Leader Guide

SUMMER • CHILDREN’S CHURCH

group.com/sunday-school
KidsOwn Worship®: FaithWeaver® Children’s Church, Leader Guide, Summer

We know you care about kids…

We do, too!

That’s why we attempt to ensure that all crafts, toys, and gizmos meet or exceed national safety standards—and are produced by manufacturers that don’t use child labor or abuse their labor force. You can order Group resources knowing that in addition to caring for your kids, you’re also caring for children elsewhere.

Let’s keep kids safe!

We strive to provide products that are mechanically reliable and hold together during normal, intended usage. Items are also checked for flammability, and both paint and surface coatings are checked for heavy metals—including lead.

You can help your children stay safe by seeing that toys and gizmos are used as designed, for the purposes designed, and that any broken pieces are disposed of promptly and properly.

We value your feedback. If you become aware of a problem affecting the safety of any of our products, please inform us immediately.
# Contents

**Introduction** .................................................................................................................................................................................. 4  
**Staffing Your Children’s Church** .................................................................................................................................................. 5  

## The Sessions

**Session 1:** God Helps Gideon Defeat the Midianites  
- Judges 6:1-16; 7:1-24 ........................................ 6

**Session 2:** Samson Receives Strength From God  
- Judges 15:9-16; 16:4-30 ................................. 18

**Session 3:** Ruth Is Faithful  
- Ruth 1:1-22 ........................................................................ 32

**Session 4:** Ruth Marries Boaz  
- Ruth 2–4 ............................................................................ 44

**Session 5:** God Answers Hannah’s Prayer  
- 1 Samuel 1:1-28 .................................................................... 58

**Session 6:** God Speaks to Samuel  
- 1 Samuel 3:1-21 .................................................................... 70

**Session 7:** Saul Becomes King  
- 1 Samuel 8:1-22; 9:1-2; 10:17-24.............................. 84

**Session 8:** Saul Makes a Big Mistake  
- 1 Samuel 13:1-14 .............................................................. 98

**Session 9:** God Chooses David to Replace Saul  
- 1 Samuel 16:1-13 ............................................................ 112

**Session 10:** David Defeats Goliath  
- 1 Samuel 17:1-50 .................................................................. 128

**Session 11:** Jonathan Warns David  
- 1 Samuel 18:1-4; 19:1-7; 20:1-42 ................................. 142

**Session 12:** Abigail Makes Peace  
- 1 Samuel 25:1-35 .............................................................. 154

**Session 13:** David Spares Saul’s Life  
- 1 Samuel 26:5-25 .................................................................. 168

**Song Lyrics and Motions** ................................................................................................................................................................. 181
Don't just teach about the Bible. Change lives!

KidsOwn Worship® is a resource God will use to change the lives of the children in your church.

KidsOwn Worship sessions encourage people to focus on the one most important thing in life: a growing relationship with Jesus. In Luke 10:41-42 (the Martha and Mary story), Jesus said, “Martha, Martha, you are worried and upset about many things, but only one thing is needed.” Every session in KidsOwn Worship helps students focus on this one thing, a growing relationship with Jesus.

Whether they’re studying Bible stories from the Old Testament or the New Testament, learners will be challenged to grow closer to Jesus every week.

KidsOwn Worship is one piece of the FaithWeaver® family of resources. You’ll be thrilled at the way FaithWeaver encourages learners to weave faith into life. By providing meaningful activities, great discussions, and personal challenges, FaithWeaver takes learners past head knowledge of the Bible and into heart-and life-change.

With FaithWeaver Bible Curriculum, students of all ages will:

- experience God’s story in fresh, fun, meaningful ways;
- understand God’s Word by doing surprising, fun stuff;
- discover the adventure of applying God’s truth to everyday life;
- build a forever friendship with Jesus—the best friend they could ever have!

Hi, FaithWeavers!

FaithWeaver’s goal is just that: to weave faith in Jesus Christ into all areas of learners’ lives. And FaithWeaver accomplishes this goal as no other curriculum can. By using all the FaithWeaver Bible Curriculum age levels, you can provide an opportunity for families to study the same Bible passage every week. After toddlers, children, youth, and adults study the same Bible passage (at different levels, of course), families will emerge from church with a common point of reference that will spark discussion and application at home. The extra tools, such as take-home pages and the FamilyConnect® weekly pages, will also help encourage families to interact over Bible stories—and experience life-transforming integration of what they learned into daily life!

Know that FaithWeaver Bible Curriculum will powerfully influence the lives of the children, youth, and adults in your church. And enjoy the excitement of weaving faith into life!

Thom and Joani Schultz
Chairman and Chief Creative Officer
Group Publishing, Inc.

The FaithWeaver family of resources:

- Infants, Toddlers & 2s
- Preschool (Ages 3 & 4)
- Pre-K & K (Ages 5 & 6)
- Grades 1 & 2
- Grades 3 & 4
- Grades 5 & 6
- Middle School/Junior High
- Senior High
- Parent
- Adult
- KidsOwn Worship®: Children's Church
- FaithWeaver Friends® Midweek
- FaithWeaver FamilyConnect®
Staffing Your Children’s Church

To help make your children’s church experience strong, it is important that you have at least one adult helper no matter how many children attend your children’s church. In addition, we recommend that you recruit at least one helper for every 15 children.

Song Leader

You may want to recruit a song leader who can lead your children in a powerful worship experience. Give the CD to the song leader, and let him or her know which songs will be sung each week and what discussion he or she is responsible for.

Preschool Leader

You may decide to keep all the children together during the entire worship time or to separate the preschoolers and elementary students during “Let’s Learn the Point!” If you decide to separate preschoolers for this section, recruit a preschool leader, and make sure there’s a room where the preschoolers can meet.

Staffing for Your Children’s Church Size

If your children’s church is made up of 30 or fewer children, you’ll be able to run an effective children’s church program with two leaders—one to present material or lead worship songs, the other to gather supplies and help children with their individual needs.

If you have more than 30 children in your children’s group, we suggest that you use a small-group format, which we call Praise Crews, for discussions. Using Praise Crews will change both the number of volunteers and the kind of volunteers you’ll need (see margin box). Each Praise Crew will need a responsible teenager or an adult helper to build relationships and help with individual needs.

Involving Older Children

If you have older elementary children or preteens who want to be involved in children’s church, consider forming a children’s worship team. It’s a great way to help children learn to serve, and you’ll find that many children are eager to participate on a worship team. Hold regular rehearsals to help the worship-team children learn the song lyrics and motions. Be sure to rotate children into the worship team often so that many children get a chance to learn how to serve.

Important Legal Information

When you purchase a KidsOwn Worship CD or kit, you also buy the right to use the songs and lyrics as often as you like. The rights you have purchased also grant you permission to use either the PowerPoint presentation on the CD or lyrics transparencies you make from the file on the CD, but not both.

What Do Praise Crew Leaders Do?

• Arrive early and be ready to welcome the kids in your Praise Crews.
• Worship enthusiastically! If you put your heart into worshipping God, kids will, too!
• Listen carefully to directions, and help each child participate in the worship activities and the discussion that follows.
• Gently redirect kids who get off track or start misbehaving. It’s your job to help kids have an awesome experience at KidsOwn Worship.
# God Helps Gideon Defeat the Midianites

**Judges 6:1-16; 7:1-24**

**Worship Theme:**
- Nothing is impossible with God.

**Weaving Faith Into Life:**
- Kids will learn that God can do anything.

## Session Sequence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session Sequence</th>
<th>What Children Will Do</th>
<th>Supplies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **1** Let’s Praise God! (up to 25 minutes) | **Sing**  
- “Everything Is Possible With God” (Mark 10:27) (track 1)  
- “Holy, Holy, Holy” (track 3)  
- “I Sing the Mighty Power of God” (track 14)  
- “The Strength I Need” (Philippians 4:13) (track 23)  
- “And We Know” (Romans 8:28) (track 15) | **KidsOwn Worship Kit:**  
- Songs From FaithWeaver, Wacky Sand  
**Classroom Supplies:**  
- CD player, 12 bowls, 6 cups, water, 3 pounds sand, scissors, poster board, black marker |

## Preschool

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session Sequence</th>
<th>What Children Will Do</th>
<th>Supplies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **2** Let’s Learn the Point! (up to 25 minutes) | **Only a Few** (about 8 minutes)  
Play an elimination game to learn the Bible Story. | |
| | **Our God Can Do Anything** (about 8 minutes)  
Sing to celebrate our all-powerful God. | **Classroom Supplies:**  
- Cans of fruit, can opener, cups, spoons, napkins |
| | **God’s Help** (about 9 minutes)  
Try to open cans without can openers. | |
### Session Sequence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What Children Will Do</th>
<th>Supplies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Let’s Learn the Point! (up to 25 minutes)</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| * Snowball (about 8 minutes)  
Play a game to see what it’s like to fight an impossible battle. | Classroom Supplies:  
5 sheets of newspaper per child, garbage bag, masking tape |
| Gideon’s Army (about 9 minutes)  
Act out parts of the Bible story. | |
| * “Wherever You Go” (about 8 minutes)  
Watch a DVD segment about a Bible verse. | KidsOwn Worship Kit:  
Lesson Videos DVD: “Wherever You Go” (Joshua 1:9)  
Classroom Supplies:  
TV, DVD player |

### Session Sequence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What Children Will Do</th>
<th>Supplies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Let’s Pray! (up to 10 minutes)</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| The Offering (about 3 minutes)  
Learn that God can make a quarter do anything. | Classroom Supplies:  
Offering bowls, quarter |
| Impossible Prayer Requests (about 3 minutes)  
Pray that God will do the impossible to help others or make big dreams come true. | |
| I Will Obey You (about 4 minutes)  
Sing a song as a prayer and pledge to obey the God who can do anything. | KidsOwn Worship Kit:  
Songs From FaithWeaver: “Trust and Obey” (track 8)  
Classroom Supplies:  
CD player |

* Starred activities can be used successfully with preschool and elementary children together.  
Customize your session to fit your needs. You can separate preschoolers and elementary children for Section 2.  
Or, if you keep the children all together for the entire worship session, we suggest you choose from the starred activities.
This lesson begins a section of study on the period of the judges. After Joshua died, there was no immediate, clear leader of the people of Israel. Instead, God raised up different leaders at different times for different tasks, and they all received special power from the Holy Spirit to do what God wanted them to do. These leaders were called judges, though they didn’t function primarily as arbitrators or administrators of justice. In most cases, they were military leaders, called upon to deliver Israel from foreign enemies.

During this time in Israel the 12 tribes were scattered across the land, and they seldom worked together or even came together. Only a major crisis that threatened them all would bring them together under the leadership of a judge. The nation of Israel developed a cyclical pattern: The people of Israel would fall away from worshipping God, God would allow conditions to deteriorate and foreign nations to attack, the people would repent and cry out to God, God would send a judge to free the people from their oppressors, and the cycle would begin anew as the people of Israel again fell away from worshipping God.

Remember that the judges were chosen and called by God. One of the first judges mentioned in the Bible was Ehud, who was left-handed, a trait that made him suspect to many who were superstitious. After Ehud died, Deborah, a woman, was chosen to judge Israel—another surprising choice in the male-dominated society of that day. Following Deborah was Gideon, the central figure in today’s lesson. Gideon’s description of himself might remind us of the great King David, who was yet to come. Both were the youngest in their families. And we might also think of Micah’s description of Bethlehem, the birthplace of the coming Savior, as the least among the clans of Judah (Micah 5:2). Gideon did not think of himself as a military leader, but God knew what Israel needed. Israel didn’t need a leader who would trust in his military ability; rather, Israel needed a leader who would humbly rely on God for guidance and strength.

God’s instructions to whittle Gideon’s army to 300 men seem absurd. But God wanted the people of Israel to see that they were saved by God’s power rather than their own military might. We aren’t told why the manner of the soldiers’ drinking—either by stooping to drink the water directly or cupping it to their mouths—was significant. Perhaps it was simply a way to reduce the number of men; perhaps it was a method to choose those who were most alert. The 300 men who kept their heads up may have demonstrated an alertness that was lacking in the men who stooped to drink. It is astonishing that the Israelites didn’t strike anyone with a sword at the beginning of the battle. After raising their torches and blowing their trumpets, Gideon and his soldiers held their positions while the Midianites turned upon one another with their swords (Judges 7:21-22)—God won the battle for them.

**Devotion for Leaders**

When we have a relationship with Jesus, no matter what happens to us, we can be sure he’ll be there. Even when God feels absent or far away, God is still in control. The passage of time will reveal the meaning of present trials and troubles.

**Weaving Faith Into Your Life:** Think back on Gideon’s feelings of inadequacy. When have you felt that way? When have you felt inadequate in your role as a teacher? How did God help you through it? How did that experience help grow your faith? The next time you feel inadequate, lean on your faith and move forward in confident trust.
Why We Worship for Leaders

Nothing is impossible with God! What an incredible reason to worship him. Small armies conquer mighty armies when God intervenes. Diseases disappear at God's healing touch. Seas part to make dry land. Shepherd boys become kings. The Bible is full of stories about God making the impossible reality. The greatest impossibility of all is that God became man so people who believe can dwell in his presence forever. Use this worship session to help children explore some of the incredible possibilities that come from serving a God for whom nothing is impossible.

Easy Prep for Leaders

Let’s Praise God!

• Print the entire alphabet in reverse order (from Z to A) on poster board. Make the letters large enough so that children can read them from their seats during Let’s Praise God! Put the poster where the children can’t see it.

• Provide 8 to 12 small bowls of water and 4 to 6 small cups of sand.

