26 and show preschoolers the Story Picture (Pack).
- Tell the Bible story with expression, then comment: “Isaac’s neighbors were not kind to him, but Isaac decided he would not be afraid. He would be kind to others, even though they weren’t kind to him.”
- Hold up today’s Text Truth Leaf (Pack) and read it. Then call on a child to stick the leaf on the Text Truth Tree (Pack).

### PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Mark Genesis 26:24 with the Bible Bookmark (Pack). Read the verse aloud to children.
- Mix up the Bible verse strip pieces. Then call on children to put the words in order and say the Bible verse together. Help the children sequence the words.
- Lead children to say the names of the first three Bible books: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus.

### PRAY

- Ask God to help us be kind to others. Pray for people to show kindness to one another and be willing to help.
- Thank God for the lessons in the Bible that help us remember the right things to do.

### OPTIONS

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

### OR

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

### TOOLS

- Bible
- bottle of water
- Bible verse printed on paper strip and cut apart
- tape

### PACK ITEMS

- 7 Story Picture: Isaac Showed Kindness
- 21 Bible Bookmarks
- 24 Text Truth Tree
- 25 Text Truth Leaves

## TEXT TRUTH

Kindness to others shows God's love.

## BIBLE STORY

Isaac Showed Kindness  
Genesis 26:1-6,12-33

## BIBLE VERSE

Genesis 26:24b

## PACK ITEMS

7 Story Picture: Isaac Showed Kindness  
33 Thumbs Up/Thumbs Down Signs

## LEADER TIP!

Include these or similar scenarios in the kindness game:

- 1) Your friend drops a crayon while drawing and you pick it up.
- 2) Mother tells you to brush your teeth, but you play with a toy instead.
- 3) Dad says not to wear your new shoes outdoors, but you like them and want to wear them.
- 4) You help your teacher put away blocks before Circle Time.
- 5) You hide your treat rather than share it with your friend.
- 6) You are quiet while your sister or brother rests.

# EXPLORATION STATIONS (45-60 MINUTES)

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

## PLAY A KINDNESS GAME



*Tools: Bible, Thumbs Up/Thumbs Down Signs (Pack)*

- Show two children the signs and give one to each child.
- Say: "Let's play a game. I will describe a situation in which someone is kind or not kind. Listen and decide whether this is a thumbs-up action or a thumbs-down action."
- Describe kind and not-kind actions. (See Leader Tip.) Give preschoolers time to decide together if the action shows kindness or not.
- After the scenarios have been described, tell preschoolers that someone in the Bible showed kindness.
- Tell the Bible story.

## DIG IN DIRT OR SAND



*Tools: Bible, dishpan with new potting soil or clean play sand, toy gardening scoop or large spoon, plastic cloth or towel, Allergy Sign (Enhanced CD)*

- Post the sign on the door to tell parents about the nature items in use.
- Cover the table with the cloth or towel and put the dishpan on it. Invite a child to dig in the dirt. Comment that when people dig wells to find water, they dig in the dirt.
- Turn to Genesis 26 and touch Isaac's name. Say: "Isaac's helpers dug in the dirt to find water for their animals and family."
- Tell the Bible story in your own words.

**PLAY WITH FARM  
ANIMALS**

*Tools: Bible, farm animal figures, toy farm trucks, wooden blocks, Activity Page*

- Stand the animal figures with the blocks and trucks. Children may enjoy building fences for the animals or transporting them in the trucks.
- Show children the Activity Page picture. Mention that Isaac was a farmer with many animals and helpers.
- Say: "Isaac's neighbors were jealous of him and wanted him to leave. Each time the people stopped up his wells, Isaac moved to another place."
- Remark: "Isaac was kind. God told Isaac, 'Do not be afraid, for I am with you. I will bless you.' Isaac knew God would take care of him."

**GLUE FOOD PICTURES**

*Tools: Bible, food picture cutouts, paper plates, glue sticks, 2 preschool books focusing on helping and kindness, washable marker*

- Write on the back of each plate today's Text Truth.
- Give a child a paper plate and guide him to choose food pictures to glue on the plate. While the child is busy, talk about Isaac's planning a meal for his neighbors.
- Say: "Even though Isaac's neighbors were unkind to him, Isaac showed God's love to them. That is what God wants us to do."
- Ask the child if his family has invited neighbors or friends to eat a meal. Comment that this shows God's love.
- Read a book to a child when he shows interest.

**POUR AND MEASURE  
WATER**

*Tools: Bible, small pitcher, paper cups, measuring cups, towel, Story Picture: Isaac Showed Kindness (Pack)*

- Encourage one child at a time to dip and pour water from cup to cup. Show her how to measure amounts of water.
- As a child enjoys water play, connect the water to today's Bible story. Comment that Isaac needed water for his family and animals. Three times Isaac's helpers dug wells to get water. But Isaac's neighbors weren't happy about that.
- Show the child the Story Picture as you summarize the Bible story.
- After drying her hands, help the child find Genesis 26 in the Bible.

## NEXT HOUR (MORE EXPLORATIONS FOR PRESCHOOLERS)

### OPTIONS

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

### TEXT TRUTH

Kindness to others shows God's love.

### BIBLE STORY

Isaac Showed Kindness  
 Genesis 26:1-6,12-33  
*The Bible story is printed on the back of the Story Picture.*

### BIBLE VERSE

Genesis 26:24b

### DECORATE A WORD

*Tools: Bible, Session Key Words: Kind (Enhanced CD), small pieces of blue tissue paper, glue sticks*

- Print enough of the “Kind” word page for each child to have one.
- Suggest that children “write” over each letter with glue, then apply tissue paper squares to decorate the letters. Read the word to the children.
- Say: “Today we are learning about showing kindness to others. A man named Isaac was kind. We read about Isaac in the Bible.”
- Open the Bible to Genesis 26 and point to Isaac’s name.

### PLAY A REVIEW GAME

*Tools: Bible, paper squares, marker, Enhanced CD, Story Picture: Isaac Showed Kindness (Pack Item 7)*

- Draw a star shape on some of the paper squares. Arrange the papers facedown in a circle on the floor. Lay the Story Picture faceup in the center of the circle.
- Guide children to walk around the papers while music plays. Stop the music and tell children to pick up a square of paper.
- Say: “If you have a paper with a star, please tell something about the Bible story.”
- Help children recall story points.

### MOVE THROUGH OBSTACLES

*Tools: Bible, wide masking tape, sheet, child’s chair, plastic blocks, wooden spoon, shoe box, Activity Page*

- Make a tape line on the floor and drape the sheet over a table to make a tunnel. Place the Bible in the chair at the end of the obstacle course.
- Guide children to hop five times, walk on a tape line, step over the shoe box, crawl through the tunnel, do two jumping jacks, carry three blocks on a spoon, and finally stop at the chair.

- At the end of the course, say: “Good job! You made it to the Bible. Let’s sit together for a few minutes and listen to the Bible story.”

## MAKE FACES & MATCH CARDS

*Tools: Bible, Kindness Matching Cards (Pack Item 34), Emotion Cards (Pack Item 36), nonbreakable mirror, Activity Page*

- Guide a child to look at the Kindness Cards and pair the ones that match.
- Suggest that another preschooler get an Emotion Card and make a face similar to the one pictured. Relate the expression to a feeling or emotion.
- Turn to Genesis 26 and comment that Isaac may have been afraid, frustrated, or even angry when he had to keep moving. Say: “But God told Isaac to not be afraid. God would be with Isaac.” Show the picture on the Activity Page.

## CIRCLE TIME

### GATHER

- Direct children to sit in a circle.
- Tell children to stand, then move to the chair next to them. Do this twice.

### REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

- Say: “Thank you for moving. Our story today is about a man who had to move several times. Do you remember the man’s name?”
- Give children a clue by saying: “The man’s name begins with ‘I.’ Can you guess?”
- Show children the Story Picture (Pack) and lead boys and girls to

tell what they remember about the Bible story.

### PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Distribute Bibles to the children and help them find the Book of Genesis.
- Say: “Genesis is the first book in the Bible. Genesis is where we read the story about Isaac.”

### PRAY

- Thank God for always being with us. Ask God to help us be kind to others, even when they are not kind.

### LEADER TIP!

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

### DON'T FORGET!

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



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



## Session 8



# TRUST GOD

**Genesis 32:1-30; 33:1-20**

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 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

### TEXT TRUTH

God loves people and cares for them.

### BIBLE STORY

Genesis 32:1-30; 33:1-20

### BIBLE VERSE

Jeremiah 29:11

### CHRIST IN CONTEXT

Genesis is a book about beginnings—the beginning of the world, the beginning of a people chosen by God, and the beginning of God’s plan to restore all people to Him through His Son, Jesus.

### BIBLE SKILLS

- Begin to use simple tools for Bible discovery.
- Understand the Bible teaches us what God and Jesus are like.

## ARRIVAL ACTIVITIES (5 MINUTES)

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

#### ► Explore maps.

*Tools: Bible, assorted paper maps, atlas, Bible atlas*

#### ► Pack items for a trip.

*Tools: Bible; small suitcase; things to pack (baby clothes, blanket, pretend toiletry items, and so on)*

#### ► Trace letters with crayons.

*Tools: Bible, Session Key Words: Trust God (Enhanced CD), crayons*



### EXPLORE THE BIBLE TEXT CONNECTION

- Jacob, one of the twin sons of Isaac, moved to live with his uncle Laban. Jacob 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 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.

### FAMILY AT HOME

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

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

## TEXT TRUTH

God loves people and cares for them.

## BIBLE VERSE

Jeremiah 29:11

## LEADER TIP!

*Altar* may be a new word for preschoolers. Explain that people built structures from wood or stone to show God they loved Him.

## LEADER TIP

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

# JACOB'S JOURNEY

**Genesis 32:1-30; 33:1-20**

*Jacob had not seen his brother Esau for a long time. Jacob wanted to return to his homeland and see his brother.*

*Jacob prayed to God. Jacob asked God to keep him safe when he went to see Esau.*

*Jacob began the journey to his brother's home. On the way, many things happened to Jacob. God always took care of Jacob.*

*One night when Jacob was alone, a man told Jacob that God was giving him a new name—Israel. God had important plans for Jacob.*

*Jacob continued on his journey. God took care of Jacob as he traveled.*

*Finally Jacob was near his brother's home. Jacob saw his brother Esau coming down the road. Jacob saw Esau running to him. Then Esau hugged Jacob, threw his arms around him, and kissed him!*

*Jacob was so surprised. He did not think his brother would be happy to see him. But Jacob was wrong. Esau was glad his brother Jacob returned home.*

*Jacob introduced his family to Esau and gave special gifts to his brother. Jacob said, "God has been good to me and I have everything I need."*

*Later after Jacob settled his family in their home, God told Jacob to go to Bethel and build an altar. So Jacob took his family with him, and he built the altar. Jacob praised God for loving him and taking care of him so many times.*

## BIBLE VERSE

From the Bible text:

*I know the plans I have for you. Jeremiah 29:11*

Paraphrase:

*I know the plans I have for you. Jeremiah 29:11*



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

### GATHER

- Encourage children to complete activities and join you in the Circle Time area.
- Place a suitcase in the center of the circle. Ask children to name things they might pack if they were going on a trip.