Snowball—Crumple sheets of newspaper, and put the crumpled sheets into a large garbage bag. You’ll need 5 to 10 newspaper “crumples” per child.

“Wherever You Go”—Set up a TV and DVD player, and cue the Lesson Videos DVD to the segment titled “Wherever You Go.” Watch the segment at least once before the worship session so you’ll be familiar with it.

Let’s Praise God!

Play Songs From FaithWeaver, Summer as children arrive. Greet children by name, and say to each one, “Today we’re going to do the impossible!” While they’re waiting for other children to arrive, have kids find partners and try together to say the alphabet backward (from Z to A) in 20 seconds or less.

When everyone has arrived,

Say Welcome to children’s church! Let’s worship God because nothing is impossible for him. He can do anything, so we can trust him to do great things through us. Let’s sing “Everything Is Possible With God” to praise God now!

Sing “Everything Is Possible With God” (Mark 10:27).

Lyrics are in the back of this book.

Let’s learn more about our good God.

Help the children form four to six groups. Give each group a bowl of water and a small cup of regular sand. Have someone in each group dump the sand into the water and pass it around. Ask children to touch the sand and observe how the sand is changed by the water.
Then give each group another bowl of water. Snip a corner off the packet of Wacky Sand (from the KidsOwn Worship Kit). Submerge the corner in each group's bowl of water and squeeze out a portion of the Wacky Sand. Have each child touch the Wacky Sand and observe how it is changed or unchanged by the water.

**Ask**

- How was the sand and water combination different from the Wacky Sand and water combination? (The sand got wet; the Wacky Sand didn't get wet at all.)

- How is it possible that the Wacky Sand didn't get wet even though it was in the water? (The Wacky Sand is made of something special; the Wacky Sand isn't really sand.)

**Say**

It seems impossible that this Wacky Sand could be in the water without getting wet. Yet we all touched it, and we all could see that it didn't really get wet the way the sand got wet. It seemed impossible, but it really happened. Today we're worshipping God because he really can do impossible things.

That's why we can trust God with our lives. He will carry us safely through situations that seem impossible. Let's stand and sing about our mighty and holy God.

Sing "Holy, Holy, Holy."

Lyrics are in the back of this book.

**Ask**

- What is the Trinity? (It's the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; it's what God is.)

**Say**

God is the Trinity—three in one. The Trinity is God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. He is a powerful God. Our next song praises God's power. God made the mountains, the seas, and the sky. God made darkness and light just by speaking a word. Close your eyes, and imagine God saying, "Let there be light." Wouldn't it have been awesome to see the light appear? Let's sing about the mighty power of God right now.

Sing "I Sing the Mighty Power of God."

Lyrics are in the back of this book.

**Ask**

- What are some things that are impossible for people to do? (Lift giant rocks by themselves; walk on water.)

**Say**

You've made an interesting list of impossibilities, but none of these things is impossible for God. That's why God is our Lord and King. God's sovereign; that means if God says something will happen, it will. God's in charge. God can use us to do some great things, too! Let's sing a song about how God gives us strength to do things we couldn't do by ourselves.

Sing "The Strength I Need" (Philippians 4:13).

Lyrics are in the back of this book.

**Say**

Earlier most of you tried to say the alphabet backward—from Z to A—in 20 seconds or less.
Hold up the poster.

**Say** Let’s read the letters on this poster as fast as we can.

Have an assistant keep time while you lead children in reading the poster. Then have your assistant report how long it took to read the whole alphabet.

**Ask**
- How did the poster help you to do something that used to be impossible for you? (I was able to see the letters; I could read the letters from the poster; I didn’t have to remember the letters.)
- How is God like this poster? (God can help us do impossible things; God shows us what to do.)

**Say** Nothing is impossible with God. When we depend on him, he can help us to do the impossible, too.

Our next song says, “And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love him.” That means God will work everything out in the best way possible. He has a clear plan for your life! God will work out impossible situations in your life because nothing is impossible with God. Let’s sing!

Sing “And We Know” (Romans 8:28).

Lyrics are in the back of this book.

**Pray** Dear God, nothing is impossible for you. That’s too amazing for us to understand, but we know it’s true and we’re so glad. Thank you for watching out for us and for including us in your plans. You are too incredible for words, and we love you. In Jesus’ name, amen.

2 Let’s Learn the Point!

**Preschool Activities, pages 13-14**

At this time, have the preschool leader invite the preschoolers to go to their own room for this section of activities. Tear out the Preschool Activities page, and give it to the preschool leader. Have the preschool leader bring the preschoolers back to participate in Let’s Pray! with the older children. If you prefer to keep all the children together, do the starred (*) activities. They work well with both elementary and preschool children.

**Elementary Activities**

* Snowball

Have an assistant use masking tape to quickly divide the room into two sections. Have the children form two teams, and have teams stand on opposite sides of the masking-tape line. Dump half of the newspaper “crumples” you prepared before worship on each side of the line.
**Say**

We’re going to play a game. When I say “go,” your job will be to throw the newspaper crumples to the other side of the line. You’re not trying to hit people with the crumples; you just want to get the crumples on the other side of the line. While you’re tossing the crumples, I’ll be walking among you, tapping people on the shoulder. If I tap you on the shoulder, you must cross the line and join the other team. Ready? Here we go.

Say “go!” and have the children start throwing newspaper crumples to the other side of the line. Then go to one team, and tap children on the shoulder. Continue until all but one or two children are on the other team. Play the game for at least one more minute. Then have the children sit down where they are.

**Ask**

- Which team ended up with more crumples on its side? Why did this happen? (The team with fewer people; it happened because we didn’t have enough people on our team.)
- How did it feel to watch your teammates leaving you to go to the other side? (I wanted to go with them; I was upset, because I didn’t want to lose the game.)
- What was it like to play the game when you were outnumbered? (It was too hard; I didn’t like it.)
- What was it like to play the game when your team was so much bigger than the other team? (It was fun; I knew we would win.)
- Was this game fair? Why or why not? (No, because one team had too many people; yes, because we followed the rules.)

**Say**

It would have been almost impossible for the team with only a few people on it to win this game. It wasn’t really a fair match when one team was so much bigger than the other. What happened in this game is similar to what happened in a Bible story about Gideon and his soldiers. But they discovered that nothing is impossible with God. Let’s find out what happened.

**Gideon’s Army**

Have children stand facing you.

**Say**

The Bible tells us about a time the Israelites walked away from God’s plans. God allowed a group of people called the Midianites to make the Israelites’ lives miserable. The Midianites ruined the Israelites’ crops and tore down their buildings. The Israelites became so poor and miserable that they took a drastic step.

I’d like each of you to act out what you think the Israelites did. Give the children time to do so.

(continued on page 15)
Preschool Activities

God Helps Gideon Defeat the Midianites

Session 1

Judges 6:1-16; 7:1-24

Worship Theme:

Nothing is impossible with God.

Easy Prep for Leaders

Only a Few—Have an assistant clear a safe path to each corner of the room.

God’s Help—Before the session, hide a can opener in a desk or cupboard. Provide one can of fruit for every four or five children.

Using Theo

Consider using Theophilus the FaithRetriever puppet today in these ways:

• Have Theo lead the preschoolers from the main worship area to the preschool room.
• Have Theo lead the song “Our God Can Do Anything.”
• See the KidsOwn Worship Kit for a puppet skit written for today’s worship session.

Only a Few

Gather the children in the middle of the room.

Say The Bible tells us about a time when a group of people called the Midianites were giving God’s people, the Israelites, a very hard time. There were many Midianites, and they ruined the Israelites’ crops and tore down their buildings. The Israelites cried out to God for help. Pretend you are Israelites, and cry out to God for help.

Encourage children to get down on their knees and pretend to ask God to save them from the Midianites.

Say God chose a man named Gideon to lead the Israelite army to attack the Midianites. Gideon gathered the army, but God said it was too big. Let’s play a game to make our Israelite army smaller. When I say “go,” go to any corner in the room. Go!

Give children time to choose corners. Have children in the corner with the most people sit down. Have the remaining children move back to the center of the room.

Say Now our army is smaller. Gideon’s army was smaller, too. But God said it wasn’t small enough. Let’s play our game again and make our army smaller.

Play again. This time have children in different corners sit down so that only three or four children are standing. For example, if one corner has three children in it, have children in all other corners sit down. If there is one child in each corner, choose one child to sit down. Gather the standing children in the middle of the room.

Say Now Gideon’s army was just the right size—a tiny little group.

Ask Why did God want a small army to fight a big army?

• How would you feel if you were part of that small army?
• How do you think a small army like Gideon’s could beat a big army like the Midianites’ army?

Say It seemed impossible for a small army to beat a big army, but God helped. Late at night, each man in Gideon’s army blew a trumpet, broke a jar to make noise, and shouted, “For the Lord and for Gideon!” The Midianites jumped up to fight, but God confused them. They fought with one another instead of attacking Gideon’s men, then they ran away. With God’s help, Gideon’s little army won. Israel was saved!

Encourage all the children to stand up and shout “hooray!”
Preschool Activities

Our God Can Do Anything

Have children sit in a circle. Teach the following song to the tune of “Old MacDonald Had a Farm.”

Our God can do anything, anything at all.
Nothing is impossible; God’s all-powerful.
God can heal; God can create;
God can change things—God’s so great!
Our God can do anything, anything at all.

Once children know the song, choose one child to stand outside the circle. While the children sing the song, have this child walk around the circle, gently tapping each child on the shoulder while walking past. When the song ends, have the last child tapped trade places with the standing child. Ask the newly standing child one of the following questions:

Ask  • What is something God can heal?
      • What is something God can create or make?
      • What is something God can change?

Play the game several times alternating questions each round.

Say  • God can heal any sickness or disease. God made everything in our whole world. God can change any situation to make it better. Nothing is impossible with God!

Say  • How did you feel when you couldn’t open the cans by yourselves?

* God’s Help

Put the cans of fruit on a table. Gather the children around it.

Say  I’m hungry. Let’s have a snack. Someone please open these cans of fruit.

Let children try to open the cans without a can opener.

Ask  • How do you think it would be possible to open these cans?

Let children offer suggestions and search for the can opener. Then let the children take turns using the can opener to help open cans. Be sure to remove each lid yourself and immediately dispose of the lids in a trash can that is not accessible to the children.

As you serve the fruit, ask questions to help children understand that nothing is impossible with God.

Ask  • How did you feel when you couldn’t open the cans by yourselves?

Say  In some ways, God’s help is like that can opener. When we search for God’s help, we will find it. We can do things with God’s help that we can’t do alone. God can do anything! Nothing is impossible with him.

ALLERGY ALERT

Be aware that some children have food allergies that can be dangerous. Know your children, and consult with parents about allergies their children may have. Also be sure to read food labels carefully as hidden ingredients can cause allergy-related problems.
The Israelites cried out to God. God heard their prayers and sent someone to remind them of the power of their mighty God. God chose a man named Gideon. Gideon was a weak man from a weak tribe, but he agreed to obey God’s plan. Gideon gathered an army to fight the Midianites, but God said it was too big.

Imagine that you are the Israelite army. Imagine I’m your leader saying there are too many of you! Some of you will have to leave the army. Sit down if you are wearing tennis shoes. Let those children sit down.

There are still too many of you. Sit down if you’ve had a hamburger in the last 24 hours. Let those children sit down. Continue to eliminate specific groups of children until there are only a few children standing. Then let those children also sit down.

In our Bible story, God first had Gideon send home everyone who was afraid to fight the Midianites. Then God had Gideon keep only men who drank from a brook in a certain way. When God finished eliminating soldiers, there were only 300 left in the Israelite army. The Midianite army was much, much bigger.

• How would you feel if you were part of the Israelite army? (I would be scared; I wouldn’t want to be in the army anymore.)

Normally it would have been impossible for such a small army to beat a big army, but remember, this was God’s plan—not Gideon’s. Late at night, Gideon’s army blew trumpets and broke jars to make a lot of noise.

Show me how you would react if you were sound asleep, like the Midianites were, and you suddenly heard a lot of loud noise. Let the children do so.

The Midianites jumped up to fight, but God confused them. They fought with one another instead of attacking Gideon’s men, then they ran away in fear. With God’s help, Gideon’s little army won. Israel was saved!

• If you were part of Gideon’s army, what would you think about God? (I would think God was powerful; I would think God could do impossible things.)

God showed the Israelites that nothing is impossible with him. The Israelites learned they could do anything with God’s help. We can do anything with God’s help, too.

* “Wherever You Go”

Watch the Lesson Videos DVD segment titled “Wherever You Go” (Joshua 1:9). In this music video, kids sing about God being with them wherever they go. After the segment, have the children discuss the following questions with a partner:
• What can you do when God is with you? Think of at least five specific things. (I can score a goal for my team; I can be nice to my sister; I can do what my mom tells me; I can be brave.)

• Why do you think God is with us and wants to help us? (Because God loves us; God wants to show us what he can do.)

• What do you think God wants to help you do? (He wants to help me follow him; he wants me to do well in school.)

• How does it feel to know that God is living in you? (I feel happy; I’m excited; I know God will help me do things.)

We can praise God because he promises to help us do all things through him. God helped Gideon and his army defeat the Midianites. God will help us face troubles, and God will help us do great things for him. Nothing is impossible with God.

Let’s Pray!

The Offering

Hold up a quarter.

• What can you buy with only a quarter? Let several kids answer.

• What can God do with only a quarter? Let several kids answer.

Because nothing is impossible with God, God can do anything with a quarter. That means, no matter how big or small our offerings are, God can use them to do big things.

Encourage kids to imagine big things God can do with their offerings. Then take the offering.

Impossible Prayer Requests

Have kids choose partners.

Even though we know that nothing is impossible with God, sometimes we forget to pray for impossible things because, somewhere deep inside, we still think these things are impossible even for God. God wants us to ask for the impossible, though. Asking for the impossible doesn’t mean he wants us to ask for millions of dollars or all the toys in the world.

• What impossible things does God want us to ask for? (Being nice to everyone; knowing how to tell others about him.)

When we pray, we should ask God to help people in difficult circumstances—people who are sick or are having trouble. We should also ask him to help us do great things for him. God will give us big dreams for the future, and then he’ll help us to make those dreams come true. Turn to your partner right now. Think of some impossible prayer requests together, then pray, asking...
God to do what he likes to do—the impossible! Remember: Nothing is impossible with God. Let’s pray.

Give partners time to think of requests and pray.

I Will Obey You

**Say** God asked Gideon to do something impossible.

**Ask**

- **What did God ask Gideon to do?** (God wanted him to fight the Midianites; he wanted him to build an army.)

- **Why was Gideon able to accomplish such an impossible task?** (Because God helped him; because he believed in God.)

- **What might have happened if Gideon hadn’t obeyed God?** (The Israelites would still have had trouble; the Midianites would have kept hurting the Israelites.)

**Say** God did the impossible through Gideon because Gideon obeyed. He can do the impossible through us, too, if we obey. Let’s sing “Trust and Obey” as a prayer and pledge to obey the God who can do anything. Nothing is impossible with God.

Sing “Trust and Obey.”

Lyrics are in the back of this book.

**Pray** Dear God, we will obey you. We know that nothing is impossible with you. You can do anything! Help us to always obey you so you can do great and impossible things through us. You are awesome, God! We’re thankful to be part of your perfect plan. In Jesus’ name, amen.
Session 2

Samson Receives Strength From God

Judges 15:9-16; 16:4-30

Worship Theme:

God gives everyone gifts.

Weaving Faith Into Life:

Children will thank God for the gifts he’s given them.

Session Sequence | What Children Will Do | Supplies
--- | --- | ---
Let’s Praise God! (up to 25 minutes) | Sing
- “This Is the Day” (Psalm 118:24) (track 18)
- “Praise the Lord” (Psalm 150:6) (track 13)
- “Live in Harmony” (Romans 12:16) (track 19)
- “Nothing Is Impossible” (Luke 1:37) (track 17)
- “The Plans I Have for You” (Jeremiah 29:11) (track 11) | KidsOwn Worship Kit: Songs From FaithWeaver
Classroom Supplies: CD player, 1 piece of poster board, wrapping paper, 1 box per child, tape, ribbon, scissors, marker, treats, 2 bags

Preschool

Session Sequence | What Children Will Do | Supplies
--- | --- | ---
Let’s Learn the Point! (up to 25 minutes) | *God’s Gifts* (about 8 minutes)
Discover the gifts God gave to Samson and his family. | Classroom Supplies: Gift-wrap paper, box, scissors, tape, bow, baby doll, picture of a strongman, spools of thread

*Gifts for the Job* (about 8 minutes)
Choose items and talk about using them to serve God. | Classroom Supplies: Gift-wrapped box from “God’s Gifts” activity, 1 household item per child

*Thank You, God* (about 9 minutes)
Make thank-you cards for God. | Classroom Supplies: Construction paper, scissors, decorating items, envelopes, glue
# Session 2 • KidsOwn Worship

## Session Sequence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What Children Will Do</th>
<th>Supplies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Let’s Learn the Point!</strong> (up to 25 minutes)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Qualified for the Job** (about 8 minutes)  
Learn about the job God had for Samson. | **Classroom Supplies:**  
Bibles, pencils, photocopies of “Help Wanted” (see activity) |
| * **The Who Wants to Be an Expert? Show** (about 9 minutes)  
Research questions about gifts. | **Classroom Supplies:**  
Bibles, paper, pencils |
| * **Kingdom Bricks** (about 8 minutes)  
Build a castle of gift bricks. | **Classroom Supplies:**  
White paper, scissors, markers, coarse sandpaper, red crayons, glue, gray poster board, pen |
| **Let’s Pray!** (up to 10 minutes) | |
| **The Offering** (about 3 minutes)  
Give gifts to the God who gives gifts. | **Classroom Supplies:**  
Gift-wrapped box from “God’s Gifts” |
| **Thank You, God** (about 4 minutes)  
Take turns thanking God for his gifts. | **Classroom Supplies:**  
Gift-wrapped boxes from Let’s Praise God! |
| **“The Strength I Need”** (about 3 minutes)  
Sing the song as a reminder that our strength comes from God. | **KidsOwn Worship Kit:**  
* Songs From FaithWeaver: “The Strength I Need” (Philippians 4:13) (track 23)  
**Classroom Supplies:**  
CD player |

* Starred activities can be used successfully with preschool and elementary children together.  
Customize your session to fit your needs. You can separate preschoolers and elementary children for Section 2.  
Or, if you keep the children all together for the entire worship session, we suggest you choose from the starred activities.
Today’s lesson is about Samson, the last of the great military judges. Before he was born, he was set apart to live the life of a Nazarite (Judges 13:2-7). (A Nazarite—one who lives by a Nazarite vow—should not be confused with a Nazarene—one who is from Nazareth, as Jesus was.) A Nazarite abstained from wine, never used a razor, and avoided contact with any dead body.

Even though Samson was declared a Nazarite, he likely adhered only to the second of these practices. In fact, an examination of his life as described in Judges 14–16 reveals that he was not a particularly religious or even morally upright person. Many of his actions were less than exemplary. Even so, God selected him and used him mightily in delivering Israel from the Philistines.

In spite of his great victories for Israel, Samson is especially known for his failure. He could have led Israel to a position of great strength. He could have led people back to God. He could have wiped out the Philistines, preventing them from ever bothering Israel again. Instead, he confided in the foreign woman whom he apparently loved, but who was set on his destruction. Even so, the New Testament doesn’t remember Samson as a failure. In Hebrews he is listed among those who faithfully served God (Hebrews 11:32). Perhaps this is due in part to Samson’s final act of repentance and service to God.

In spite of his failings, Samson had kept his vow to keep his hair long. When he told Delilah the secret of his strength and his hair was cut, everyone could see that God was no longer working in Samson’s life.

The Philistines probably refrained from immediately killing him because they felt he was worth more to them as a humiliated and beaten example. They probably thought that other Israelites would think twice about fighting the Philistines when they saw what had happened to the mighty Samson.

The temple in which Samson was mocked was not only a temple to the god Dagon but also an entertainment center. Thousands crowded into the temple to see Samson in disgrace. They even gathered on the roof to see the spectacle below. Archaeological evidence has revealed that one type of ancient temple was supported by two central wood pillars on marble bases. His strength renewed by God, Samson was able to push those pillars off their bases, thereby collapsing the whole roof and killing everyone under and on top of it.

**Devotion for Leaders**

It’s great to have a friend in Jesus! When we mess up, he’s always there to forgive us. And when we use our abilities for him, he’s able to do great things through us.

**Weaving Faith Into Your Life:** Samson had unbelievable strength that he started out using for God. But then he messed up—big time! When have you felt you really messed up? How has that failure affected your serving God? God can use you just as he used Samson—if you’ll rely on God’s strength and serve him with the gifts you’ve received.
Why We Worship for Leaders

God has a plan for his kingdom on earth and in heaven. His plan is perfect, and it includes each of us. To fulfill this plan, God gives gifts to everyone. No one is left out; we all have gifts. God is like the mother who patiently gives each of her children a job to help with dinner preparations, though it would be much easier for her to do everything herself. How gracious and loving God is to trust us with his precious gifts. When we use those gifts for his plans, we honor and glorify our magnificent Lord. He certainly deserves our thanks and praise.

Easy Prep for Leaders

Let's Praise God!

- Set out the small empty boxes, wrapping paper, scissors, tape, and ribbons for children to use as they arrive.
- Before the worship session, write Colossians 3:17 (New Century Version) on poster board as follows:
  
  **Leader:** “Everything you do or say
  **Group:** should be done to obey Jesus your Lord.
  **Leader:** And in all you do, give thanks
  **Group:** to God the Father through Jesus.”
- Provide enough small treats for everyone to have one, and divide them between two bags. Hide one bag somewhere in the room.

Qualified for the Job—Make a photocopy of the “Help Wanted” box (see activity) for each child.

Kingdom Bricks—Cut sheets of white drawing paper into thirds. Cut enough for each child to have three or four pieces. Collect coarse sandpaper sheets, red crayons, black markers, gray poster board, and glue.

The Offering—if you won't do the “God's Gifts” preschool activity, gift wrap a box and its lid separately.

Let’s Praise God!

Play Songs From FaithWeaver as children arrive. Greet children by name, and say to each one, “Thanks for coming to church today!” Direct the kids to the table with the boxes and wrapping materials, and have each child wrap a box. You will use three of these wrapped boxes during Let’s Pray! at the end of the session.

When all the children are present,

**Say**

Hello, everyone! Welcome to children’s church. I am so glad you’re here that I’m full of joy! Please sing with me about the joy we can all have.

Sing “This Is the Day” (Psalm 118:24). Lyrics are in the back of this book.
FaithWeaver • Summer Quarter

22

Turn to your neighbor, and tell about a time when you felt joyful. Give children time to share their thoughts.

I feel joyful when I get special gifts. Tell your neighbor about special gifts you’ve gotten. Allow time for kids to share.

Some of the most special gifts we get come from God. Today we’re worshipping God because he gives us gifts. He wants us to be happy about the gifts he gives. He wants us to be joyful. Let’s sing this song again and let God see how joyful we are.

Sing “This Is the Day” (Psalm 118:24) again.

The greatest gift God gives us is love. He puts his love in our hearts. Let’s sing “Praise the Lord” to thank God for his love.

Sing “Praise the Lord” (Psalm 150:6).

Lyrics are in the back of this book.

This song tells us that no matter where we are, we can praise God. Let’s talk about how God helps us, wherever we are and whatever we’re doing.

First, let’s talk about some big jobs. For example, building a doghouse is a big job.

What kinds of tools would you need for that job? (A hammer; nails; wood.)

How about painting a house? What tools would you need for that? (Paintbrushes; paint.)

How would you feel if someone asked you to do one of these big jobs but didn’t give you any tools? (I would be confused; I wouldn’t know what to do.)

God doesn’t want us to be discouraged about the jobs he has for us to do. So God gives us gifts—special abilities and knowledge—to help us do the jobs he has planned for us to do. One of the gifts he gives us is the ability to work with others. Let’s sing a song about that.

Sing “Live in Harmony” (Romans 12:16).

Lyrics are in the back of this book.

The song says we are to “love each other like a family.”

What is something you might do to show love to someone else? (Share my things; make them cookies; be nice.)

What gifts would you need from God in order to do that? (Kindness; love; patience.)

The song also says to live in harmony, or get along with others. Can you think of a time it was hard to do that? (When my brother yelled at me; when my friend laughed at me for tripping.)

Extra Impact

Display a chalkboard, marker board, or large sheet of paper near the front of the room. At the top, print “God Gives Gifts to Everyone.” As you name different gifts from God throughout Let’s Praise God! write them on the board for the children to see. For example, at this point in the session, you’ve mentioned love and joy. Write those two words on the board. Remember to print others as you or the children name them.
• What would you need from God to do that? (I'd need God to help me be nice; I'd need help to be loving.)

Show the Colossians 3:17 poster you prepared. Read the entire verse aloud yourself, pointing to the words as you do.

Say
This verse tells us that everything we do can be done for God. It also tells us that we should thank God for everything we are able to do, because God gives us everything we need to do what he wants us to do. Let's always remember to thank him.

Read the verse again, having children read their lines of the verse.

Say
God gives us all the power we need to do the things he wants us to do. This power is another one of his gifts! God will never fail us. He's real, and he will help us. Nothing is impossible for God. Sing a song with me now!


Lyrics are in the back of this book.

Say
We’ve been talking a lot about gifts today, so I brought some gifts with me.

Hold up one bag of treats. Distribute them to half the children randomly until you run out.

Say
Oops! This bag is empty. Raise your hand if you didn’t get a treat. Count the raised hands.

Wow! There are a lot of you.

Ask
• How does it feel to be left out? (I don't like it; I don't think it's fair.)
• If you have a treat, how do you feel about getting one when others didn’t? (I feel kind of bad; I'm happy that I got one.)

Say
It’s hard to be left out. It’s also hard to watch someone else be left out. But I have good news! I have another bag of treats!

Get the second bag of treats, and pass them out.

Say
God never runs out of gifts for his children. The Bible tells us that God gives everyone gifts. In fact, the Bible says that “we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” Wow! God has prepared good works for each of us. And he gives us everything we need to help us do the things he has planned for us to do. Let’s close our praise time by singing “The Plans I Have for You.”

Sing “The Plans I Have for You” (Jeremiah 29:11).

Lyrics are in the back of this book.

Pray
Thank you for your plans for us. Thank you, God, for the gifts you give each of us so we can do all that you have planned for us. You give us so much, and you include everyone. For this we give you praise and thanks. In Jesus’ name, amen.
Let’s Learn the Point!

Preschool Activities, pages 25-26

At this time, have the preschool leader invite the preschoolers to go to their own room for this section of activities. Tear out the Preschool Activities page, and give it to the preschool leader. Have the preschool leader bring the preschoolers back to participate in Let’s Pray! with the older children. If you prefer to keep all the children together, do the starred (*) activities. They work well with both elementary and preschool children.