### HEAR THE BIBLE STORY

- Say: “When you go on a trip, you usually pack a bag or suitcase. You may ride in a car or fly on an airplane. Today, we are learning about a man named Jacob. Jacob had not seen his brother Esau for a long time, and he wanted to see him again. Jacob didn’t travel like we do. He probably walked or rode on an animal. He had a long journey to see his brother.”
- Open a Bible to the Bible Bookmark (Pack) placed at Genesis 32. Display the Story Picture (Pack) as you tell the Bible story.
- After the story, comment: “Jacob’s journey was not easy, but God took care of Jacob along the way. A truth to remember from our story is ‘God loves people and cares for them.’”
- Attach the Text Truth Leaf (Pack) to the Text Truth Tree (Pack).

### PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Show children an Old Testament map in the back of a Bible or Bible atlas. Trace the route Jacob may have taken from Haran back to Esau in Peniel. (An Internet search or Bible atlas can provide further details on the journey Jacob likely took.)
- State: “Jacob traveled all the way from Haran to Peniel to see his brother. God protected Jacob on his journey. God had special plans for Jacob.”
- Turn to Jeremiah 29:11 and read the Bible verse. Then lead preschoolers to repeat the verse and reference a few times.

### PRAY

- Thank God for loving us and taking care of us.
- Thank God for helping us know His plan for our lives and leading us to do what He wants.

### OPTIONS

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

### OR

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

### TOOLS

- Bible
- suitcase
- Bible atlas or Old Testament map in Bible  
(If you do not have a Bible atlas, use a tablet or smartphone to display a map for children to see.)
- tape

### PACK ITEMS

- 8 Story Picture: Jacob’s Journey
- 21 Bible Bookmarks
- 24 Text Truth Tree
- 25 Text Truth Leaves

## TEXT TRUTH

God loves people and cares for them.

## BIBLE STORY

Jacob's Journey  
Genesis 32:1-30; 33:1-20

## BIBLE VERSE

Jeremiah 29:11

## PACK ITEMS

8 Story Picture: Jacob's Journey  
17 Start to Finish Gameboard  
26 Number Cube

## LEADER TIP!

Exploration activities provide great opportunities to talk with preschoolers one-on-one. Ask questions and speak God's truth to each child.

# EXPLORATION STATIONS (45-60 MINUTES)

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

## CREATE A HANDPRINT HANGER



*Tools: Bible, ribbon placed at Jeremiah 29:11, white paper plates, washable paint, paintbrush, marker, hole punch, yarn*

- Write on each plate: *God has a plan for me.* Punch two holes on the top rim of the plate.
- Invite a child to make a hanger. Paint her hands with washable paint. Help her press her hands on the paper plate.
- After she washes her hands, guide the child to string yarn through the holes at the top of the plate to make a hanger.
- Open the Bible to the ribbon. Read the verse aloud. Say to the child: "God has a plan for you. He loves you."

## ARRANGE WORD CUPS



*Tools: Bible, large plastic cups, black marker, paper with Bible verse written on it*

- On each cup write one word of the Bible verse. Include the reference. Open the Bible to Jeremiah 29:11.
- Lay the paper on the table. Read the verse to a child. Say: "These words are in the Bible. Let's say them together."
- Lead the preschooler to say the Bible verse and reference as you point to the words on the paper. Show the child the words in the Bible.
- Guide the child to arrange the word cups to form the Bible verse.

### MAKE TRAIL MIX

*Tools: Bible; trail mix ingredients (yogurt pieces, O-shaped cereal, raisins, mini-marshmallows, pretzel sticks); small ziplock bags, plastic spoons, several plastic bowls, Allergy Sign (Enhanced CD), Activity Page, permanent marker*

- Place ingredients in bowls. Lay the Activity Page near the food items.
- After children wash their hands, guide them to spoon some of each ingredient into their own ziplock bag. Write a child's name on his bag.
- While children prepare their mix, show them the picture on the Activity Page. Remark: "Jacob went on a journey to see his brother. He probably took food with him."
- Talk with children about trips they have made.

### TAKE A CAR TRIP

*Tools: Bible, 4 children's chairs, paper plate "steering wheel," purses, baby doll, diaper bag, set of keys, map, Story Picture: Jacob's Journey (Pack)*

- Arrange the chairs to resemble a car. Lay the "steering wheel" in the "driver's seat."
- Invite children to use the props to pretend to drive or ride in a car. Talk about places the children are going.
- Say: "God is always with you wherever you go. God was with Jacob and took care of him on his journey."
- Open the Bible to Genesis 32 as you tell the Bible story. Show preschoolers the Story Picture.
- Remark: "God had a plan for Jacob, and He has a plan for you." Turn to Jeremiah 29:11 and say the Bible verse with children.

### PLAY A BOARD GAME

*Tools: Bible, Start to Finish Gameboard (Pack), Number Cube (Pack), two small male people figures*

- Lay the gameboard on a table. Place one figure at the start of the board (Jacob) and one figure at the finish line (Esau).
- State: "In the Book of Genesis, we learn that Jacob made a journey to see his brother Esau. Let's play a game to get Jacob to Esau."
- Lead one child to roll the Number Cube. Tell the other child to move Jacob the number of spaces rolled.
- Let each child alternate rolling the cube and moving the piece.
- When Jacob meets Esau, stop the game and recall the Bible story. Show children Genesis 32 in the Bible and help them find Jacob's and Esau's names.

## NEXT HOUR (MORE EXPLORATIONS FOR PRESCHOOLERS)

### OPTIONS

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

### TEXT TRUTH

God loves people and cares for them.

### BIBLE STORY

Jacob's Journey  
 Genesis 32:1-30; 33:1-20  
*The Bible story is printed on the back of the Story Picture.*

### BIBLE VERSE

Jeremiah 29:11

### PASS THE BALL

*Tools: Bible, beach ball, Enhanced CD*

- Play the Enhanced CD and direct preschoolers to stand in a circle. As the music plays, pass the beach ball from person to person around the circle.
- Pause the music. Call on the child holding the ball to toss it to a friend and say, "God cares for you."
- Continue until every child gets a turn to toss the ball.
- Say: "God promises to take care of us. We can trust God to do that."
- Open the Bible to Jeremiah 29:11. Read the verse aloud to the children.

### DESIGN A HEART

*Tools: Bible, small magazine cutouts of people, glue sticks, crayons, large paper hearts, Activity Page*

- Give a paper heart to each child. He may decorate it with pictures or his own drawing.
- Comment: "Heart shapes help us remember that God loves people and cares for them. God loves you, me, everyone in this room, and everyone in the entire world."
- Show the child the Activity Page as you review the Bible story. Help children know that Jacob trusted God to take care of him.
- Remind children the story of Jacob is found in the Book of Genesis.

### DESCRIBE EMOTIONS

*Tools: Bible, Emotion Cards (Pack Item 36), basket*

- Invite a child to choose a card from the basket. Ask him to tell what emotion the person is showing (happiness, sadness, fear, so on).
- Say: "Sometimes I feel afraid (or angry or confused, for example), but I know God cares about me and will help me. I think about Jacob on his journey. He was not sure that his brother would welcome him. But God helped Jacob know He would take care of him."

- Remark: “God loves us all the time. He loves us when we are happy, scared, excited, sad, surprised, and even angry. The Bible tells us God has a special plan for each of us and He will help us.”
- Read Jeremiah 29:11, then say the verse with the child.

## REVEAL THE PICTURE

*Tools: Bible, Story Picture: Jacob’s Journey (Pack Item 8), pad of sticky notes*

- Cover the entire Story Picture with the sticky notes.
- Invite a child to remove sticky notes one at a time and tell something about the picture.
- As more of the Story Picture is revealed, recall the Bible story. Say: “God cared for Jacob, and He cares for us.”

## CIRCLE TIME

### GATHER

- When children are in the circle, ask them to briefly tell about recent trips.
- Comment that God took care of the families while they traveled.

### REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

- Show preschoolers the Story Picture (Pack). Ask children one at a time to tell something they remember from the story. Give hints as needed.
- Remark: “God took care of Jacob on his journey. God takes care of you and me, too.”

### PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Review today’s Bible verse with children by clapping and repeating short phrases.
- Say “I know” while clapping two times. Guide children to repeat.
- Continue with two claps for “the plans,” “I have,” “for you.”
- Conclude by clapping and saying “Jeremiah 29:11.”

### PRAY

- Thank God for loving people and caring for them.
- Ask God to guide us each day.

### LEADER TIP!

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

### DON'T FORGET!

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



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



## Session 9



# GOD'S HELP

**Genesis 37:1-4,12-36; 39:1-6; 41:1-45**

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 gifts 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, pulled 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 their way to Egypt.

## SESSION FOCUS

### TEXT TRUTH

God had something important for Joseph to do.

### BIBLE STORY

Genesis 37:1-4,12-36; 39:1-6; 41:1-45

### BIBLE VERSE

Genesis 50:19-20

### CHRIST IN CONTEXT

Genesis is a book about beginnings—the beginning of the world, the beginning of a people chosen by God, and the beginning of God’s plan to restore all people to Him through His Son, Jesus.

### BIBLE SKILLS

- Remember and retell a familiar Bible story and Bible fact.
- Remember and say simple Bible words, phrases, and verses with Bible references.

## ARRIVAL ACTIVITIES (5 MINUTES)

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

▶ **Press letters into play dough to spell the word *Bible*.**

*Tools: Bible; fresh play dough; toy rolling pins; B, I, B, L, E magnetic letters*

▶ **Read books about helpers and helping.**

*Tools: Bible, preschool books featuring workers and helpers*

▶ **Examine different types of seed.**

*Tools: Bible; different types of fruit, vegetable, and grain seed taped on cards and laminated*



### EXPLORE THE BIBLE 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. Joseph’s older brothers were jealous of the special treatment.
- 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.
- Though Joseph suffered many trials and hardships in Egypt, 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.

### FAMILY AT HOME

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

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

## TEXT TRUTH

God had something important for Joseph to do.

## BIBLE VERSE

Genesis 50:19-20

## LEADER TIP!

*Famine* may be a new word for your preschoolers. An easy definition to use is “having little or no food.”

## LEADER TIP

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

# GOD HELPED JOSEPH

**Genesis 37:1-4,12-36; 39:1-6; 41:1-45**

*Joseph lived with his father Jacob and eleven brothers. Joseph cared for the family's sheep.*

*Joseph's brothers were jealous of Joseph. They did not like the special things their father did for Joseph. So the brothers found a way to get rid of Joseph. They sent Joseph far away with some traders who were traveling to Egypt.*

*Joseph then lived in a new place. He worked for a man named Potiphar. Potiphar was a very important man who worked for the king.*

*Joseph lived in Potiphar's house. Joseph listened to God and obeyed what God told him to do. God helped Joseph do good work, and He helped Joseph make the right choices about what he would do. God helped Joseph take good care of everything Potiphar owned.*

*The king learned about Joseph. He heard that Joseph could understand dreams. The king asked Joseph to tell him the meaning of the dreams.*

*God showed Joseph the meaning of the king's dreams. Joseph told the king, “God will cause crops to grow for seven years. Then there will be a famine, and nothing will grow. People will be hungry. God wants you to grow lots of food and store it so the people will have food to eat during the famine.”*

*The king knew that Joseph was wise. The king told Joseph to be in charge of growing and storing the grain to help the people be ready.*

*Joseph traveled all over the land of Egypt helping the people grow food and store it.*

*God took care of Joseph and showed him what to do.*

## BIBLE VERSE

From the Bible text:

*You planned for evil against me; God planned it for good. Genesis 50:19-20*

Paraphrase:

*God planned for good things to happen. Genesis 50:19-20*



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

### GATHER

- Encourage preschoolers to put away their activity materials and join you in the Circle Time area.
- Show a picture of your brothers or sisters if you have them. Go around the circle and ask children to tell you the names of their brothers or sisters if they have them.

### HEAR THE BIBLE STORY

- Say: “Some of us have brothers and sisters. Some of us do not. Families are all different. Our Bible story today is about a man named Joseph. Joseph had eleven brothers. Can you imagine having that many brothers? That was a large family!”
- Open a Bible to Genesis 37. Tell the Bible story in your own words.
- Show preschoolers the Story Picture (Pack). Say: “Joseph’s brothers were not kind to him. But God helped Joseph know what to do. Our truth to remember for today is ‘God had something important for Joseph to do.’”
- Attach the Text Truth Leaf (Pack) to the Text Truth Tree (Pack).

### PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Lay one set of Joseph Story Cards (Pack) in front of children. Discuss what is taking place in each picture.
- Guide preschoolers to place the pictures in the correct sequential order. (Correct order: 1–Joseph with sheep, wearing coat of many colors. 2–Joseph working in Potiphar’s house. 3–Joseph interpreting the king’s dream. 4–Joseph forgiving brothers.)
- Tell preschoolers: “The story of Joseph is in the Book of Genesis. Let’s look for Joseph’s name in the Bible.”
- Lead teachers to help children locate Joseph’s name in Genesis 37–41.

### PRAY

- Thank God for having an important plan for each of our lives.
- Thank God for helping us know what to do.

### OPTIONS

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

### OR

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

### TOOLS

- Bible
- picture of your brothers/ sisters (if applicable) or any picture of a family

### PACK ITEMS

- 9 Story Picture: God Helped Joseph
- 24 Text Truth Tree
- 25 Text Truth Leaves
- 28 Joseph Story Cards

## TEXT TRUTH

God had something important for Joseph to do.

## BIBLE STORY

God Helped Joseph  
Genesis 37:1-4,12-36; 39:1-6;  
41:1-45

## BIBLE VERSE

Genesis 50:19-20

## PACK ITEMS

- 9 Story Picture: God Helped Joseph
- 19 Book: *God Has a Plan for You*
- 28 Joseph Story Cards
- 30 Bible Verse Puzzles
- 31 Bible Picture Puzzles

# EXPLORATION STATIONS (45-60 MINUTES)

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

## MAKE A FAMILY MURAL



*Tools: Bible, long piece of paper, tape, glue sticks, magazine cutouts of people, marker*

- Tape the paper to the wall. Write the Text Truth on the paper.
- Invite two children to choose a few pictures to glue on the paper. Say: "The pictures help me think about families. Tell me about your family."
- Listen to each child describe his family. Thank God for the families.
- Point to the words written on the paper and read them. Say: "We read in the Bible about Joseph. Joseph lived far away from his family, but God took care of him. God had a plan for Joseph to help people."
- Help a child turn to Genesis 37 in the Bible.

## MATCH CARDS & READ



*Tools: Bible, Joseph Story Cards (Pack), a few books featuring families, Book: God Has a Plan for You (Pack)*

- Lay the Joseph Story Cards facedown on the floor.
- Tell a child to choose two cards. If the cards match, discuss what is taking place in the picture. If the cards do not match, tell the child to try again.
- Once all cards have been matched, guide the child to arrange the cards in the correct order.
- Tell the child that Joseph's story is in the Book of Genesis.
- Read a book when a child shows interest.

**WORK PUZZLES**

*Tools: Bible, Bible Verse Puzzles (Pack), Bible Picture Puzzles (Pack)*

- Place a puzzle piece in the Bible to mark Genesis 50:19-20.
- Spread puzzle pieces around the table.
- Invite two children to choose puzzles to work. Comment that all of the puzzles help you think about the Bible.
- Say: “The Bible tells what is true. God wants us to learn from the Bible.”
- After a child completes a Bible Verse Puzzle, read the words. Say: “This verse is true. God planned for good things to happen. That is why God helped Joseph know what to do.”
- Open the Bible to find a puzzle piece and find God’s name in the Bible.

**EXAMINE GRAINS**

*Tools: Bible; plastic pan; 2 or 3 bowls; grain (such as rice, oats, barley); scoops and cups; magnifying glasses; Allergy Sign (Enhanced CD); Activity Page*

- Show preschoolers the grain. Mention that grains are used to make foods such as cereals and bread.
- Comment: “Many people plant seed to grow food for their families. Joseph told the king that the people needed to grow lots of grain before the famine came to their land.”
- Invite a child to examine some grain. He can scoop and pour the grain and examine it with the magnifying glasses.
- Tell the Bible story, showing children the picture on the Activity Page.

**PLAY FAMILY DRESSUP**

*Tools: Bible, Story Picture: God Helped Joseph (Pack), assorted clothing items and accessories, stand-up mirror*

- Arrange the items near the mirror to capture children’s attention. Wrap a scarf or other item around you.
- Suggest that a child choose an item to wear. Ask him who at his house might wear that clothing item.
- Talk about families and God’s desire for families to love one another and help.
- Encourage preschoolers to take turns wearing different items. Thank them for cooperating.
- Mention Joseph. Say: “Joseph had a family. He helped his family when he was young, and he helped them when he was older.”
- Show preschoolers the Story Picture. Then show preschoolers Joseph’s name in the Bible.

## NEXT HOUR (MORE EXPLORATIONS FOR PRESCHOOLERS)

### OPTIONS

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

### TEXT TRUTH

God had something important for Joseph to do.

### BIBLE STORY

God Helped Joseph  
Genesis 37:1-4,12-36; 39:1-6;  
41:1-45

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

### BIBLE VERSE

Genesis 50:19-20

### RAKE “GRAIN”

*Tools: Bible, shredded paper, 2 toy rakes, plastic dishpan*

- Sprinkle the shredded paper on the floor and put the rakes and dishpan nearby.
- Invite two children to work together to rake the pretend grain and put it in the dishpan. Suggest that the paper reminds you of grain that is used for food for people and animals.
- Say: “Joseph told the king that people in the land should grow lots of grain and store it. When the grain was ready, the people probably cut it and raked it to take to storage barns.”
- Tell children Joseph’s story is in the Bible in the Book of Genesis.

### PLAY WITH PEOPLE FIGURES

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

- Set the figures on a few blocks and open the Bible to Genesis 50:19-20. Mark the page with the Activity Page.
- Invite preschoolers to build whatever they choose. As they build, children may incorporate the people figures into their play.
- Pick up a figure and remark: “God helps people know what to do. God helped Joseph prepare for the years when crops would not grow.”
- Show the children the Activity Page, pointing to Joseph. Lead children to say the Bible verse together.

### LISTEN & DRAW

*Tools: Bible, Enhanced CD, paper, crayons or markers*

- Play music on the Enhanced CD as children draw. Tell preschoolers to listen to the music and draw pictures showing how the music makes them feel.
- Comment that the king listened to Joseph tell about the king’s dreams. The king was glad Joseph could help him know what the dreams meant.

- Open the Bible to Genesis 37 or 39 and remark that the story about Joseph is in the Book of Genesis, the first book in the Bible.
- Ask preschoolers if you may write the Text Truth on their papers.

## PLAY BIBLE VERSE HOPSCOTCH

*Tools: Bible, colored tape, cards, crayon*

- Print each word of the Bible verse and reference on separate cards.
- Use the tape to make a simple hopscotch grid on the floor. Tape one word card in each square, working from the bottom up to form the verse.
- Invite children to take turns hopping through the grid and saying each word of the Bible verse.

## CIRCLE TIME

### GATHER

- Lead children to do simple actions such as stand on one foot, touch toes, and do a jumping jack.
- As a final action, tell children to sit down.

### REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

- Show children the Story Picture (Pack).
- Ask questions such as:  
How many brothers did Joseph have? Where did his brothers send him? Who had a dream? Who told the meaning of the dream? What did the people need to do?

### PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Pass a Bible around the group while the Enhanced CD plays.
- Stop the music and direct the child holding the Bible to stand. Help her say the Bible verse.
- Give every child a turn to say the verse.

### PRAY

- Thank God for helping people know what to do.
- Thank God for helping us learn to trust Him to take care of us in all situations.

### LEADER TIP!

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

### DON'T FORGET!

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



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



# Session 10



## FORGIVENESS

### 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 that Egypt had food, so he sent ten sons to Egypt to get food. Benjamin, Joseph's younger brother and Jacob's youngest son, 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 that 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.

When the brothers returned home, Jacob wondered at the circumstances that left Simeon in prison. Eventually seeing that 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 another deliverer to set them free.

## SESSION FOCUS

### TEXT TRUTH

Love and forgive others.

### BIBLE STORY

Genesis 42–45

### BIBLE VERSE

Genesis 50:19–20

### CHRIST IN CONTEXT

Genesis is a book about beginnings—the beginning of the world, the beginning of a people chosen by God, and the beginning of God’s plan to restore all people to Him through His Son, Jesus.

### BIBLE SKILLS

- Know that everything in the Bible is true.
- Understand the Bible teaches right and wrong.

## ARRIVAL ACTIVITIES (5 MINUTES)

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

#### ► Work puzzles to learn the verse.

*Tools: Bible, Bible Verse Puzzles (Pack Item 30), envelopes*

#### ► Use dot markers and heart stickers.

*Tools: Bible, paper, dot markers, heart stickers*

#### ► Read books about families.

*Tools: Bible, several preschool books focusing on families*

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



### EXPLORE THE BIBLE TEXT CONNECTION

- 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.
- 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.

### FAMILY AT HOME

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

**TEXT TRUTH**

Love and forgive others.

**BIBLE VERSE**

Genesis 50:19-20

**LEADER TIP!**

Review with children the meaning of the word *famine*.