Elementary Activities

Qualified for the Job

Have the children form groups of three, and give each child a photocopy of the “Help Wanted” ad in the margin.

Say • In your groups, choose a reader to read your help-wanted ad aloud. As you listen, think about the skills and abilities a person would need to do the job described in this ad.

Ask • If you were to apply for this job, what would you say qualifies you to do it? (I’d need to be strong; I’d have to be brave.)

Say • This was God’s job description. God’s people, the Israelites, were ruled by the evil Philistines, and God wanted to free them from these people. It was a huge job that required a very unusual person. The man God chose for this job was Samson, and God gave Samson everything he would need for the job.

Let’s go through that job description again. Take a pencil, and underline each of the tasks described in the ad.

Give children time to go through the ad again, and then assign each group one of the following tasks and corresponding Scripture references. Have each group research what happened in its passage and explain it to the other groups. If you have more than six groups, give more than one group the same task. If you have fewer than six groups, give some groups more than one task.

- **Killing a lion with bare hands** Judges 14:5-6
- **Catching 300 foxes** Judges 15:4-5
- **Breaking free of strong ropes** Judges 15:12-14
- **Killing 1,000 Philistines with the jawbone of a donkey** Judges 15:15-16
- **Tearing city gates loose, bar and all** Judges 16:2-3
- **Pushing down the pillars of a temple** Judges 16:4-6, 17-23, 26-30

(continued on page 27)
Preschool Activities

Samson Receives Strength From God

Worship Theme:
God gives everyone gifts.

Session 2
KidsOwn Worship

Judges 15:9-16; 16:4-30

Easy Prep for Leaders

God’s Gifts—Before the session, gift-wrap a box and its lid separately. Attach a bow to the lid. Place a baby doll and a picture of a strongman in the gift-wrapped box, and put the lid on the box.

Gifts for the Job—Gather objects that could be used to serve others, such as a dust rag, a package of markers, a stuffed animal, a Band-Aid, and a small toy. Try to gather one small item for each preschooler.

Thank You, God—Cut sheets of construction paper in half so you have half a sheet for each child. Fold these halves in half to resemble greeting cards. Prepare gift envelopes by putting a decorating item, such as a fancy marker, stickers, a small baggie with glitter, or fancy crayons, in each envelope. Place a different item in each envelope, and prepare an envelope for each child. Provide scissors and glue.

God’s Gifts

Gather the children around you for the story.

Say
God gives gifts to people so that they can do special things for him. Once God had a very big job to be done. His special people, the Israelites, were being ruled by a group of people called the Philistines, who treated them very badly. God wanted someone to begin to set his people free from these evil people. So the first gift he gave was… Take the lid off the gift-wrapped box, and take out the baby doll.

That’s right! God gave a very special baby to a man and his wife. This man and wife wanted a baby very much. Choose a boy and a girl to come up and tenderly hold the baby. They named the baby Samson. God wanted them to treat this baby in a very special way so that when he grew up he could do the special job God needed done.

Ask
Do you remember what that special job was?

Say
God wanted someone to help set his people free from the evil Philistines. And God wanted this baby to start that job when he was bigger. God told the mom and dad that this boy must never drink wine and he must never cut his hair. That was how other people would know that he was special to God.

Using Theo

Consider using Theophilus the FaithRetriever puppet today in these ways:

• Have Theo lead the preschoolers from the main worship area to the preschool room.
• Have Theo tell the Bible story in “God’s Gifts.”
• See the KidsOwn Worship Kit for a puppet skit written for today’s worship session.

Extra Impact

For Extra Impact, bring in a thick rope and have the children try to break it.

God had a special gift for Samson when he grew up so that he could start to get rid of the Philistines. Do you know what that special gift was? Reach into the gift-wrapped box, and bring out the picture of a strongman. God made Samson very strong. Show me how strong you are. Have the children hold up their arms and “make muscles.” You all have some very strong muscles!

Samson was so strong that, when a lion jumped out to attack him, God gave Samson strength to kill the lion. That’s a special gift! It’s a gift Samson would use to do the special job God had for him.

Samson was so strong that one time he broke lots of ropes that were tied around his arms. Let’s see if you are strong like Samson.

Say

Have the children form pairs. Give each pair a spool of thread. Have children in each pair take turns wrapping the thread around the partner’s thighs, just above the knees. Be sure the thread is against clothing rather than bare skin.

After the thread is wrapped once around, have the partner try to break free. Then have the kids wrap the thread around their partners several times, and have the partners try to break free. Allow time for the children to switch jobs.
Preschool Activities

Ask • How did it feel to try to break free when the thread was wrapped around you only one time?

Say Samson broke the ropes he was tied with just as easily as you broke the thread.

Ask • What happened when the thread was wrapped around you many times?

Say Samson was wrapped up many times with ropes, not thread, and he could break the ropes easily. God gave him the gift of great strength so he could do the big job God wanted him to do.

Ask • What gifts did God give in this story?

Say God gave Samson a very special gift to do a special job. But God gives each of us gifts, too, because he has jobs for each of us to do. Let’s learn about the jobs God wants us to do now and the gifts he gives us so we can do them.

Gifts for the Job

When you’re ready to begin, quickly put all the small household items in the gift-wrapped box from “God’s Gifts.”

Have the children gather in a circle.

Say God gives gifts to everyone because he has jobs for everyone to do. Some of us are good at running and jumping and climbing. Some of us are good at telling stories. Some of us like to sing and play music. God gives us different gifts, but he gives gifts to everyone.

In this gift box are lots of things we could use to help people. One at a time, we’ll each take one thing out of the box. Then we’ll all talk about what kind of job we could do with what we chose.

Have the first child take an item out of the box. Have the children identify the item and talk about how they could serve God and others by using the item. For example, if a child pulls the dust rag out of the box, talk about how helping parents clean the house is a good way to serve God and others. Mention that some people are good cleaners and that’s how they serve God. Continue having children take things out of the box until you’ve talked about each one.

Ask • Which of these jobs are you good at?

Say You can use your gifts for God right now. You don’t need to wait until you’re bigger. God has jobs for you to do, and he’s given you special gifts and abilities so you can do those jobs.

Thank You, God

Gather children around you.

Say I’m going to give each of you a special gift, just as God gives each of you special gifts. Give each child one of the gift envelopes. You may open your gifts.

Ask • What do you think about your gifts? Allow time for the children to respond.

Ask • What could you do with your gifts?

Say I have a special job for you to do using the gifts in your envelope. Give each child half a sheet of construction paper, folded.

Say We can thank God for the gifts he gives us, too. Let’s use the gifts you got in your envelopes to make thank-you cards for God. We can’t mail the cards to God, but he will see them anyway. Use the things you have, and share them with one another to make beautiful thank-you cards.

Give children time to make cards, providing help as needed. While children work, go to the children one at a time. Ask children what gift they think God has given them. Ask them how they could use these gifts for God. On the inside of each child’s card, print, “Thank you, God, for [child’s gift].”

Say Since we can’t mail these cards to God, take them home and put them in a special place. Whenever you see your card, remember to thank God for the gifts he’s given you.
Samson killed many Philistines, destroyed their crops, and damaged their city to begin to drive them from the land of the Israelites. What Samson did required a special gift from God.

**Ask**

- **What was Samson's special gift?** (Samson was strong; he was brave.)

- **Why did God give Samson this special gift?** (Because God wanted him to be able to do things; because God wanted to use Samson.)

- **What do you think would have happened if Samson had ignored or misused his gift from God?** (His life would have been different; God wouldn't have been happy with him.)

**Say**

God's gifts to us can be very unusual. They can also be quite usual. Let's learn more about these gifts from God.

---

**The Who Wants to Be an Expert? Show**

**Say**

Welcome to the *Who Wants to Be an Expert?* show. Today's topic is Gifts for All.

You'll all have a chance to “be an expert,” and you'll also be the audience to guess the right answer.

Have children form five groups, and give each group one of the following questions and Scripture references.

- **Where do gifts come from?** *James 1:17*
- **Why does God give us gifts?** *Ephesians 2:10*
- **What will we be able to do for God?** *Philippians 4:13*
- **Why does God give different gifts to different people?**
  1 Corinthians 12:11
- **What do you do with the gifts God gives to you?** *1 Peter 4:10*

Ask the children to find the biblical (correct) answer for the question and then come up with three wrong answers. Explain that the groups will take turns presenting their questions and multiple-choice answers to the rest of the children.

Give each group paper and pencils. Allow time for the groups to research the biblical answer to the question and come up with three wrong answers. Then have them take turns presenting the question and the four answers to the rest of the children. Allow "the audience" to discuss which answer is correct and why.

**Say**

God's plans include work for us to do, and he wants us to use the gifts he gives us to do the work. Let's see what it is like when everyone uses his or her gifts the way God wants.
**Kingdom Bricks**

Provide white drawing paper cut into thirds, black markers, sandpaper, red crayons, and glue. Gather children around these supplies.

**Say**

- **God gives everyone gifts. He wants us to use these gifts like bricks to build up his kingdom. Let’s see how this works.**

Have children use markers to list or draw gifts God has given them on the drawing paper, one gift per piece of paper. Then have children put the drawing paper on top of the sandpaper and rub red crayons over the drawing paper so that the texture of the sandpaper comes through. The finished product will look like a brick. Have children make as many bricks as they can by listing different gifts from God.

Help children arrange their bricks on gray poster board to look like a brick castle with gray cement between each brick. Have the children glue the bricks in place. As one sheet of poster board fills up, have children start on another. Glue the sheets of poster board together to make a bigger “castle.”

**Ask**

- **What happens when we put our gifts together?** (We can make something fun; our castle got really big.)

- **Do we have to use our gifts for God? Why or why not?** (Yes, because God tells us to; yes, because that’s how we’re supposed to use them.)

- **What would happen to God’s kingdom if we didn’t use our gifts for God?** (It wouldn’t be very strong; people wouldn’t know how to work together.)

- **Since God is so powerful, why doesn’t he just do the work himself?** (Because we’re supposed to help him; because we learn about God when we do his work.)

**Say**

- **God gives everyone gifts. When we use our gifts, we make God’s kingdom stronger and we glorify God. God deserves this glory because he’s the one who gives the gifts. Close your eyes, and thank him now.**

Give children a few moments to pray quietly.

**Pray**

- **Thank you, God, for giving good gifts to everyone. In Jesus’ name, amen.**

If time and group size allow, go with the children to place the castle of gifts where the pastor or children’s director will see it—either in his or her office, by a door, or outside your worship place. Write a quick note to the pastor or director to explain that the children are using God’s gifts for the kingdom of God, and place the note on or near the castle.
Let’s Pray!

The Offering

You’ll need the gift-wrapped box from the preschool activity “God’s Gifts.”

Say God gives everyone gifts. When someone gives me a gift, I want to show that person I am thankful.

Ask • How can we show God we are thankful for the gifts he gives?
(We can pray and tell him; we can use the gifts for him.)

Let several children answer.

Say You have some good ideas. One way to show God we are thankful right now is by giving something back to him. Our offerings show we are thankful for the gifts God gives. Using your gifts to build God’s kingdom honors God and is another good way to thank him. Quietly think about how you can use the gifts God has given to you during this week. What will you do with your gifts this week? As the offering box comes to you, quietly tell God what you want to do this week with your special gifts.

Take the lid off the box. Pass the box around so children can put their offerings in the box. Put the lid back on the box.

Pray We thank you, God, for the gifts you give. Please accept our offerings now as a symbol of our thankfulness. Help us to use our gifts from you for building up your kingdom. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Thank You, God

Have kids stand in a circle. Give small wrapped boxes from Let’s Praise God! to three of the children.

Say If you are holding a wrapped box, I want you to say a one-sentence prayer. Start your prayer this way: “Thank you, God, for making me able to...” End the prayer by naming something God has made you able to do. When you finish your prayer, toss your wrapped box to someone else. That person will pray and toss the wrapped box to someone else.

Let children holding wrapped boxes begin praying. Let children play and pray for several minutes.

“The Strength I Need”

Say God gives everyone gifts. In fact, without his gifts, we would have nothing at all. Everything we have is a gift from God. Everything we are is a gift from God. He is the one who makes us righteous—that means “good.” God helps us. God gives us all the strength we need. Let’s sing a song about that right now.
Sing “The Strength I Need” (Philippians 4:13).

Lyrics are in the back of this book.

**Pray** Lord, we thank you for your gifts. Everything we have comes from you. Everything we are able to do is because of you. Thank you for your gifts. Give us the strength to use them for you. In Jesus’ name, amen.
Encouragement for Leaders

Remember as you teach your students that what you say may very well bless the hearts of adults at home!

### Worship Theme:

God provides comfort.

### Weaving Faith Into Life:

Kids will thank God for comforting them.