# JOSEPH AND HIS BROTHERS

**Genesis 42–45**

*Famine came to the land and no one could grow crops. People were hungry. Joseph's father, Jacob, heard about the storehouses of grain in Egypt. Jacob told his sons to go to Egypt to get grain for their family.*

*The sons went to Egypt. When Joseph saw the men, he knew they were his brothers. But the brothers did not recognize Joseph.*

*Joseph talked to the brothers, and they told him their father had sent them to get food. Only one brother, Benjamin, stayed at home.*

*Joseph told the brothers to go back to their home and get Benjamin.*

*This frightened the brothers. But they did what Joseph said.*

*When Joseph saw his younger brother, Joseph was sad and happy. Joseph had missed his brother, and he was glad to see him now.*

*Joseph invited all the brothers to a meal, then he sent them away.*

*Later, Joseph made his brothers come back to the city. Joseph told the men he was their brother they had sent away with the traders long ago.*

*“Don't be afraid or worried,” Joseph said. “God sent me here to help people.”*

*Joseph told his brothers to go back to their home and tell the news to their father. “Bring my father here quickly,” Joseph said. Joseph gave his brothers food, clothes, money, and animals for the trip.*

*The brothers went to get their father. They told their father about seeing Joseph. “Joseph wants us to live near him!” the brothers said.*

*Joseph loved his brothers and forgave them for the things they had done.*

**LEADER TIP**

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

**BIBLE VERSE**

From the Bible text:

*You planned for evil against me; God planned it for good. Genesis 50:19-20*

Paraphrase:

*God planned for good things to happen. Genesis 50:19-20*



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

### GATHER

- Encourage children to clean up their activities and join you in the Circle Time area.
- Ask a child to choose an item from the grocery bag without looking. Name the item. Tell preschoolers that if they like the food, stand up. If they do not like the food, stay seated.
- Continue until all food items have been named.

### HEAR THE BIBLE STORY

- Show preschoolers last week's Story Picture (Pack) and ask them to tell you what they remember about the story.
- Say: "This week's story is about Joseph and what happened when the famine came to the land. Listen to hear who needed to get food for their family."
- Lead a child to open the Bible to the Bible Bookmark (Pack) placed at Genesis 42. Tell the Bible story, then show this week's Story Picture.
- Say: "Joseph might have chosen not to help his brothers. But Joseph loved his brothers and forgave them. Our truth to remember for today is 'Love and forgive others.'"
- Call on a child to attach the Text Truth Leaf (Pack) to the Text Truth Tree (Pack).

### PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- This week's Bible verse is again from the Book of Genesis and repeats last week's verse. Preschoolers should be able to remember some of the verse with little prompting.
- Tell preschoolers: "Let's say a Bible verse together. You may remember the verse. Say it with me."
- Begin the verse, encouraging children to follow your lead.

### PRAY

- Tell preschoolers they can talk to God and ask Him to help them love and forgive others. Say a brief prayer for God to show us how to be loving to one another.

### OPTIONS

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

### OR

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

### TOOLS

- Bible
- cloth or paper grocery bag with play food items
- tape

### PACK ITEMS

- 9 Story Picture: God Helped Joseph
- 10 Story Picture: Joseph and His Brothers
- 21 Bible Bookmarks
- 24 Text Truth Tree
- 25 Text Truth Leaves

## TEXT TRUTH

Love and forgive others.

## BIBLE STORY

Joseph and His Brothers  
Genesis 42–45

## BIBLE VERSE

Genesis 50:19-20

## PACK ITEMS

10 Story Picture: Joseph and His Brothers  
19 Book: *God Has a Plan for You*

## LEADER TIP!

To prepare for the “Match & Clip” activity:

- 1) Write the letters *B, I, B, L, E* on five clothespins.
  - 2) In large letters, write the word *Bible* on an index card.
  - 3) Place the clothespins and index card in a ziplock bag.
- \* Consider making 2 or 3 sets.

## LEADER TIP!

Children scooping and pouring the foods should be monitored and guided at all times. Put foods away when you cannot supervise the children.

# EXPLORATION STATIONS (45-60 MINUTES)

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

## MATCH & CLIP



*Tools: Bible, spring-type clothespins, washable markers, index cards, ziplock bags*

- Prepare sets of clothespins and cards before the session. (See Leader Tip.)
- Give a bag to a child. Direct him to match the letters on the clothespins to the letters of the word written on the index card. Say the letters as you point to them.
- Say: “Clip the clothespins on the card in the same order to spell the word *Bible*.”
- Remark: “The Bible is God’s Word. Every word in the Bible is true. The Bible teaches us what is right and wrong. The Bible teaches us we should forgive others. Joseph forgave his brothers.”

## SERVE FOOD TO FRIENDS



*Tools: Bible, Story Picture: Joseph and His Brothers (Pack), small tray, toy dishes, place mats, napkins*

- Show children the Story Picture and comment that Joseph invited his brothers to eat a meal at his house.
- Ask: “What do you do to prepare for dinner guests? Do you help your family? Let’s pretend we are serving guests, and we need to prepare food.”
- Encourage children to cook “food” and serve it to one another.
- Thank God for helping us do kind things for our families and others.

**POUR & MEASURE  
FOOD ITEMS**

*Tools: Bible, cornmeal, rice, oats, dried beans, Allergy Sign (Enhanced CD), bowls and measuring cups, plastic spoons*

- Arrange bowls of foods on the table. Place a few empty bowls and spoons nearby.
- Guide children to view and name the foods in the bowls. Ask children which foods they eat.
- Comment: “People grow or buy foods like these to provide for their families. Joseph helped people grow grain to provide food for families.”
- Lead two children at a time to scoop foods to empty bowls. Remind them to keep the foods on the table.
- Tell the Bible story as children scoop, pour, and measure the foods. Thank God for providing for us.

**PAINT OVER TAPE**

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

- Help a child “write” on a paper the names of people she loves. Suggest she write the names around the paper.
- Give the preschooler strips of tape to cover the names.
- Tell the preschooler to paint lightly over the whole paper. Later, when the paint dries, gently remove the tape strips to reveal the names.
- Read the names. Mention that the Bible tells us to love and forgive others.
- Say: “Joseph showed love to his brothers. He forgave them when they were unkind to him. We can show love to others, too.”

**GUESS HELPING ITEMS**

*Tools: Bible; items associated with helping or loving (bandage, plastic or toy thermometer, comb, brush, get-well card, toy tool, washcloth); large gift bag; Activity Page*

- Put the items in the bag.
- Tell children that items in the bag can be used by someone to help or show love.
- Say: “When it is your turn, get an item from the bag. See if you can guess what it is without looking.”
- Help children identify the items and talk about their uses.
- Say: “When we help someone, we show God’s love to that person.”
- Show children the picture on the Activity Page. Remark: “Joseph showed his love and forgave his brothers. Joseph told his brothers that God planned for good things to happen.”

## NEXT HOUR (MORE EXPLORATIONS FOR PRESCHOOLERS)

### OPTIONS

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

### TEXT TRUTH

Love and forgive others.

### BIBLE STORY

Joseph and His Brothers  
Genesis 42–45

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

### BIBLE VERSE

Genesis 50:19-20

### MATCH JOSEPH PICTURES

*Tools: Bible, Joseph Story Cards (Pack Item 28), beanbag*

- Spread one set of cards on the floor about six inches apart. Put the other set of cards in the Bible at Genesis 45.
- Ask a child to toss the beanbag on a card. Talk about the picture and what it tells about the life of Joseph. Then say: “Look in the Bible to find a picture that matches the one on which the beanbag landed.”
- When the child finds the picture match, ask him to give the beanbag to a friend to have a turn. Thank the child for showing love to another.

### CUT PLAY DOUGH

*Tools: Bible; fresh play dough; paper letters J, L, F; craft sticks, Activity Page*

- Give a child some dough.
- Point to the paper letters and comment that Joseph’s name begins with *J* (or the word *love* begins with *L*, and the word *forgive* begins with *F*).
- Suggest that the child use a craft stick to cut letters from the dough.
- While the child works, show him the Activity Page picture and tell the Bible story.

### PLAY MUSIC & SAY THE VERSE

*Tools: Bible, a musical instrument for each child*

- Distribute instruments to the children.
- Open the Bible to Genesis 50:19-20. Read the Bible verse aloud. Say: “Let’s say the Bible verse while we play our instruments.”
- Begin saying the Bible verse using one word, followed by two words, then three, and so on. Encourage children to repeat the words and play a beat for each word.
- For example, say: “God.” “God planned.” “God planned for.” “God planned for good.” “God planned for good things.” “God planned for good things to happen.”

## KNOCK DOWN CUPS

*Tools: Bible; 5 plastic cups labeled B, I, B, L, E; permanent marker; ball*

- Arrange the cups in a line on the floor.
- Invite a preschooler to roll the ball toward the cups, trying to knock them down.
- Continue until each child has a turn to roll the ball and knock down the cups.
- Remark: “The letters on these cups spell the word *Bible*. The Bible is completely true and helps us know what is right and what is wrong.”
- Turn to Genesis and tell children this is where we read about Joseph.

## CIRCLE TIME

### GATHER

- Toss a ball back and forth to children in the circle.
- After a few minutes, ask children to be seated. Show them the Story Picture (Pack).

### REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

- Ask children to tell who is in the picture (Joseph and his brothers).
- Help children recall key events in the story.
- Say: “Joseph was kind to his brothers even though they had not been kind to him. Joseph forgave his brothers.”

### PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Open a Bible to Genesis 50:19-20. Read the verse aloud.
- Ask: “Who said these words?” (Joseph) “To whom did he say them?” (his brothers)
- Remark: “God always knows what will happen. He plans for good things for people.”
- Lead children to repeat the Bible verse and reference with you.

### PRAY

- Thank God for the Bible and His plans for people. Thank Him for helping us love and forgive.

### LEADER TIP!

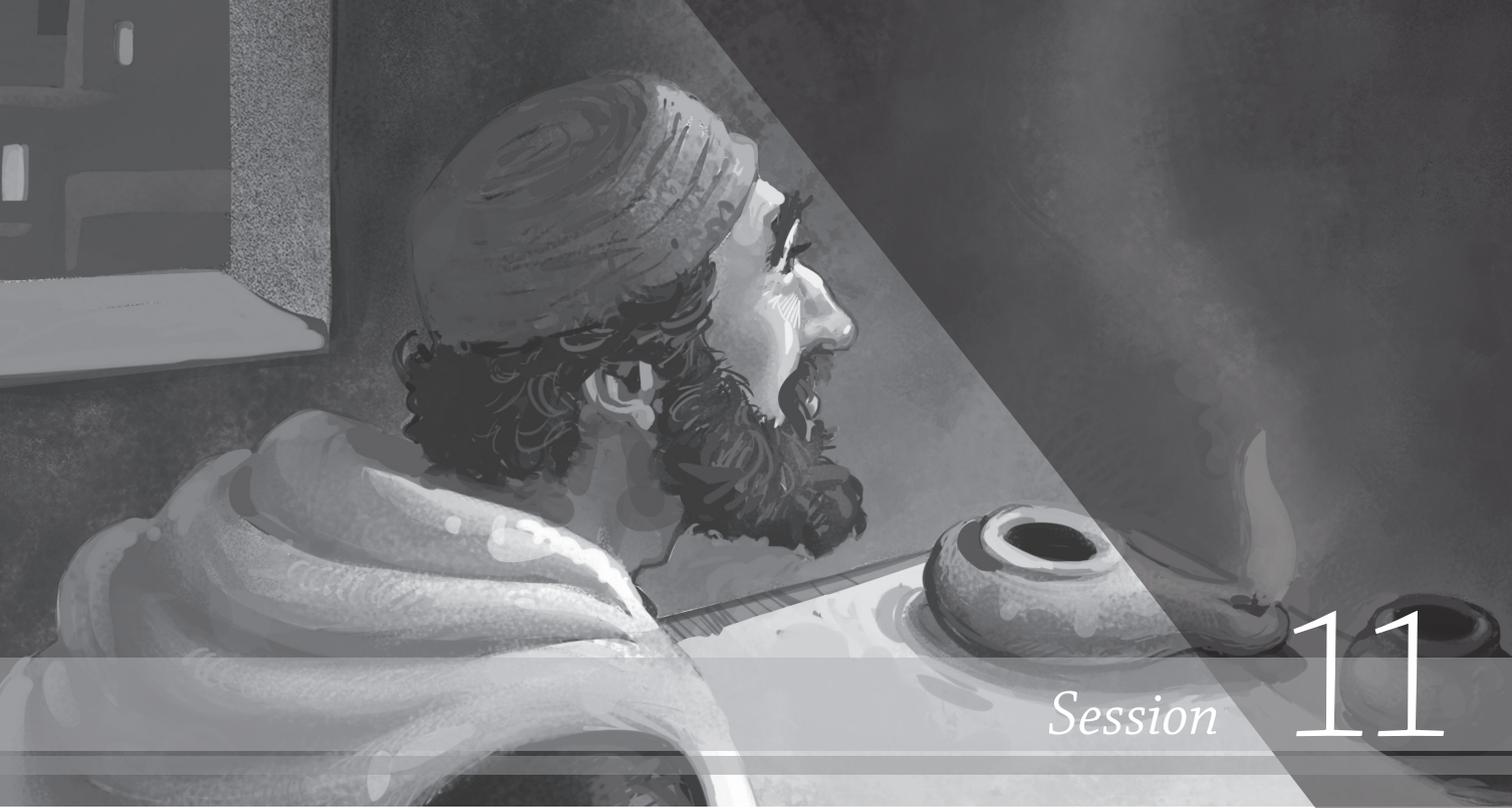
Form groups of two or three preschoolers and a teacher. Look at the Activity Page, review the Bible story, and say the Bible verse.

### DON'T FORGET!

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



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



## Session 11

# TELL THE GOOD NEWS

FOR THE  
LEADER

## Galatians 1–6

Paul wrote this letter to the Galatian churches from a prison cell. 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 works 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

### TEXT TRUTH

Help other people know and love Jesus.

### BIBLE STORY

Galatians 1–6

### BIBLE VERSE

Galatians 6:9a

### CHRIST IN CONTEXT

The Book of Galatians affirms that salvation comes only through Jesus. It is through Him alone that we are made new and can live like Him.

### BIBLE SKILLS

- Learn people wrote God's words in the Bible.
- Understand the Bible teaches right and wrong.

## ARRIVAL ACTIVITIES (5 MINUTES)

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

#### ▶ Work a puzzle with a friend.

*Tools: Bible, Bible Times Marketplace Floor Puzzle (LifeWay, 001276460), Bible Picture Puzzles (Pack Item 31)*

#### ▶ Sort colored envelopes by size and color.

*Tools: Bible, variety of colored envelopes, paper bags*

#### ▶ Play with communication devices.

*Tools: Bible; nonworking telephone, cell phone, walkie-talkies, toy microphone*

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



### EXPLORE THE BIBLE TEXT CONNECTION

- Paul wrote this letter to the church in Galatia to help believers know what justification looked like. *Justification* 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.

### FAMILY AT HOME

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

**TEXT TRUTH**

Help other people know and love Jesus.

**BIBLE VERSE**

Galatians 6:9a

**LEADER TIP!**

Print the Bible story and roll the paper like a scroll. (See a print version on the Enhanced CD, Circle Time Guides.)

When you tell about things Paul wrote in his letter, read them from the scroll.

**LEADER TIP**

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

# PAUL'S LETTER TO CHURCH FRIENDS

## Galatians 1–6

*Paul was a preacher. Jesus had told Paul to help people know about Jesus and the good news. And that is what Paul did.*

*Paul had church friends in the country of Galatia. Paul wanted to remind the people about the good news and how important it was to remember what Jesus did for them. Paul wrote a letter to the church friends.*

*“Dear Friends, Peace to you. Jesus came to rescue us and help us. Before Jesus came, we had many laws to follow and rules to keep. But Jesus changed all that.*

*“Everyone is important to Jesus,” Paul wrote. “God loves every person because Jesus loves every person.”*

*Paul helped the friends in Galatia know that it was important to love and serve one another. When someone does something wrong, help the person know what to do. “Look at yourself and decide if you are doing good,” Paul wrote. “Don’t talk about all the good things you do. But don’t give up. Keep on doing good. God will be pleased. Work for the good of everyone, especially the people who love Jesus.”*

*Paul finished his letter. He told the church friends to always talk about Jesus and live like Him so others would want to know about Jesus.*

**BIBLE VERSE**

From the Bible text:

*Let us not get tired of doing good. Galatians 6:9a*

Paraphrase:

*Do not stop doing good. Galatians 6:9a*



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

### GATHER

- Encourage children to finish their activities and join you in the Circle Time area. Clap a rhythm as you chant:  
*Come with me to Circle Time, to Circle Time, to Circle Time. Come with me to Circle Time, and hear a Bible story.*
- When children are seated, show them the addressed envelope. Ask children what the item is and what it is used for.

### HEAR THE BIBLE STORY

- State: “You are right! This is an envelope that is used to send mail. Do you get the mail from your family’s mailbox? Long ago in Bible times, people did not get their mail in the way we do today. They wrote their letters on large pieces of paper and rolled them into scrolls.”
- Open the Bible to the Bible Bookmark (Pack) placed at Galatians. Say: “The Book of Galatians in the Bible is actually a letter written by a man named Paul. Paul wrote the letter to his church friends who lived in Galatia. Let’s see what Paul wrote about in his letter.”
- Tell the Bible story as you show children the Story Picture (Pack).
- Comment: “Paul wanted his friends to know the right things to do. Our truth to remember for today is ‘Help other people know and love Jesus.’”
- Attach the Text Truth Leaf (Pack) for today to the Text Truth Tree (Pack).

### PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Show preschoolers a map of Galatia. Say: “This is Galatia. Paul sent his letter to his friends who lived in Galatia.”
- Lead children to say “Galatia” and point to it on the map.
- Help children locate the Book of Galatians in their Bibles or classroom Bibles. Remark that Galatians is in the New Testament part of the Bible.

### PRAY

- Ask God to help grown-ups and children be ready to tell people about Jesus. Ask God to show you how to do what is good and pleasing to Him.

### OPTIONS

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

### OR

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

### TOOLS

- Bible
- addressed envelope with stamp
- map of Galatia (look in a Bible atlas or dictionary or Bible)
- tape

### PACK ITEMS

- 11 Story Picture: Paul’s Letter to Church Friends
- 21 Bible Bookmarks
- 24 Text Truth Tree
- 25 Text Truth Leaves

## TEXT TRUTH

Help other people know and love Jesus.

## BIBLE STORY

Paul's Letter to Church Friends  
Galatians 1–6

## BIBLE VERSE

Galatians 6:9a

## PACK ITEMS

- 11 Story Picture: Paul's Letter to Church Friends
- 17 Start to Finish Gameboard
- 26 Number Cube
- 27 Motions Cube

## LEADER TIP!

Today's activities will keep the kids moving. Telling the good news can require us to be on the move, looking for those who need to hear about Jesus. Be active!

# EXPLORATION STATIONS (45-60 MINUTES)

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

## MOVE TO THE NUMBERS



*Tools: Bible; six pieces of paper labeled 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6; tape; Number Cube (Pack); bookmark at Galatians 6:9a*

- Tape papers in different places in the room.
- Direct individual children to move to any of the numbered pages. Roll the Number Cube and call out that number.
- Say: "If you are standing at number 4, shout "Tell the good news." Roll the cube for different numbers and responses.
- Say: "Paul told people the good news of Jesus wherever he went. He wanted people to know and follow Jesus."
- Ask a child to find the bookmark and say the Bible verse.

## PLAY STOP AND GO



*Tools: Bible, Motions Cube (Pack)*

- Lead children to play "Red Light, Green Light." Line up children on one side of the room.
- Roll the Motions Cube. Direct children to cross the room using that motion when you say "Green Light." When you say "Red Light," children must freeze.
- Comment: "When you see a red light, it means stop. Our Bible verse today says 'Do not stop doing good.' God wants us to always do what is right. We should never stop."
- Lead children to say the Bible verse together.

### CREATE A SCROLL

*Tools: Bible, copy paper with Bible verse printed on it (one paper per child), ribbon, crayons, stickers, Story Picture: Paul's Letter to Church Friends (Pack)*

- Encourage a child to decorate a Bible verse paper using crayons and stickers. When he finishes, assist him in rolling his paper into a scroll and tying it with a piece of ribbon.
- Show the child the Story Picture and point to Paul's paper and writing tool. State: "Paul wrote letters to people to help them know to do the right things and remember Jesus."
- Open a Bible to Galatians and find Paul's greeting. Read or paraphrase the greeting.
- Say: "Paul cared about the church friends and wanted them to do good things."

### PLAY MAIL DELIVERY GAME

*Tools: Bible, Start to Finish Gameboard (Pack), 1 or 2 postage stamps (to use as game pieces), Number Cube (Pack)*

- Lay the gameboard on a table. Say: "Paul wanted to send his letter to his friends in Galatia. Let's play a game to get Paul's letter to his friends."
- Place the stamp at the start of the game.
- Ask a child to roll the Number Cube. Tell the child to move the stamp the number of spaces shown on the cube. The child may continue rolling and moving until the stamp reaches the end.
- Turn to Galatians in the Bible. Say: "Paul's letter is in the New Testament. That part of the Bible tells what happened after Jesus' birth."

### WORK POSTCARD PUZZLES

*Tools: Bible, Activity Page, assorted postcards, bag, marker, scissors*

- Write on each postcard one reminder Paul told his church friends in the letter he wrote to them. (See the Bible story.)
- Cut each postcard into two puzzle pieces. Drop all the puzzle pieces in the bag.
- Invite two children to put postcard pictures together. Turn the cards over to show Paul's reminders.
- Show children the picture on the Activity Page. Say: "Paul wrote letters to church friends to help them."
- Recall things that Paul told the people in Galatia. Find Paul's letter in the Bible.
- Turn to Galatians 6:9a and read the Bible verse. Guide the children to say the Bible verse and reference together.