### Session Sequence | What Children Will Do | Supplies
---|---|---
1. Let’s Praise God! (up to 25 minutes) | **Sing**  
- “Wherever You Go” (Joshua 1:9) (track 22)  
- “My God Is” (track 7)  
- “Everything Is Possible With God” (Mark 10:27) (track 1)  
- “Holy, Holy, Holy” (track 3)  
- “My Jesus, He Loves Me” (track 4)  
- “And We Know” (Romans 8:28) (track 15) | **KidsOwn Worship Kit:**  
*Songs From FaithWeaver*  
**Classroom Supplies:**  
CD player, butcher paper, pencils, scissors, large snow globe

### Preschool

### Session Sequence | What Children Will Do | Supplies
---|---|---
2. Let’s Learn the Point! (up to 25 minutes) | **Comfort Feelings** *(about 8 minutes)*  
Feel different textures and relate them to how comfort feels. | **Classroom Supplies:**  
Shoe boxes, scissors, tape, rough and smooth items

**The Journey** *(about 9 minutes)*  
“Walk” through Naomi’s story. | **Classroom Supplies:**  
Poster board, marker, 6 bowls, goldfish-shaped crackers

**Carrying Lambs** *(about 8 minutes)*  
Imitate God’s comforting care. | **Classroom Supplies:**  
Cotton balls
### Session 2 • Let’s Learn the Point! (up to 25 minutes)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session Sequence</th>
<th>What Children Will Do</th>
<th>Supplies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>The Search for Comfort</strong> <em>(about 9 minutes)</em></td>
<td>Watch a DVD segment that shows a child looking for comfort.</td>
<td><strong>KidsOwn Worship Kit:</strong> Lesson Videos DVD: “Comfort App”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rough Times, Comfort From God</strong> <em>(about 8 minutes)</em></td>
<td>Identify God’s comfort in Naomi’s story.</td>
<td><strong>Classroom Supplies:</strong> TV, DVD player</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Comforting Others</strong> <em>(about 8 minutes)</em></td>
<td>Make gifts to share God’s comfort.</td>
<td><strong>Classroom Supplies:</strong> 1 sheet of newsprint, several small squares of sandpaper, several cotton balls, marker, and glue stick per child</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Session 3 • Let’s Pray! (up to 10 minutes)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session Sequence</th>
<th>What Children Will Do</th>
<th>Supplies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>The Offering</strong> <em>(about 4 minutes)</em></td>
<td>Receive comfort reminders.</td>
<td><strong>Classroom Supplies:</strong> Offering bowls, cotton balls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hugs of Gratitude</strong> <em>(about 3 minutes)</em></td>
<td>Identify someone who comforts them and thank God for that person.</td>
<td><strong>Classroom Supplies:</strong> Paper hugs from Let’s Praise God!, pencils</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Eagle Wing Prayer</strong> <em>(about 3 minutes)</em></td>
<td>Sing and take part in responsive prayer.</td>
<td><strong>KidsOwn Worship Kit:</strong> Songs From FaithWeaver: “Those Who Hope” (Isaiah 40:31) (track 9)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Starred activities can be used successfully with preschool and elementary children together. Customize your session to fit your needs. You can separate preschoolers and elementary children for Section 2. Or, if you keep the children all together for the entire worship session, we suggest you choose from the starred activities.
The book of Ruth begins with a description of a family traveling to another country to escape famine. The trips of Abram (Genesis 12:10), Isaac (Genesis 26:1), and Jacob (Genesis 46:5) suggest that, in those times, it was common for people to leave their homes in times of famine and move to new places where they could find food.

This journey, however, must have been prompted by desperation, because Israel and Moab were bitter enemies. The Moabites had refused Israel passage through their land during the exodus from Egypt. In addition, Moab was one of Israel’s oppressors during the time of the judges, when the events in this story happened.

With her husband and sons dead, Naomi was in a bad situation. In that day, widows were often ignored or mistreated and were nearly always poor. Naomi had no male relatives in Moab to take care of her, so after she heard that the famine in Israel was over, she must have decided that her chances were better there.

Naomi’s insistence that Orpah and Ruth remain in Moab was extremely selfless. She cared more about them than she did about herself. After all, she could have used their help. She was not a young woman, and she was setting out on what was likely a difficult journey through rugged terrain around the southern end of the Dead Sea. But she knew that it would be easier for them if they stayed in their homeland with their families, for Moabites were considered bitter enemies in Israel. The chances were good that Ruth and Orpah would be treated as outcasts in Israel.

When Naomi first told her daughters-in-law to return to their families, Orpah refused (Ruth 1:10). When Naomi insisted, however, Orpah agreed to turn back (Ruth 1:11-14). Ruth, on the other hand, persisted, perhaps because she had put her faith in the God of Israel (Ruth 1:16-17; 2:12).

Naomi’s bitterness (Ruth 1:13, 20-21) no doubt grew out of the severe hardships she had faced. At that point in her life, she had apparently not realized the power and provision of the God she served. But God took care of her anyway! This story of friendship and loyalty is especially heartwarming when it is considered in the context of the times, when killing, immoral living, and the rejection of everything right was the norm. Ruth demonstrated true love and friendship to Naomi at a time when Naomi desperately needed them.

Jesus is a faithful friend to us, and he’s pleased when we seek to be like him by being faithful to our friends—and loving them no matter what. **Weaving Faith Into Your Life:** Ruth had a choice: Do what would be most advantageous for herself or do the faithful, loyal thing and go with her aging mother-in-law. When have you been tempted to abandon a friendship for your own advantage? Reread Ruth 1:16-17. Have you ever had a friend like that? Seek to live out that kind of loyalty in your friendships.
Why We Worship for Leaders

Second Corinthians 1:3-4a tells us, “Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles.” Sometimes God’s comfort comes through a Scripture, an answered prayer, or a song. Sometimes it comes through an awareness of his presence or a reminder of his provision. And sometimes God's greatest consolation comes through human hands. A friend steps in. A neighbor offers to help. A stranger shows up at just the right time.

God comforts us in so many ways, and we are left with thankful hearts, amazed at his love. Our response can only be praise and worship for “the God of all comfort.”

Easy Prep for Leaders

Let’s Praise God!

• Before the worship session, set out pencils, scissors, and a 5-foot sheet of butcher paper for every two kids.

• Recruit a dramatic volunteer who will burst into the room and act very upset, even crying if possible.

The Search for Comfort—Set up a TV and DVD player. Cue the Lesson Videos DVD to the segment titled “Comfort App.” Watch the segment at least once before the session so you’ll be familiar with it.

1) Let’s Praise God!

Play Songs From FaithWeaver as children arrive. Greet children by name, and say to each one, “Sometimes God’s comfort is just like a big hug. Now I would like you to make a paper hug to remind yourself of God’s comfort.”

Have children find partners to work with. One partner should lie down on the butcher paper with arms stretched out. The other partner should trace only around the child’s arms. The first partner can then connect the lines outlining his or her arms. Have the partners switch roles. The children can then cut out the “hugs” and write their names on them.

Gather the children, and signal your volunteer to come in. Ask children to do things to comfort the person, such as bringing a tissue, getting a chair for the person, or getting the volunteer a drink. Have your helper thank the children for comforting him or her.

Ask

• What did you do to help comfort [name of helper]? (I gave her a hug; I got a tissue.)

• When do you need to be comforted? (When I’m sad; when I’m having a bad day.)

• What do people do to comfort you? (They tell me that everything will be OK; they give me a hug.)

Say

Second Corinthians 1:3-4a tells us that our God is “the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in
all our troubles.” I’m so happy today to know that God gives us comfort. God won’t leave us alone when we need him. Instead, he’ll comfort us. We don’t need to be afraid with God around!

Sing “Wherever You Go” (Joshua 1:9).

Lyrics are in the back of this book.

**Say**

Let’s say this answer-back cheer together. Your part will be “God comforts me!” As you say the words, hug yourself. Lead the children in practicing the phrase, and then begin.

**Leader:** When I’m afraid,

**Group:** God comforts me!

**Leader:** When I’m alone,

**Group:** God comforts me!

**Leader:** When I get hurt,

**Group:** God comforts me!

**Leader:** When I feel sad,

**Group:** God comforts me!

**Leader:** Because he loves me,

**Group:** God comforts me!

**Leader:** God is my friend, and

**Group:** God comforts me!

**Say**

Let’s continue to worship God for who he is by singing “My God Is.”

Sing “My God Is.”

Lyrics are in the back of this book.

**Say**

God gives us comfort because he is good to us. Even when life is difficult and things happen that make us down or lonely, we can know that God is good and loves us. We don’t have to worry that he’s going to be good to us one day but mean another day. He’s always good. That’s comforting to know!

Sing “Everything Is Possible With God” (Mark 10:27).

Lyrics are in the back of this book.

**Ask**

• What are some things we know about God? (God is perfect; God loves us; God takes care of us.)

**Say**

We know God is holy. There is no one else like him. God never does wrong. God answers our prayers. We know God is merciful. God watches out for us whether we deserve it or not. God will always be there to comfort us. And we know he never changes. All of this is part of his holiness. Let’s worship God for his holiness.

Sing “Holy, Holy, Holy.”

Lyrics are in the back of this book.

Show the children a large snow globe.

**Say**

When I shake this snow globe, everything in it flies around and gets confused and mixed up.

**Ask**

• How is what happens in the snow globe like the feeling of being worried? (I feel mixed up; you might feel like you’re going all over the place.)
• How would you describe how you feel when you are not worried about anything at all? (Calm; happy; peaceful.)

• How is that feeling like the snow globe when everything has settled to the bottom? (We aren’t mixed up anymore; everything is how it should be.)

• What does it feel like to feel peaceful inside? (Warm; happy.)

**Say**

When we aren’t worried, we feel peace and rest inside. We’re like the snow globe when everything has stopped swirling. Everything is calm. We know it’s going to be OK. When we trust God, he gives us that peace. It’s part of his comfort to us. It’s a feeling inside that everything is going to be OK because he’ll take care of things.

The song “My Jesus, He Loves Me” is about how much God loves us and cares for us.

Sing “My Jesus, He Loves Me.”

Lyrics are in the back of this book.

**Say**

God gives us a comforting promise in the Bible. It’s a famous promise that no matter what happens, he will make things work for good. That promise is hard to remember when bad things happen. Naomi, the woman we’ll talk about in our story today, traveled to a faraway country, and then her husband and her sons died. That didn’t feel good at all. But God did bring good out of Naomi’s life. It’s a comfort to know he will do that.

This next song helps us remember the comforting thought that God will make all things work for good.

Sing “And We Know” (Romans 8:28).

Lyrics are in the back of this book.

**Pray**

Thanks, God, for your comfort. When we face hard things in life, we know that you will comfort us. Thanks for that. We worship you. In Jesus’ name, amen.

### Let’s Learn the Point!

**Preschool Activities, pages 39-40**

At this time, have the preschool leader invite the preschoolers to go to their own room for this section of activities. Tear out the Preschool Activities page, and give it to the preschool leader. Have the preschool leader bring the preschoolers back to participate in Let’s Pray! with the older children. If you prefer to keep all the children together, do the starred (*) activities. They work well with both elementary and preschool children.
**Elementary Activities**

*The Search for Comfort*

Show the Lesson Videos DVD segment titled “Comfort App.” The segment shows someone using a cell phone app to find ways to comfort others.

After the segment, have the children talk about the following questions.

**Ask**

- **How did God show comfort in this video?** (He showed Jack how people needed comfort; when Jack helped his family, he also helped his mom.)
- **How has God comforted you?** (By sending someone who cares when I’m sad; by showing me that others love me.)
- **What things do you like to do for others when they need comfort?** (I like to make them a card; I tell them a joke.)

**Say**

Let’s learn about how God brought comfort to a woman named Naomi.

*Rough Times, Comfort From God*

Give each child a sheet of newsprint, a glue stick, several squares of sandpaper, a marker, and several cotton balls. Have them use markers to write “Rough Times” on the left side of the newsprint and “Comfort From God” on the right.

**Ask**

- **Which of these feels more like comfort to you: sandpaper or cotton balls? Why?** (The cotton balls, because they’re soft; the cotton balls, because the sandpaper hurts.)
- **Are there times in your life that feel like sandpaper times? Tell a partner about a “sandpaper” time and what helped you feel comforted during that time.**

Explain that, as you tell the story, the kids will decide whether to glue sandpaper squares to the “Rough Times” side of their papers or cotton balls to the “Comfort From God” side.

**Say**

There was a woman named Naomi who lived in Bethlehem. Her hometown was experiencing a famine—no one had food. Was that a rough time or comfort from God?

So Naomi and her husband and her two sons moved to Moab. There was plenty of food in Moab. Was that a rough time or comfort from God?

While Naomi lived in Moab, her two sons got married so her family got even larger. Rough times or comfort from God?

Then a sad thing happened. Naomi’s husband and sons died. Rough times or comfort from God?

Naomi decided to move back to Bethlehem. She told her daughters-in-law that they were free to move back to their homes. One of them, Orpah, did that very thing. The other (continued on page 41)
Preschool Activities

Ruth Is Faithful

Ruth 1:1-22

Worship Theme:

God provides comfort.

Easy Prep for Leaders

Comfort Feelings—Place items of various textures inside shoe boxes, one item per box. Choose rough and smooth items, such as cotton, burlap, flour in a plastic bag, a rock, and sandpaper. Cut a hole in the side of each box that's just big enough for the kids to stick their hands through. Tape the lids shut.

The Journey—Set up two different locations for the story: Bethlehem and Moab. These locations can be as simple as a road sign with one end pointing toward Bethlehem and the other toward Moab.

Comfort Feelings

We're going to take turns feeling what's inside these boxes. Then we'll decide which box feels most like you think comfort feels.

After children have all had an opportunity to feel the items,

- What felt most like comfort to you?
- What kinds of things do people do to give us comfort?
- How can we thank God for giving us comfort?

The Journey

Move with the group between the “Bethlehem” and “Moab” locations as you explore the story.

Begin in “Bethlehem.”

Naomi lived in Bethlehem with her husband and her two sons. Bring a girl and three boys to the front to represent Naomi and her family. Give each child an empty bowl or cup.