## NEXT HOUR (MORE EXPLORATIONS FOR PRESCHOOLERS)

### OPTIONS

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

### TEXT TRUTH

Help other people know and love Jesus.

### BIBLE STORY

Paul's Letter to Church Friends  
Galatians 1–6  
*The Bible story is printed on the back of the Story Picture.*

### BIBLE VERSE

Galatians 6:9a

### FOLLOW A PATH

*Tools: Bible, paper Footprints (Enhanced CD), bookmark (placed in Bible at Galatians 1), tape, Enhanced CD*

- Tape a footprint path on the floor. Place the Bible at the end of the path.
- Invite a preschooler to walk on the path while music plays. When she reaches the end of the path, ask her to open the Bible to the bookmark.
- Point to the word *Galatians*. Say: “Galatians is the name of the Bible book that Paul wrote to church friends. Paul’s letter helps us know how God wants us to live.”

### SPELL THE BIBLE BOOK

*Tools: Bible, Activity Page, Bible Bookmarks (Pack Item 21), letter tiles to spell Galatians, plastic bowl*

- Lay the bookmark for Galatians on a table with the bowl of letters.
- Read the word on the bookmark for a child and call out the letters. Then say: “The same letters are in the bowl. Can you match them to the ones on the bookmark? You will spell the name of the Bible book Paul wrote.”
- When the child completes his work, help him find the Book of Galatians in the Bible.
- Show the picture on the Activity Page and recall the Bible story.

### PLAY A GOOD/NOT GOOD GAME

*Tools: Bible, Thumbs Up/Thumbs Down Signs (Pack Item 33), Situation Cards (Enhanced CD)*

- Ask two children to stand in opposite parts of the room, holding the signs. Tell the remaining children you are going to describe some situations that tell about children doing something that is good, or doing something that is not good. Direct the preschoolers to move to the sign that shows what is correct.
- After reading all cards, say: “You thought about the right things to do. Paul wanted the people in the Galatian church to keep on doing good.”

## DECORATE CUP MEGAPHONES

*Tools: Bible, 16-ounce paper cups (one per child), colorful stickers, scissors, washable markers*

- Cut the bottoms out of paper cups. Give a cup to each child. Tell preschoolers they may use the art supplies to decorate their cups.
- Show children how to talk into a cup as someone would through a megaphone. Say: “Paul wanted to tell the good news of Jesus to everyone. We should tell others about Jesus, too!”
- Say phrases such as “Jesus loves you,” “Do not stop doing good,” and “The Bible is God’s Word.”

## CIRCLE TIME

### GATHER

- Play the Enhanced CD as a signal for children to join you in the circle. Sing along with songs or clap in time to the music.

### REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

- Say: “We can talk to our friends and family on the phone, video chat, email, or text. Paul wrote letters to his friends.”
- Pass the Story Picture (Pack) around the circle, then hold it as you help children recall the Bible story.

### PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Ask a child to hold the Bible opened to Galatians 6:9a.
- Direct children who decorated cup megaphones to get them.
- Lead the children to say the Bible verse together, speaking through their cups.
- Say: “Those words are from the Book of Galatians in the Bible.”

### PRAY

- Ask God to help you listen and obey what He wants you to do.

### LEADER TIP!

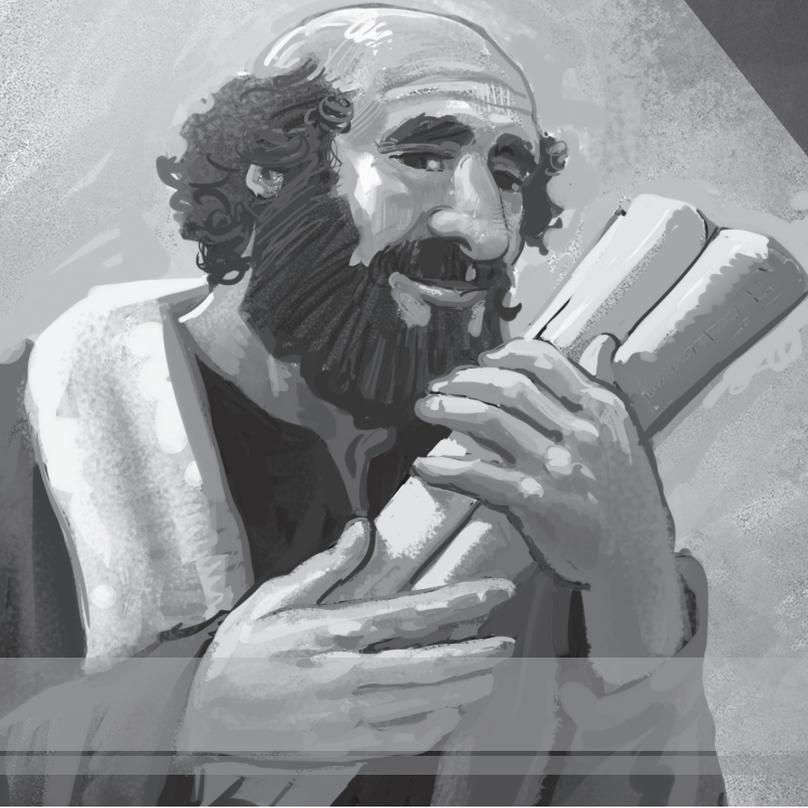
Form groups of two or three preschoolers and a teacher. Look at the Activity Page, review the Bible story, and say the Bible verse.

### DON'T FORGET!

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



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



## Session 12



# HEAR AND DO

## James 1:1–3:18

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

### TEXT TRUTH

Do what the Bible says.

### BIBLE STORY

James 1:1–3:18

### BIBLE VERSE

James 1:22

### CHRIST IN CONTEXT

The Book of James teaches that Jesus fulfilled God's Law. The more we know Jesus, the more we are able to obey God's Word and live like Jesus.

### BIBLE SKILLS

- Understand the Bible teaches right and wrong.
- Remember and say simple Bible words, phrases, and verses with Bible references.

## ARRIVAL ACTIVITIES (5 MINUTES)

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

#### ► Make a paper plate lacing card.

*Tools: Bible, plates with Bible verse printed on one side, pencils, crayons, markers, stickers, hole punch, 12-inch shoelaces*

#### ► Sculpt with play dough.

*Tools: Bible, fresh play dough, play dough cutting tools or craft sticks*

#### ► Match letters to spell Bible words.

*Tools: Bible, Letter Matching Letters (Pack Item 22), Letter Matching Cards (Pack Item 23)*

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



### EXPLORE THE BIBLE TEXT CONNECTION

- James, Jesus' half-brother, was 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 he reminded the church 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.

### FAMILY AT HOME

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

**TEXT TRUTH**

Do what the Bible says.

**BIBLE VERSE**

James 1:22

**LEADER TIP!**

Young preschoolers will probably not know the word *widow*. Explain that a widow is someone who is alone and without her husband.

**LEADER TIP**

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

# JAMES' LETTER

## James 1:1–3:18

*James was a church leader in Jerusalem. He learned about Jesus and knew Jesus was the one God sent to help people.*

*James wrote a letter to churches far away from Jerusalem. James wrote about what people should do to live like Jesus and do what the Bible says.*

*James wrote: “Dear Brothers, understand what I am writing. Listen, speak wisely, don’t be angry. Being angry does not help.*

*“Be doers, not just hearers.” James meant that people should do more than read the Bible. People should learn what the Bible says to do, then do it!*

*James must have cared about people. He told the people to take care of widows and children without parents. “Don’t be kind to some people, and not to others,” James said. James reminded the people that God does not love some people and not others—God loves everyone. “If you love your neighbor as much as you love yourself, you are doing well,” said James.*

*James knew people’s actions showed whether they loved Jesus. James said our words should be kind, too. Don’t say mean or untrue things. Spend time thinking about God and talking to Him. God will be near.*

*At the end of his letter, James wrote: “Pray. Sing praises. Forgive one another. Help others know what is true and right.”*

**BIBLE VERSE**

From the Bible text:

*Be doers of the word and not hearers only. James 1:22*

Paraphrase:

*Be a doer, not just a listener. James 1:22*



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

### GATHER

- When children are in the circle, sing the song “Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes” with the group and do the motions.
- After the song, be seated and ask the children if they can name their five senses. Say: “We have five senses. With our mouths we taste. With our eyes we see. With our fingers we touch. With our noses we smell.”
- Continue: “Does anyone know what we listen with?” (ears) “Yes! We listen with our ears. What are some sounds we can listen for?”

### HEAR THE BIBLE STORY

- Affirm children for responses, then continue: “Our Bible story today is from the Book of James. James wrote a letter so people would know what the Bible tells people to do. James wanted people to do more than just hear God’s words. James said God wants people to obey God’s words.”
- Hold up the Story Picture (Pack) and point to James. Open the Bible to James and tell the Bible story.
- Comment: “The Bible tells us what is right and wrong. We need to listen to people who help us learn what God says. Then we need to obey and do what God says to do. Our truth to remember for today is ‘Do what the Bible says.’”
- Attach the Text Truth Leaf (Pack) to the Text Truth Tree (Pack).

### PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Show children the Bible Bookmark (Pack) for *James*. Say: “James is the name of the Bible book that a man named James wrote. Let’s look for the Book of James in our Bibles. Look in the New Testament part of the Bible.”
- Ask teachers to pair up with children and guide them to locate James in the Bible.
- Tell children to find James’ name somewhere on the Bible page.

### PRAY

- Repeat this prayer: “Dear God, help us listen to and do what the Bible says. Thank You for the Bible and the truths it teaches us.”

### OPTIONS

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

### OR

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

### TOOLS

- Bible
- tape

### PACK ITEMS

- 12 Story Picture: James’ Letter
- 21 Bible Bookmarks
- 24 Text Truth Tree
- 25 Text Truth Leaves

## TEXT TRUTH

Do what the Bible says.

## BIBLE STORY

James' Letter  
James 1:1–3:18

## BIBLE VERSE

James 1:22

## PACK ITEMS

12 Story Picture: James' Letter  
18 Bible Lacing Cards  
34 Kindness Matching Cards

## LEADER TIP!

Use Bible commands such as these:

*Be kind. (Ephesians 4:32)*  
*Love others. (1 John 4:7)*  
*Love God. (Matthew 22:37)*  
*Obey. (John 14:23)*  
*Care for others. (Romans 12:10)*  
*Pray. (1 Thessalonians 5:17)*  
*Tell others about Jesus. (Matthew 28:19)*

# EXPLORATION STATIONS (45-60 MINUTES)

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

## MATCH COLORED STRIPS



*Tools: Bible, 14 strips of paper (7 different colors, 2 of each color), basket, washable marker*

- Write a Bible command and Scripture reference on one set of colored paper strips. (See Leader Tip for verses to use.)
- Place these strips in the Bible at their references.
- Place remaining colored strips in the basket.
- Direct a child to get a paper strip from the basket, then turn to that color strip in the Bible.
- Read the command aloud to the child. Ask her how she can obey that command. Give ideas.
- Say: "God wants us to hear and do what the Bible says. The Bible helps us know what is right and wrong."