There was a famine in Bethlehem—there was no food in the land! Naomi and her family were hungry. They needed food to be comforted. God sent them comfort by sending them to Moab. Let’s go to Moab.

Lead the group to Moab.

In Moab there was plenty of food. Put some goldfish-shaped crackers in each bowl. They felt comforted. There was something else in Moab. There were women for Naomi’s sons to marry. Select two girls to come up and stand by the other children. Give them each a bowl with some goldfish-shaped crackers.

- What kind of comfort did God give to Naomi’s family in Moab?

Then a sad thing happened in Moab. Naomi’s husband died. Send one of your boys back to the group. Then her sons died. Send the other two...
boys back to the group. That left Naomi with the wives of her sons. They were all sad. They cried and cried. Have the three girls pretend to cry.

Naomi was especially lonely because all the rest of her family still lived in Bethlehem. Naomi decided to go back home to Bethlehem. She told the girls, “You go back to your families because I’m leaving.” One of the wives did go back to her home. Send one girl back to the group. But God had Ruth, the other wife, stay with Naomi. Ruth told Naomi that she was going to go back to Naomi’s hometown with her because she didn’t want Naomi to be alone. She wanted to comfort Naomi. Have the two girls carry their bowls of crackers and lead the group back to “Bethlehem.”

**Ask**
- What kind of comfort did God give Naomi after her sons died?

Let your actors pass out crackers to everyone in the group.

**Say**
- Let’s eat these crackers together and remember that God gives us comfort by taking care of our needs and by giving us friends to share with. He comforted Naomi, and he comforts us!

---

**Carrying Lambs**

You’ll need a cotton ball for each child.

**Say**
The Bible gives us a picture of how God comforts us. Isaiah 40:11 says that God “tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart…” God takes care of us the way a good shepherd would take care of a little lamb.

Let’s show one another how we think this verse would look. How would it look if we could see God comforting us like a good shepherd who gathers the lambs in his arms and keeps them close to his chest?

Pass the cotton balls out to the children. When each child has a cotton ball, have the kids close their eyes and sit very still.

**Say**
- Pretend that you are God’s little lamb and he is carrying you so tightly and carefully that you feel safe and comfortable. Use your cotton ball to show me how God would hold you tightly and carefully as if he were carrying a lamb.

(Pause.)

Let’s all say, “Thank you, God, for the way you comfort us with your love.”

Repeat the prayer with the children.
one, Ruth, told Naomi that she wouldn’t leave her. So Ruth and Naomi headed back to Bethlehem. Rough times or comfort from God?

**Ask**

- **How often did Naomi experience rough times?** (She had them a lot; Naomi had three rough times.)
- **How often did Naomi experience comfort from God?** (Naomi had comfort every time something bad happened; she had comfort three times.)
- **How often do you experience rough times?** (A lot; I don't have very many rough times; every day.)
- **How often do you experience comfort from God?** (All the time; whenever I pray.)

**Say**

Rough times happen to everybody. But God always sends us his comfort because he loves us and wants to care for us. The Bible tells us that God’s comfort often comes from other people who believe in him. Let’s learn more about that.

* Comforting Others

Set out coffee mugs, packets of hot chocolate mix, colored plastic wrap, paper, markers, and ribbons.

**Say**

We can be instruments of God’s comfort to others. Let’s think about comforting things. Imagine you’ve been outside and you are very cold. You need warming comfort. Think about what you might enjoy. Hot chocolate can be very comforting even when it’s not a cold day outside. People even call hot chocolate comfort food.

Have the children form small groups, and give each group a Bible. Have each small group write a note expressing comfort from God. Encourage the children to include a Bible passage on comfort, such as Psalm 27:5; Psalm 30:5b; Psalm 42:5; Psalm 103:13; Psalm 119:50; Isaiah 46:4; Isaiah 61:3a; Isaiah 66:13a; Matthew 5:4; or John 14:1. Then have them assemble a packet or two of hot chocolate with a mug and the note, wrap the collection in colored plastic wrap, and tie the wrap with ribbon. After children’s church, take the finished comfort mugs to a funeral home or children’s wing of your local hospital.

**Ask**

- **How do you think these comfort mugs will affect people at the funeral home** [or hospital]? (They’ll like them; they will be happy.)
- **How is making these mugs a form of worshipping God?** (We’re doing what God wants us to do; we’re showing people things about God.)

**Pray**

God, thank you for your comfort. Help us to comfort each other in your name, just as you comforted Naomi through Ruth. In Jesus’ name, amen.
Let’s Pray!

The Offering

Part of offering ourselves to God means receiving the comfort he offers. Before passing the offering bowls, put enough cotton balls in them for each child to have one.

Say
- One of the reasons we worship God is because of the comfort that he gives us. God is pleased when we receive his comfort. As we pass around the bowls for the offering, you can take something as well as give something. If you want to receive God’s comfort today, just take one of these cotton balls and stick it in your pocket or in your shoe. It’s soft and feels comforting. It reminds us that God comforts us. He is with us in the rough times of life.

Hugs of Gratitude

Provide pencils and the paper “hugs” from Let’s Praise God! Encourage children to write on their paper hugs the name of one or more persons God has used to comfort them.

Say
- We are going to thank God for the people he sends our way to comfort us. When you have written at least one name on the hug, wrap the arms around you like a hug from that person.

After everyone is wrapped up in a hug, huddle together for prayer, thanking God for the people he gives as comfort.

Pray
- Thank you, God, for the comfort you’ve sent us through these people. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Eagle Wing Prayer

Let’s sing about what God’s love and comfort can do for us.

Sing “Those Who Hope” (Isaiah 40:31), then close with this prayer. Explain that after you say each line of the prayer, the children should respond with the words, “We can soar on wings like eagles.”

Leader: When we hope in God’s comfort,
Group: We can soar on wings like eagles.

Leader: God comforts us when we’re feeling down;
Group: We can soar on wings like eagles.

Leader: God comforts us when we’re feeling low;
Group: We can soar on wings like eagles.

Leader: God’s comfort renews our strength;
Group: We can soar on wings like eagles.

Leader: Thank you, God;
Group: We can soar on wings like eagles.
“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up” (Deuteronomy 6:5-7).

Thank you for listening to God’s Word and sharing him with the children in your class.
Worship Theme:

God is in control.

Weaving Faith Into Life:
Kids will worship God for being in control of their lives.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session Sequence</th>
<th>What Children Will Do</th>
<th>Supplies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Let’s Praise God!</td>
<td>Sing</td>
<td>KidsOwn Worship Kit: Songs From FaithWeaver, Inflatable Globe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(up to 25 minutes)</td>
<td>• “Trust in the Lord” (Proverbs 3:5-6) (track 6)</td>
<td>Classroom Supplies: CD player, poster board, marker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• “The Plans I Have for You” (Jeremiah 29:11) (track 11)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• “Wherever You Go” (Joshua 1:9) (track 22)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• “I Sing the Mighty Power of God” (track 14)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• “Jesus Loves Me Rock” (track 10)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• “Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah” (track 16)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Session Sequence | What Children Will Do | Supplies |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Let’s Learn the Point!</td>
<td>* Who’s in Charge? (about 8 minutes) Play a game to learn what it means to be in charge.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(up to 25 minutes)</td>
<td>God Is in Control (about 9 minutes) Help tell a story that shows how God is in control.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Motion Praises (about 8 minutes) Praise God because he is in control of everything.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Session 2: Let’s Learn the Point!
(up to 25 minutes)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session Sequence</th>
<th>What Children Will Do</th>
<th>Supplies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>“God’s Not Dead” (about 8 minutes)</td>
<td>Talk about what to do when things go wrong.</td>
<td>Classroom Supplies: dry erase board, dry erase marker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* God Has Plans (about 8 minutes)</td>
<td>Think of an ending for the story of Ruth and Naomi, and make up motions to praise God for being in control.</td>
<td>KidsOwn Worship Kit: Songs From FaithWeaver: “The Plans I Have for You” (Jeremiah 29:11) (track 11) Classroom Supplies: 1 photocopy of handout pages (at the end of this session) per child, scissors, pencils, CD player</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Life Puzzles (about 8 minutes)</td>
<td>Make puzzles, and identify situations in their lives that are puzzling.</td>
<td>Classroom Supplies: 1 sheet of construction paper per 2 children (all one color), scissors, pencils</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Session 3: Let’s Pray!
(up to 10 minutes)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session Sequence</th>
<th>What Children Will Do</th>
<th>Supplies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Offering (about 3 minutes)</td>
<td>Give their “life puzzles” to God.</td>
<td>Classroom Supplies: Offering bowls, puzzle pieces from “Life Puzzles” activity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stamp Prayers (about 4 minutes)</td>
<td>Thank God for being in control of their concerns.</td>
<td>Classroom Supplies: Construction or butcher paper, scissors, stamp, stamp pad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cheer Up! (about 3 minutes)</td>
<td>Make up cheers to praise God for being in control.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Starred activities can be used successfully with preschool and elementary children together.
Customize your session to fit your needs. You can separate preschoolers and elementary children for Section 2.
Or, if you keep the children all together for the entire worship session, we suggest you choose from the starred activities.
Having just arrived in Bethlehem from Moab (Ruth 1:22), Ruth set out to find food for Naomi and herself by gleaning—joining the poor to gather grain left by the reapers. Ruth’s attitude provides even more information about her character. She must have realized how demeaning it would be for Naomi to perform such a task after having left Bethlehem years earlier as part of a wealthy family. Imagine, however, how difficult this task must have been for Ruth. She was an unknown foreigner, a widow, and likely considered an outcast. Workers in the field may have been less than kind to her, resulting in the commands of Boaz in Ruth 2:8, 15. But she undertook the task diligently and politely (Ruth 2:7).

It may seem strange that Ruth was allowed to take grain from someone else’s field. However, God had provided for the unfortunate, directing landowners to allow “the alien, the fatherless and the widow” to gather grain missed by the landowner’s workers in their first pass through the fields (Deuteronomy 24:19). Ruth was doing what any widow in Israel would have been allowed to do.

Ruth was apparently a hard worker, because her diligence caught the attention of the workers (Ruth 2:7), and her dedication to helping Naomi impressed Boaz (Ruth 2:11-12). Despite the circumstances, Ruth obviously hadn’t given up hope of making a life for Naomi and herself.

The text tells us that Ruth “found herself working in a field belonging to Boaz” (Ruth 2:3b). However, we can see that God was guiding her. Boaz was Naomi’s kinsman-redeemer—a close relative who was responsible for helping Ruth and Naomi.

Some have suggested that Ruth committed an immoral act when she lay at Boaz’s feet while he slept. However, it was customary for servants to sleep at their masters’ feet. In doing this, Ruth was informing Boaz that he, as her kinsman-redeemer, could marry her or find someone to do so. Her actions were above reproach and entirely in keeping with the character she demonstrated throughout this story.

Ruth 4:1-12 refers to a somewhat complicated process prescribed by laws intended to protect families from the loss of property. Boaz could purchase Naomi’s family property only after a closer relative had declined to do so. In buying back Naomi’s former property, he also obtained the right to marry Ruth, Naomi’s daughter-in-law.

The hope Ruth clung to resulted in a happy ending not only for her, Naomi, and Boaz but also for us, as she became the great-grandmother of King David (Ruth 4:17) and an ancestor of Joseph, Jesus’ earthly father (Matthew 1:5-16)!

Devotion for Leaders

Many things that seem like coincidence may actually be God working in our lives through our relationship with Jesus. Whatever twists our lives take, we can trust in him!

Weaving Faith Into Your Life: Take a look at Ruth 4:13-17. What ultimate plan did God have for Ruth’s life when she chose to stick with Naomi? How has a decision you’ve made worked out to a surprisingly good result? How should that experience influence your hope in God? Take a step of faith today: Commit to following God’s way even when you can’t see a positive outcome.
Why We Worship for Leaders

Who among us has not thought, “If I were God, I’d do things this way or that way”? God’s ways are not our ways; God’s thoughts are not our thoughts. God sees the big picture and has an overall plan for all people and for all time. Often we lose sight of that fact and forget that God is in control. God is always working to bring his plans to pass. Nothing happens that God doesn’t know about. When we experience evil, pain, or suffering, believing that God is in control is both challenging and comforting. God directed Ruth and Naomi and took care of their needs in marvelous ways. In the same way, God is at work in our lives.

Use this session to lead kids in worshipping God, who is in control of the universe and their lives. He alone has the power to carry out every plan he has ever made. That’s why we worship him!

Easy Prep for Leaders

Let’s Praise God!—Prepare a poster by drawing two hands in the open-palm position with small fingers touching. You’ll hang the poster with fingertips in the down position. Inflate the Inflatable Globe.

God Has Plans—Photocopy the handout pages at the end of this session, making a copy of each page for each child. Cut apart the pages and collate them, setting aside Part 4.

Stamp Prayers—Cut a large heart out of construction or butcher paper. You’ll need a stamp pad and a stamp with an appropriate image, such as a cross, a heart, or a star.

1 Let’s Praise God!

Play Songs From FaithWeaver as children arrive. Ask some children to stand at the door and welcome everyone who comes into the room. Ask the greeters to smile, shake hands, and say, “Welcome!”

When all the kids are present,

Say: Hello, everyone! Did you know that God is in control of the world and your life? Did you know that every day he is working to accomplish good things for you? He is! Let’s stand and worship him today because he doesn’t just sit back and watch but is busy, active, and in control.

Sing “Trust in the Lord” (Proverbs 3:5-6).

Lyrics are in the back of this book.