## IDENTIFY SOUNDS



*Tools: Bible; opaque plastic containers with lids; sound-making items (rice, beans, salt, pasta, coins); tape; Story Picture: James' Letter (Pack)*

- Put a small amount of each item into the containers and tape the lids. Make duplicate sets of items.
- Invite children to shake containers and listen to the sounds. Lead preschoolers to identify what makes the sounds. Guide children to determine which containers make similar sounds.
- Comment that James told people to listen and do, not just listen.
- Show children the Story Picture and tell the story.

**LACE CARDS & MATCH  
PICTURES**

*Tools: Bible, Bible Lacing Cards, (Pack), Kindness Matching Cards (Pack), Activity Page*

- Lay the Activity Page on the Bible opened to James 1.
- Give a child a choice of lacing a Bible card or matching pictures showing people being kind.
- While the child is busy, hold the Activity Page for him to see the picture.
- Say: "James knew what God wanted people to do. James wrote a letter to tell people to listen to what the Bible says and do what God wants."
- Turn over the Activity Page and engage another child in doing the activity.
- Lead the children to say the Bible verse.

**DRIVE CARS TO  
CHURCH**

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

- Prop the picture of your church against the wall. Create a masking tape roadway leading to the picture. Curve the road and make several turns.
- Invite children to choose cars to drive to church. Talk with children about ways they travel to church, and mention things people do at church.
- As children play, say: "We come to church to learn from the Bible. We listen to teachers who help us know what God wants us to do. But God does not want us to just listen. He wants us to do."
- Turn to James 1:22 and point to the Bible verse.

**LISTEN AND OBEY**

*Tools: Bible, Activity Page*

- Invite preschoolers to play a game. Whisper an instruction in one child's ear (for example, tiptoe to the door or take four giant steps). The child will do what you say to do and the other children will guess what the instruction was.
- Whisper instructions to every child so everyone can have a turn.
- Say: "God wants us to listen to what the Bible says and do what our pastor and teachers and parents tell us about the Bible. God wants us to listen and obey."
- Show children the picture on the Activity Page. Comment: "James wrote a letter to people. He wanted the people to remember the things Jesus taught. James said, 'Don't just listen to the Bible. Do what the Bible says to do.'"

## NEXT HOUR (MORE EXPLORATIONS FOR PRESCHOOLERS)

### OPTIONS

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

### TEXT TRUTH

Do what the Bible says.

### BIBLE STORY

James' Letter

James 1:1–3:18

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

### BIBLE VERSE

James 1:22

### MAKE A BOOKMARK

*Tools: Bible, clear contact plastic, colored heavyweight paper cut in strips, hole punch, small tissue paper squares, glue sticks, ribbon*

- Invite a child to make a bookmark for his Bible or one at his home. Give him a strip of paper and a glue stick. Suggest he glue tissue paper on the paper in any design.
- When the child finishes, cover his bookmark with clear contact plastic. Punch a hole in the top of the bookmark and thread a ribbon through.
- Tell the child: “The Bible has important things for us to know and remember. James said to not just listen to the words of the Bible, but to do what they say.”

### COMPARE BIBLES

*Tools: variety of Bibles (different sizes, colors, children's Bibles, illustrated Bibles, and so on); children's magnifying glasses*

- Place an assortment of Bibles on a table. Encourage children to touch, hold, and look through each Bible. Children may enjoy using the magnifying glasses to view the Bibles.
- Ask questions about the Bibles: “Which is the largest? Which has pictures? Which is a certain color?”
- Say: “The Bible is a very special book. The Bible tells us what is right and wrong. We should obey what the Bible tells us to do.”

### MATCH WORD SHAPES

*Tools: Bible, 5 geometric shapes (cut 2 of each), washable markers*

- Write words of the Text Truth on the shapes (one word per shape). Make a duplicate set.
- Read the words on a set of shapes and point to the words.
- Invite a child to match the shapes and put them in order.
- Read the words again, commenting that James told people to do what the Bible says.

## PASS AND TELL

*Tools: Bible, Story Picture: James' Letter (Pack Item 12), Bible Story Circle (Pack Item 35), Enhanced CD*

- Invite children to sit in a circle and pass a Bible while music plays.
- Stop the music. Tell the child holding the Bible to spin the arrow on the Bible Story Circle. Read the question and wait for the child to answer. Show the child the Story Picture and suggest answers if needed.
- Continue playing until all the children have had a turn to hold the Bible and answer a question about the Bible story.
- Open the Bible to the Book of James and show preschoolers James' name.

## CIRCLE TIME

### GATHER

- Lead children in the song “Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes.”
- Remind children to listen with their ears and point to the part of the body the song mentions.

### REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

- State: “Today we have learned how important it is to listen and obey what the Bible says. Let’s open a Bible to the Book of James.”
- Review the Bible story while showing the Story Picture (Pack) to preschoolers.

### PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Explain that today’s story is from the New Testament.
- Say: “The New Testament tells about the things that happened after Jesus was born.”
- Lead children to repeat the Bible verse and reference.

### PRAY

- Ask God to help us listen and obey what the Bible tells us.

### LEADER TIP!

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

### DON'T FORGET!

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



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



## Session 13

# LIVE LIKE JESUS



### James 4:1–5:20

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

### TEXT TRUTH

Remember Jesus and live like Him.

### BIBLE STORY

James 4:1–5:20

### BIBLE VERSE

James 4:8a

### CHRIST IN CONTEXT

The Book of James teaches that Jesus fulfilled God's Law. The more we know Jesus, the more we are able to obey God's Word and live like Jesus.

### BIBLE SKILLS

- Begin to understand how Bible verses apply to his life.
- Remember and say simple Bible words, phrases, and verses with Bible references.

## ARRIVAL ACTIVITIES (5 MINUTES)

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

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

*Tools: Bible, rhythm instruments, Enhanced CD or praise CD*

► **Glue yarn on letters of the word Pray.**

*Tools: Bible, Session Key Words: Pray (Enhanced CD) printed on heavyweight paper, thick yarn, glue, crayons*

► **Find Bible pages with Jesus' name.**

*Tools: Bible, 2 cards with Jesus printed in large letters, sticky note flags*



### EXPLORE THE BIBLE 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.

### FAMILY AT HOME

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

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

**TEXT TRUTH**

Remember Jesus and live like Him.

**BIBLE VERSE**

James 4:8a

**LEADER TIP!**

Children may be excited to learn that James, the author of this letter, was a brother of Jesus.

# JAMES' IMPORTANT REMINDERS

**James 4:1–5:20**

*James cared about the people in the churches. James wanted the people to understand how to live like Jesus and obey what the Bible teaches.*

*James continued writing his letter to church friends. James reminded the people about prayer. James said, “You do not have [God’s help] because you do not ask [for it].” (This is exactly what Jesus taught people when He was alive!) James told the people to think about God and obey Him.*

*James also told the people not to talk about their families and others in mean ways. God is the one who knows what is right. He knows the people who do what is wrong. James said, “It is wrong not to do what is good.”*

*James talked more about being thankful for God’s help. James said, “You remember Job. Many bad things happened to Job. But Job knew God loved him and always helped him.”*

*Pray, pray, pray. James helped the church people think about the importance of talking to God. James said if anyone is sick or sad or not doing what is right, we should pray for that person. “Remember Elijah. He prayed and prayed and prayed for three long years. He never stopped praying. And God heard Elijah and helped him.”*

*James said, “Brothers, help one another know what is right.”*

**LEADER TIP**

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

**BIBLE VERSE**

From the Bible text:

*Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. James 4:8a*

Paraphrase:

*Love God. He will be near you. James 4:8a*



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

### GATHER

- Ask children to join you in the Circle Time area after they clean up their activity materials.
- Say: “If something is beside me, it is near. If something is a great distance away from me, it is far.” Name a few objects in the room and ask children to say whether the objects are near or far from you.

### HEAR THE BIBLE STORY

- Remark: “Today we are continuing to learn from the Book of James. James tells us in his letter that God will be near each of us. Even though we can’t see God, He is always with us. Let’s see what else we can learn from the Book of James.”
- Open a Bible to the Book of James. Tell the story as you show preschoolers the Story Picture (Pack).
- Point to James in the Story Picture. Remark: “James told people to obey God and pray. He said to live like Jesus and use kind words and help others. These are all very important things for us to do.”
- Hold up the Text Truth Leaf (Pack) for today. Say: “Our truth for today is ‘Remember Jesus and live like Him.’ Can you say those words with me?”
- Attach the Text Truth Leaf to the Text Truth Tree (Pack).

### PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Hold up the Bible Bookmark (Pack) for James. Then open the Bible to James 4:8. Pass the Bible and let children point to the highlighted verse.
- Say: “Let’s learn this verse together. Watch me use my hands as I say the words, then you may do the same.”
- Teach children James 4:8 using the following motions:  
*Love:* place hands over heart. *God:* point to the sky. *He will be near you:* place arms around your chest as if giving yourself a hug.
- Repeat this activity a few times.

### PRAY

- Ask God to help us live like Jesus. Pray that we will remember Jesus and do what is right.

### OPTIONS

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

### OR

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

### TOOLS

- Bible
- highlighter (Use to highlight today’s Bible verse.)
- tape

### PACK ITEMS

- 13 Story Picture: James’ Important Reminders
- 21 Bible Bookmarks
- 24 Text Truth Tree
- 25 Text Truth Leaves

## TEXT TRUTH

Remember Jesus and live like Him.

## BIBLE STORY

James' Important Reminders  
James 4:1–5:20

## BIBLE VERSE

James 4:8a

## PACK ITEMS

13 Story Picture: James' Important Reminders  
26 Number Cube  
34 Kindness Matching Cards

## LEADER TIP!

Prepare paper plates ahead of time.

First, use separate marker colors to write Bible book names on sturdy paper plates (one color per plate). Write the names *Genesis, 2 Samuel, Galatians, 1 Chronicles, James*.

Next, add a colored office dot of the same color to each plate (i.e., green marker, green sticker).

Make duplicate sets of plates.

## LEADER TIP!

Supervise children at all times when ropes are in use. (See "Move to Bibles" activity.)

# EXPLORATION STATIONS (45-60 MINUTES)

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

## MATCH PLATES



*Tools: Bible, 10 paper plates, 5 different colored markers, 10 office dot stickers in same colors*

- Spread paper plates facedown.
- Invite a child to turn over two plates. Read the words, identifying the Bible books.
- Tell the child that if the words on the plates match, set the plates aside. If the words do not match, turn them back over.
- If the child needs more help, suggest he look to see if the marker or sticker colors on the plates are the same.
- Continue until all plates are matched. Review the names of the Bible books.
- Say: "God helped people know what to write in each of these books."