Say: While you’re kids, your parents control a lot of things in your lives: which city you live in, the kind of house you have, or which school you go to, for example. They take care of the big things. But in many other things, you have control, too.
**Ask**

- **What are some things you are in control of?** (I can eat whatever I want for a snack; I got to pick out my own wallpaper.)

**Say**

You make choices every day. You choose what to wear, who your friends are, and how hard you’ll study in school. But your parents usually see a bigger picture of life. They usually make decisions and plans based on what’s best for the entire family, not just one person. It’s like that with God. He sees the bigger picture of how we fit into the world and his plans.

**Ask**

- **What kind of plans do you think God makes?** (God plans what we’re going to do every day; God plans who will get special things; God makes plans about how to take care of us.)

**Say**

God has lots of plans. Some of them are big ones. For example, from the time Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden, he promised to send a Savior, his Son, who would make things right and good again by dying for our sins. He tells us in the Bible that he plans to send Jesus back again someday to take us all to heaven.

God also has smaller plans. For example, he loves you and knows everything about you today—not just in the past or the future. He knows what makes you happy and what you struggle with. He has a plan that’s special just for you and your life. He promises that his plans are good.

Sing “The Plans I Have for You” (Jeremiah 29:11).

Lyrics are in the back of this book.

Hang the poster you prepared before worship on the wall at a height where kids can see and touch it.

**Say**

There’s a song that says that God has the whole world in his hands. Let’s pretend that this image on the wall is God’s hands. Let’s each take a turn resting in God’s hands.

Sing the song “He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands.” While you sing the song, have the children line up and walk in front of the image of God’s hands. Allow each child to pause briefly while placing his or her hand on the “palms of God’s hands.” The song is not on the CD, so you can sing the names of your children in the song. For example, sing, “He’s got Amber, Tiffany, and Brandon in his hands…”

During the rest of the songs in the Let’s Praise God! section, have the kids bat around the Inflatable Globe from the KidsOwn Worship Kit.

**Say**

God holds everyone in the palm of his hand. We never need to worry about what will happen, because God is in control. Let’s sing!
Sing “Wherever You Go” (Joshua 1:9).

Lyrics are in the back of this book.

Say It’s important to know that God has a plan. But it’s even more important to know that he’s in control. He is powerful and able to accomplish all his plans for us. He is a mighty God!

Sing “I Sing the Mighty Power of God.”

Lyrics are in the back of this book.

Say Think about a big, huge rock. It doesn’t change just because you climb on it or move it, does it? A rock is solid and strong. That’s how God is. He is strong and in control. He also loves us very much, so he’ll always be there for us to hold on to.

Sing “Jesus Loves Me Rock.”

Lyrics are in the back of this book.

Say Our next song says that God is unimaginably powerful. If we’re going to let someone be in control of our lives, then it’s good to know that it’s God! We celebrate that he is in control because he will do things the best way!

Sing “Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah.”

Lyrics are in the back of this book.

Pray God, you are an awesome God. We love you and praise you for being in control. Help us to trust you and your goodness. We want you to be in control of our lives. We worship you. In Jesus’ name, amen.

2 Let’s Learn the Point!

Preschool Activities, pages 51-52

At this time, have the preschool leader invite the preschoolers to go to their own room for this section of activities. Tear out the Preschool Activities page, and give it to the preschool leader. Have the preschool leader bring the preschoolers back to participate in Let’s Pray! with the older children. If you prefer to keep all the children together, do the starred ( *) activities. They work well with both elementary and preschool children.

Elementary Activities

“God’s Not Dead”

Ask • Have you ever had a bad day? (Yes, I have them a lot; yes, I had one today.)
• **What might happen during a bad day?** (You might forget your homework; your dog might run away.)

Brainstorm with the children about all the things that could go wrong during a normal day. Include funny or silly things as well as serious things. Write the children’s ideas on a dry-erase board.

**Ask**

• **How do you feel when things go wrong?** (I feel bad; I’m upset; I’m frustrated.)

• **What does it mean to say “God’s not dead”?** (It means that God is still alive; it means that God is with us.)

• **How does knowing that God is living in you make you feel?** (I feel safe; I’m really happy.)

**Say**

No matter what happens to us, we can remember that God is with us. God is in control during bad times and good times. And God loves us very much. Knowing that can give us comfort and confidence.

* God Has Plans

Give each child a pencil and a photocopy of Parts 1, 2, and 3 of the handout. Have the children find partners.

**Say**

With your partner, read the story of Ruth, Naomi, and Boaz. Then work together to come up with an ending for the story. While you’re working on the ending of the story, remember that God is in control. Think about how God might have worked all things together for the good of Ruth, Naomi, and Boaz.

Give the children 10 minutes to read the story and work out an ending. Have pairs meet with another pair and explain the ending they came up with. Then pass out photocopies of Part 4, and have the pairs read what really happened.

**Ask**

• **If Ruth hadn’t gone with Naomi, how would their lives have been different?** (They would both have been lonely; Ruth wouldn’t have met Boaz.)

• **If Ruth hadn’t decided to glean grain to feed Naomi and herself, how would their lives have been different?** (They probably would have starved; Naomi would have had to do it herself.)

• **If Boaz hadn’t married Ruth, how would their lives have been different?** (They would have been sad; they wouldn’t have been related to Jesus.)

• **In what ways did God show that he was in control?** (God took care of them; God knew what was going to happen.)

• **How is God in control in your life?** (God tells me what I should do; God takes care of me.)

(continued on page 53)
Worship Theme:

God is in control.

Easy Prep for Leaders

No preparation is required.

Using Theo

Consider using Theophilus the FaithRetriever puppet today in these ways:

• Have Theo lead the preschoolers from the main worship area to the preschool room.
• Have Theo be in charge in the beginning of the “Who’s in Charge?” activity.
• See the KidsOwn Worship Kit for a puppet skit written for today’s worship session.

* Who’s in Charge?

Choose a child to stand near you.

**Say** I’m going to let [name of child] be in charge of our game today.

**Ask** • What does it mean to be in charge?

**Say** To be in charge means you get to choose what others will do. So whatever [name of child] tells us to do, we’ll do.

Instruct the child to choose two actions for the other children to do. For example, the instructions might be to touch their toes and jump high in the air or walk to the other side of the room, touch the wall, and return. Repeat the activity, giving other children a chance to be in charge. Then have everyone sit down.

**Ask** • Did you like being in charge? Why or why not?

**Say** We just played a game of being in charge, but there is someone who is in charge of everything in the whole world. Who do you think that is? Yes, it’s God! He’s big, and he’s in charge. We say that he is in control. Everything God does is good. Let’s play our game again, only this time let’s think up ways to praise God for being in control.

Give children turns making up ways to praise God, such as jumping up and shouting, “Thank you, God!” Have everyone praise God together in the ways suggested by each child.

God Is in Control

**Say** The Bible tells a story that shows that God is in control. It’s about a woman named Naomi and her son’s wife, Ruth, and a kind man named Boaz. You can help me tell the story. If you’re wearing something blue, wave at me. You’ll be Naomi in our story. If you have something red on, you can be Boaz. Show me a strong arm and say “yes!” Good job. The rest of you get to be Ruth. Stand, bend at your waist, and bow. Great! As I tell the story, when you hear your character named, do your motion for me. Are you ready? Let’s begin.

Naomi (wave) and Ruth (stand and bow) loved God. Both of their husbands had died, and they were very sad. Naomi (wave) decided to go back to the place where she used to live. Ruth (stand and bow) begged to go along because she loved Naomi (wave) and wanted to take care of her.
When they got to the town, they were hungry. In those days, poor people could go to a farmer’s field and pick up any extra grain that was left over. They would take it home and bake with it and eat it. So Ruth (stand and bow) went to a field and found food for Naomi (wave) and herself. She didn’t know it, but the field was owned by a kind and generous man named Boaz (show a strong arm and say “yes!”). Boaz (show a strong arm and say “yes!”) saw that Ruth (stand and bow) was kind and good. He saw how she took care of Naomi (wave). Boaz (show a strong arm and say “yes!”) and Ruth (stand and bow) loved each other and got married. Then Ruth (stand and bow) and Naomi (wave) were taken care of for the rest of their days. God was in control and took care of Ruth (stand and bow), Naomi (wave), and Boaz (show a strong arm and say “yes!”).

- How did God take care of Ruth and Naomi?
- How does God take care of you?

God is good. He knows what you need. He leads us and helps us, just as he helped Naomi, Ruth, and Boaz. Let’s clap our hands and say, “Thank you, God, for being in control.”

Motion Praises

Let’s worship God because he is in control. I’m going to name some things about God. When you hear me say, “He is in control,” move your body to praise God in any way you want and say, “Thank you, God!”

Before beginning, briefly ask children to show each other ways to use their bodies to say “thank you” to God, such as raising their arms in the air and wiggling their fingers, jumping up and down, or twirling in circles. Encourage them to use their entire bodies as much as possible.

Begin with the following statements, and have children do their praise motions and say, “Thank you, God!” after each one.

- God makes the sun rise and set every day. He is in control.
- God made you and me. He is in control.
- God loves all the animals. He is in control.
- God knows what you need. He is in control.
- God knows when you’re happy or sad. He is in control.
When you love God, it doesn’t mean bad things won’t happen to you. But it means he’ll take care of you through it. God didn’t stop Ruth and Naomi’s husbands from dying. But he led Ruth and Naomi to Boaz and took care of all their needs. Let’s praise God for being in control.

Play track 11, “The Plans I Have for You,” and tell kids to listen carefully to the words. Then have kids form trios, and give them a few minutes to make up praise motions to the words of the song. Then lead the children in singing the song while they all do their praise motions at the same time.

Sing “The Plans I Have for You” (Jeremiah 29:11).

*Life Puzzles*

Have kids form pairs. Give each pair a piece of construction paper, a pencil, and scissors. Use only one color of construction paper. Have each pair draw a jigsaw-type squiggle down the middle of the paper and cut along the line to make two puzzle pieces. (If the preschoolers are meeting separately, have the kids make enough puzzle pieces for each preschooler to have one. Set the extra puzzle pieces aside.)

Collect the pencils and scissors, and have the children form two teams (keeping pairs on the same team). Have each team combine and scramble its puzzle pieces. Then have the teams trade stacks. Give the teams several minutes to work together, starting on your signal, to see which team can unscramble the puzzle pieces the fastest. When one team finishes, have everyone stop and sit down. Put the puzzle pieces and pencils where kids can take one of each.

**Ask**

• Was it easy or hard to put the puzzles together? Why? (It was easy because there weren’t too many pieces; it was hard because the pieces were all mixed up.)

• What was confusing about putting them together? (We had to use the other team’s puzzle; the pieces were hard to find.)

**Say**

Sometimes life is puzzling, like those pieces. There are so many things that happen, and we’re not sure how they all fit together. For example, I’m sure Ruth and Naomi wondered why their husbands had to die. We aren’t sure why some things happen in our lives or how they fit together. That’s when it’s great to remember that God is in control. He has a plan for you, just as he did for Ruth. He can see the whole picture of your life from beginning to end, and he knows what will happen and how to make it right in the end.

Think for a minute of some hard or confusing things in your life. Maybe you had to move to another city or state and you don’t know why. Maybe your parents have split up and you don’t understand. While you think about puzzles in your life, take one
of the puzzle pieces and a pencil, and find a spot in the room to sit by yourself. Give kids one minute to find a spot. Make sure kids are sitting by themselves.

Now write one or more words or draw a picture on your puzzle piece to represent one of the things in your life that you’re puzzled or confused about. Then fold up your paper, and wait quietly until everyone has finished.

Have one or two kids who finish first collect the pencils from everyone.

**Say** The situations you wrote on your puzzle pieces are real-life things that God is going to take care of because he is in control. Some of you might like to share with us about your situations so we can pray for you.

Give kids time to share their situations. Then ask volunteers to pray for those who shared.

**Pray** Thank you, God, for being in control. Help us trust you this week to work things out in our lives. We love you, Lord. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Give the extra pieces to the preschoolers if necessary. Take the offering.

**Let’s Pray!**

**The Offering**

**Say** Fold up your puzzle piece, and hold it in your hands in front of you, along with your money, if you brought any today. When the offering bowl comes to you, put your puzzle piece and money in it. As you do, silently give your situation to God, and ask him to help you trust him to take care of everything.

Give the extra pieces to the preschoolers if necessary. Take the offering.

**Stamp Prayers**

Set the paper heart, stamp, and stamp pad on a table near you.

**Say** In ancient days, a king’s papers, letters, and written commands were always stamped with his seal. That’s how people would know that a document was really from the king. God’s love is like his stamp on us. It means that he’s in control of everything that happens to us. This paper heart represents God’s love. Silently pray for something that you’re concerned about. Then, when it’s your turn, say aloud, “Thank you, God, for being in control,” and stamp the heart.

Have the kids line up and, one by one, stamp the heart and say aloud, “Thank you, God, for being in control.”
Cheer Up!

**Say** Cheer up! God's in control, so let's praise him for it!

Have the children form small groups of four to six. Have each group write a verse for the following cheer. Have kids clap their hands and fit the words into a count of four beats, or claps. The second and fourth lines are three beats and will be the same for everyone.

Here's a sample verse:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Line one:</td>
<td><strong>God knows</strong></td>
<td>what will</td>
<td>hap-pen</td>
<td>next!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Line two:</td>
<td><strong>God is</strong></td>
<td>in con-</td>
<td>trol.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Line three:</td>
<td><strong>God will</strong></td>
<td>nev-er</td>
<td>let us</td>
<td>down!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Line four:</td>
<td><strong>God is</strong></td>
<td>in con-</td>
<td>trol.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Give kids several minutes to make up their cheers. Then bring everyone back together, and have each group lead its verse, with all of the kids saying the second and fourth lines: “God is in control.”