## DECORATE A HAND PICTURE



*Tools: Bible, copy paper, colored pencil, crayons, Activity Page*

- Draw around a child's hands on a piece of paper. Then give him crayons to decorate his hand picture.
- Talk with the child about prayer. Say: "The Bible tells us that God hears us when we pray. God wants us to ask Him for help, and He wants us to thank Him."
- Lead the child to name people for whom he can pray. Write the people's names on the paper.
- Say: "We can talk to God anytime, anywhere." Show the child the picture on the Activity Page as you tell the Bible story.

**READ THE BIBLE AND BOOKS**

*Tools: Bible, Story Picture: James' Important Reminders (Pack), preschool books about Jesus and God, quilt, throw pillows, baby dolls*

- Spread the quilt on the floor and arrange the other materials on the quilt.
- Invite preschoolers to sit and read the Bible and books. Children can look at the books or “read” them to the dolls.
- Say: “You are reading the Bible to the baby. The Bible teaches about Jesus and God. The Bible is true. We can read the Bible at church and at home.”
- Show children the Story Picture as children play. Thank God for people like James who wrote what God told them to write so we could learn about God and Jesus.

**WORK PUZZLES**

*Tools: Bible; Kindness Matching Cards (Pack); puzzles Jesus, A Special Friend (LifeWay, 005160679) and Family Prayers (LifeWay, 005191559)*

- Put one set of the kindness cards on a table, and the duplicate cards throughout the pages of the Bible. Put the wooden puzzles nearby.
- Invite children to choose puzzles to work. When a child sees the kindness cards, talk about the actions pictured. Relate them to the Text Truth. Comment that Jesus was kind to people, and we should be, too.
- Direct the child to look in the Bible for a card to match to one on the table.
- When all cards are matched, help a child locate James 4:8a. Say the Bible verse together.

**MOVE TO BIBLES**

*Tools: 2 Bibles, Number Cube (Pack), 2 ropes, 2 ribbons*

- Lay the ropes parallel to each other on the floor. Place a Bible at the end of each rope. Use ribbons to mark the Book of James in each Bible.
- Form two groups of children. Direct them to line up at the end of the ropes.
- Roll the Number Cube. Tell two children to move that number of steps along their ropes.
- Continue until children reach the Bibles. Lead children to open the Bibles to the ribbons.
- Say: “James wrote this part of the New Testament. It is a letter that reminds people to live like Jesus and do the things He told people to do. Let’s say a verse from James’ letter.”
- Lead preschoolers to say the Bible verse.

## NEXT HOUR (MORE EXPLORATIONS FOR PRESCHOOLERS)

### OPTIONS

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

### TEXT TRUTH

Remember Jesus and live like Him.

### BIBLE STORY

James' Important Reminders  
James 4:1–5:20  
*The Bible story is printed on the back of the Story Picture.*

### BIBLE VERSE

James 4:8a

### SHAKE AND SAY

*Tools: Bible, colorful cheerleader pom-poms, Activity Page*

- Shake a pom-pom to get a child's attention. Begin chanting the Bible verse. (See Activity Page.)
- Give a pom-pom to a child and invite her to say the Bible verse with you.
- Turn to James 4:8a and show the child where we read the verse.

### BUILD WITH LETTER BLOCKS

*Tools: Bible; multiple wooden blocks with letters J, E, S, U, S (or write letters on squares of paper and tape them to blocks); Activity Page*

- Scatter blocks on the floor. Arrange one set of blocks to spell *JESUS*. Lead children to find and arrange another set of blocks with the same pattern of letters.
- Remark: "We used the blocks to spell Jesus' name. Jesus taught people many things, especially how to live a good life."
- Show children the Activity Page picture, commenting that James wrote letters to help people know how to live like Jesus and do the things Jesus taught.

### PAINT A PICTURE MESSAGE

*Tools: Bible, heavyweight paper, letter-size envelopes, marker, watercolor paints, disposable cups, paintbrushes, smocks*

- On each paper write the message "Jesus loves you."
- Distribute paper and paint to two or three children. Say: "The words on your paper say 'Jesus loves you.' After you decorate your paper and the paint dries, you may put your paper in an envelope like a letter."
- Suggest that children paint picture messages to give to people in need of encouragement, such as people in a nursing home or homeless shelter.
- Give the letters to a ministry leader to distribute for the children.

## DRIVE TOY CARS

*Tools: Bible, Story Picture: James' Important Reminders (Pack Item 13), cards with Text Truth printed on them (one word per card), tape, toy cars*

- Make a tape road on the floor. Place word cards along the route (in correct sequence).
- As a child drives a toy car on the tape road and reaches a card, read it. Continue until the child has heard the Text Truth.
- Turn to James 4 and say: "James wrote in his letter that we should remember Jesus and live like Him. James said, 'Love God. He will be near you.' I'm glad we can read James' letter in the Bible and learn what God wants us to do."
- Show the Story Picture and help children recall the Bible story.

## CIRCLE TIME

### GATHER

- When children are in the circle, say: "Help me think of some things Jesus did." Mention actions such as He was kind, showed love, was helpful, obeyed God, and prayed.
- Say: "God wants us to live like Jesus and do those things, too."

### REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

- Review the Bible story and show children the Story Picture (Pack).
- Ask children to point to James, the letter scrolls in his hands, and the men listening to James.

### PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Say: "Our Bible story and verse are from the Book of James."
- Help children repeat the Bible verse, using these motions:  
*Love:* place hands over heart.  
*God:* point to the sky.  
*He will be near you:* place arms around your chest as if giving yourself a hug.
- Say the verse a few times.

### PRAY

- Thank God for always being near. Ask God to help us love Him and live like His Son, Jesus.

### LEADER TIP!

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

### DON'T FORGET!

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



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

# COMING NEXT QUARTER

## WINTER 2018-19

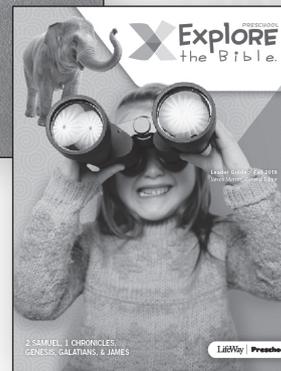
DATE	SESSION TITLE	BIBLE STORY PASSAGE	BIBLE VERSE
Dec. 2	Jesus, the Healer	Mark 2:1-12	Mark 2:10a
Dec. 9	Jesus, the Storyteller	Mark 4	Mark 4:9
Dec. 16	Kind Jesus	Mark 5:21-43	Mark 5:36
Dec. 23	A Glorious Night	Matthew 1:18-25; Mark 1:35-39,45; Luke 2:1-20	Luke 2:11
Dec. 30	Jesus, Our Helper	Mark 6:45-52; Matthew 14:22-33	Psalms 56:3
Jan. 6	Church Helpers	1 Timothy 1-6; Acts 16:1-5	1 Timothy 4:12
Jan. 13	Learn and Do	2 Timothy 1-4	2 Timothy 3:16
Jan. 20	Be an Example	Titus 1-3	Titus 2:14
Jan. 27	Listen and Obey	Amos 1:1-2; 4:13; 5:4,14-15; 7:14-15	Amos 5:4
Feb. 3	Remember God and Obey	Hosea 1-14	Hosea 12:6
Feb. 10	Go and Tell	Jonah 1-4	Jonah 2:9b
Feb. 17	God Is Great	Nahum 1-3	Nahum 1:3a
Feb. 24	Turn to God	Joel 1-3	Joel 3:16b

# TOOLS FOR DIGGING DEEP!

## PRESCHOOL TOOL KIT

The resources you need to lead one class:

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



## LEADER GUIDE

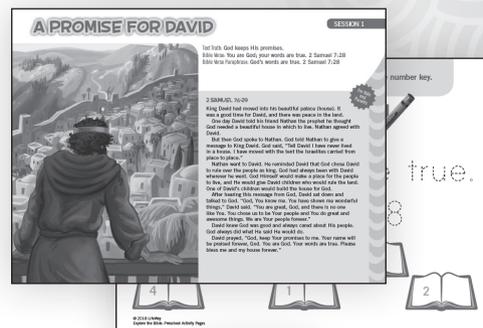
Help preschoolers dig into the Bible.

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

## ACTIVITY PAGES

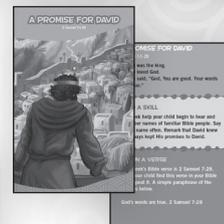
Engage preschoolers in class and continue learning at home.

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



## PRESCHOOL FAMILY CARDS

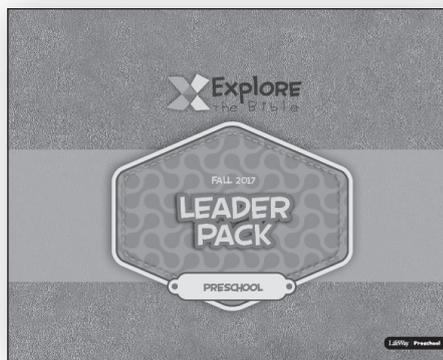
Pocket-size weekly cards feature Bible story picture and simple Bible explorations that build and strengthen Bible skills.



## LEADER PACK

Filled with leader-friendly resources that make teaching easy.

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



## ENHANCED CD

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

## PRESCHOOL TOOL KIT WITH WORSHIP

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



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

# THE GOSPEL

## GOD'S PLAN FOR ME

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



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



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



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



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



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

### ADMIT

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

### BELIEVE

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

### CONFESS

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

# HELP KIDS LEARN THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE.



## BOOKS OF THE BIBLE CARDS

LifeWay Kids

### HISTORY

## SHUA

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

**WHEN WAS IT WRITTEN?** Around 1380 B.C. (if Samuel is the author) or 1050 B.C. (if Joshua is the author)  
**WHEN DID THE EVENTS OF THE BOOK TAKE PLACE?** About 1406–1380 B.C.

**WHERE WAS IT WRITTEN?** Canaan

**WHY WAS IT WRITTEN?** To tell the history of how the Israelites conquered the promised land and how they followed 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.

## GENESIS

**WHO WROTE THE TEXT?** Moses  
**WHO IS THE AUDIENCE?** Israelites, traveling in the wilderness

**WHEN WAS IT WRITTEN?** Between 1445–1406 B.C. (if Moses is the author)  
**WHEN DID THE EVENTS OF THE BOOK TAKE PLACE?** From 1805 B.C. (Joseph's death) to 1445 B.C. (Moses' death)

**WHERE WAS IT WRITTEN?** Israel's journey from slavery in Egypt to the land of Canaan

**WHY WAS IT WRITTEN?** To provide a foundation for history and theology for the people of Israel.

ONLY \$6.99 PER CHILD.

*Explore the Bible: Books of the Bible Cards* contain one card for each of the 66 Bible books. Each card includes interesting facts about the books of the Bible and is color-coded according to the division of the Bible where it belongs. Each child will want a set!

[LifeWay.com/ExploreTheBible](http://LifeWay.com/ExploreTheBible) • 1.800.458.2772  
 LifeWay Christian Stores

Prices and availability subject to change without notice.

LifeWay Kids



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FALL 2018