**Pray** God, we thank you so much for being in control. We love you and want to trust you to work out everything in our lives. We worship you because you are good and you are in control. In Jesus’ name, amen.
Naomi and her daughter-in-law Ruth were very sad because Naomi’s husband and two sons had died.

Naomi decided to travel back to her home in Bethlehem. She knew it would be easier for her to live in her hometown. Ruth decided to leave Moab and travel to Bethlehem with Naomi.

Ruth was loyal to her mother-in-law. She loved Naomi very much.

When Ruth and Naomi arrived in Bethlehem, they were poor and hungry. They couldn’t find a job because only men had jobs. Widows were taken care of by their sons. But Naomi’s sons had both died.

Ruth found out that poor people were allowed to glean grain from the fields. If she worked hard, she and Naomi would have enough food to eat.

Every day Ruth went to a farmer’s field. As the workers gathered the stalks of grain, some would fall out of their bundles. Poor people were allowed to pick up the grain the workers dropped.

Boaz was the farmer who owned the field. He was a kind and generous man. Boaz saw that Ruth worked hard. He invited her to eat with his workers.

Then Boaz told his workers to leave extra grain on the ground for Ruth to gather so that Ruth would not have to work so hard to gather enough food.
Naomi was amazed at all the food Ruth gathered. Ruth told Naomi how kind Boaz had been. Naomi told Ruth that Boaz was a close relative of theirs. Soon they had a baby. They named their son Obed. Ruth and Boaz's son was the grandfather of King David. And many generations later, Jesus was born to the descendants of Ruth and Boaz. God was faithful to Ruth and Naomi. He took care of them and blessed them in many ways.
# God Answers Hannah's Prayer

**1 Samuel 1:1-28**

## Worship Theme:

- God answers prayer.

## Weaving Faith Into Life:

- Kids will thank God for hearing and answering their prayers.

### Session Sequence | What Children Will Do | Supplies
--- | --- | ---

#### 1. Let's Praise God! (up to 25 minutes)

**Sing**

- “Everything Is Possible With God” (Mark 10:27) (track 1)
- “Nothing Is Impossible” (Luke 1:37) (track 17)
- “Do Not Be Anxious About Anything” (Philippians 4:6-7) (track 12)
- “Everything We Need” (track 5)
- “Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah” (track 16)
- “Those Who Hope” (Isaiah 40:31) (track 9)
- “This Is the Day” (Psalm 118:24) (track 18)

**KidsOwn Worship Kit:** 
- Songs From FaithWeaver

**Classroom Supplies:**
- CD player, 3 photocopies of responsive reading (see activity), whiteboard or poster board, marker

### Preschool

#### 2. Let’s Learn the Point! (up to 25 minutes)

**Let's Talk to God** *(about 8 minutes)*

- Talk to God in different ways and thank him for answering prayer.

**God Answers Prayer** *(about 9 minutes)*

- Use stuffed animals to learn the story of Hannah and Samuel.

**Prayer Toss Up** *(about 8 minutes)*

- Toss prayers up to God.

**Classroom Supplies:**
- Magazines, construction paper, scissors, glue

**Classroom Supplies:**
- Blanket, 1 stuffed animal per child

**Classroom Supplies:**
- Blanket, paper, markers, 1 soft ball per child, rubber bands
### Session 2: Let’s Learn the Point!

**20 minutes**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session Sequence</th>
<th>What Children Will Do</th>
<th>Supplies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Let’s Learn the Point!</strong> <em>(up to 25 minutes)</em></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Altar of Prayer <em>(about 8 minutes)</em>  Use stones to represent their prayers and build an altar of worship to God.</td>
<td>Classroom Supplies: 1 stone per child, container</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Asking and Answering <em>(about 9 minutes)</em>  Act out scenes that illustrate God’s possible answers to prayer.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prayer Poster Praises <em>(about 8 minutes)</em>  List prayers according to how they were answered.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Session Sequence</strong></td>
<td><strong>What Children Will Do</strong></td>
<td><strong>Supplies</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Let’s Pray!</strong> <em>(up to 10 minutes)</em></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| The Offering *(about 4 minutes)*  Offer their gifts to God. | KidsOwn Worship Kit:  
* Songs From FaithWeaver: “Do Not Be Anxious About Anything” (Philippians 4:6-7) (track 12)  
**Classroom Supplies:** CD player, poster board, markers, tape |
| Prayer Hands *(about 3 minutes)*  Pray for each other’s needs. | |
| Circle Prayers *(about 3 minutes)*  Pray for children on each side of them. | |

* Starred activities can be used successfully with preschool and elementary children together. Customize your session to fit your needs. You can separate preschoolers and elementary children for Section 2. Or, if you keep the children all together for the entire worship session, we suggest you choose from the starred activities.
To understand the pain caused by Hannah’s childlessness, one must realize how important it was in Old Testament times that women provide children. A woman who couldn’t conceive was an embarrassment, or even a disgrace, to her husband. Adding to Hannah’s pain were the taunts of Elkanah’s other wife, Peninnah, a situation that illustrates the strife that the practice of polygamy can create. Even Elkanah’s love for Hannah and his words of encouragement could not comfort her.

Hannah provides a great example of what we should do when we are hurting. “In bitterness of soul Hannah wept much and prayed” (1 Samuel 1:10). She poured out her heart—even her bitterness—to God. Her prayer was so anguished that Eli, the priest, assumed she was drunk! God wants to hear from us when we’re hurting, and yes, even when we’re bitter or angry at him.

Hannah’s prayer and God’s answer to it warn us of an important truth: If we make a vow to God, we must be ready to fulfill it. Hannah vowed that if God gave her a son she would give him fully to the service of the Lord.

When Samuel was born, Hannah lived up to her vow. As soon as Samuel was old enough to live without his mother (sometime after he was about 3 years old), she took him to Eli at the tabernacle and gave him to the service of the Lord. Samuel grew up there, no doubt performing simple tasks for Eli.

**Devotion for Leaders**

We all experience hurts and sadness, and Jesus experienced those things, too. We can always know that he’s right there with us, listening and answering our prayers.

**Weaving Faith Into Your Life:** Reread 1 Samuel 1:12-20. How does God respond to us when we cry out in anguish and grief? What sadness, pain, or grief do you need to pour out to God? It’s great to know we serve a God who cares about our human hurts. Turn to God, and leave your pain with him today.
Why We Worship for Leaders

There is nothing like the wonder of seeing God answer our prayers! Our hearts flood with joy—even surprise—at his provision of grace and blessing. Sometimes God answers our prayers swiftly and decisively with a yes or a no. Often, though, he answers after long periods of fervent prayer, as he did with Hannah. She received the fulfillment of her prayers, her son Samuel, only after years of crying out to God. Use this session to teach children to worship God because he always answers prayer. He may say yes, he may say no, and he may say wait, but he always answers because he loves us and wants us to call out to him.

Easy Prep for Leaders

Let’s Praise God!—Before the worship session, make three photocopies of the responsive reading (see activity). Write the line for “All” to say either on a white board or on a poster board and hang it where all kids can see it.

Altar of Prayer—Collect enough stones so that each child will have one.

1 Let’s Praise God!

Play Songs From FaithWeaver as children arrive. Ask one or two children to help you welcome the others as they arrive. Instruct them to greet children by name and say, “Welcome to children’s church.”

When you’re ready to begin,

Say Hello, everyone! I’m excited to worship God today because he answers prayer!

Ask • What is prayer? (Prayer is talking to God.)

Write the things children say on a whiteboard, chalkboard, or poster board. If necessary, prompt children with suggestions, such as asking God for help, praising God, and saying we’re sorry. If it’s not mentioned, write “Talking to God.”

Say Prayer is talking to God. God wants a friendship with you. God wants you to talk to him, and he wants to talk to you. You can talk to God anytime, about anything. God answers our prayers. That’s because everything is possible with God.

Sing “Everything Is Possible With God” (Mark 10:27).

Lyrics are in the back of this book.

Say Probably what people think of most when they think of prayer is asking God for things. God is our heavenly Father, and he wants us to ask him to take care of us and meet our needs. That’s because he loves to answer our prayers! Trust him, and you’ll see.


Lyrics are in the back of this book.

Say Think about your best friend.
• **Ask** How do you feel about spending time with your friend? (I like to be with my friend; my friend is fun to be around.)

• **Ask** What do you do when you’re together? (We play house; we play Tag; we play video games.)

• **Ask** How do you feel when it’s time to go home? (I’m disappointed; I want to take my friend with me!)

• **Say** God wants to spend time with you the same way you want to spend time with your best friend. When you pray, think about God as your best friend. Talk to him just as you would if he were that best friend. Tell him about being happy or sad or mad or glad. Tell him what you need and what you’re worried about. Tell him how great you think he is. Ask him for what you need. He’ll answer you, because God answers prayer!

Sing “Do Not Be Anxious About Anything” (Philippians 4:6-7).

Lyrics are in the back of this book.

• **Ask** How does God talk to us? (God talks to us in our hearts; God talks to us through the Bible.)

• **Say** One way God talks to us is through the Bible. Sometimes when you read a particular verse or chapter, you realize it’s just what you needed to hear. It answers a question or helps you know what to do. That’s God talking to you, answering your prayers! That’s why it’s called the Word of God. Our next song says that God is everything we need. Let’s worship him for that.

Sing “Everything We Need.”

Lyrics are in the back of this book.

• **Say** God always answers our prayers. Sometimes he says yes, sometimes he says no, and other times he says maybe or wait. Maybe you’ve been praying for someone or something and you’ve prayed for a long time. Maybe it seems like God doesn’t hear you, but don’t worry: He does. Listen to what Psalm 34:15 says: “The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their cry.” That means God sees you and hears you.

• **Ask** If God sees us and hears us, then what kinds of things can we ask God for when we pray? (We can ask him to keep our families safe; we can ask him to help us in school; we can ask him to send us friends.)

• **Ask** What is something you’ve been praying about for a long time? Tell us briefly about it. (Answers will vary.)

• **Say** We don’t know why, but some requests are answered right away and others take a lot of time and prayer. Don’t get discouraged if you don’t get an answer right away. God might be saying no, or he may just be saying wait. Don’t give up when you pray for something and don’t get an immediate answer. The Bible tells us that God always answers prayer. Let’s worship him, thanking him for guiding us.
Sing “Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah.”

Lyrics are in the back of this book.

**Ask**
- **What does it mean to hope in the Lord?** (That you trust God.)

**Say**
- Good answers. If we know that we can always ask for God’s help and he will answer, then we have hope.

Give a copy of the responsive reading below to three older kids. Point out the line you prepared on poster board or on a white board for kids to say after each line of the reading. Have the three kids lead the responsive reading, and let the whole group respond. Encourage kids to start quietly, then say their response with a little more enthusiasm each time.

**Reader 1:** Hope is that feeling that everything is going to be OK.

**All:** We hope in the Lord, and he answers our prayers.

**Reader 2:** Hope is knowing that God will take care of you.

**All:** We hope in the Lord, and he answers our prayers.

**Reader 3:** Hope is believing that God is listening all the time.

**All:** We hope in the Lord, and he answers our prayers!

**Readers 1, 2, 3:** Hope is praying and knowing God will answer.

**All:** We hope in the Lord, and he answers our prayers!

**Reader 1:** Hope is learning that God will help you.

**All:** We hope in the Lord, and he answers our prayers!

**Reader 2:** Hope is the smile you get when you know God is near.

**All:** We hope in the Lord, and he answers our prayers!

**Reader 3:** Hope is knowing that you are never alone.

**All:** WE HOPE IN THE LORD, AND HE ANSWERS OUR PRAYERS!

**Readers 1, 2, 3:** Hope is believing that no prayer is ever too big or hard for God.

**All:** WE HOPE IN THE LORD, AND HE ANSWERS OUR PRAYERS!

Let’s sing about hoping in God.

Sing “Those Who Hope” (Isaiah 40:31).

Lyrics are in the back of this book.

**Say**
- I’m glad God answers prayer. That gives me joy! Let’s celebrate the joy that we can have every day because of God’s love for us.
Sing “This Is the Day” (Psalm 118:24).

Lyrics are in the back of this book.

**Pray**

Dear God, we love you so much! You are the best friend we could ever have. You’re always available, always willing to listen when we pray. You hear our prayers, and you answer them. Help us to trust you this week with the things we pray for. We can’t wait to see how you’ll answer us! In Jesus’ name, amen.

**Let’s Learn the Point!**

**Preschool Activities, pages 65-66**

At this time, have the preschool leader invite the preschoolers to go to their own room for this section of activities. Tear out the Preschool Activities page, and give it to the preschool leader. Have the preschool leader bring the preschoolers back to participate in Let’s Pray! with the older children. If you prefer to keep all the children together, do the starred (*) activities. They work well with both elementary and preschool children.

**Elementary Activities**

*Altar of Prayer*

**Say**

Close your eyes, and think about something you’ve always wanted. Maybe it’s a special vacation or a video game. Maybe it’s something serious, such as wanting your parents to get back together. Whatever it is, think of how much you want to have that thing. Now open your eyes.

The way you feel is a little like how a woman named Hannah felt. She loved God, and she asked him for one special thing. More than anything, Hannah wanted a baby. In those days, not having a baby was considered a shameful, embarrassing thing. Year after year, Hannah prayed. Her prayer seemed to go unanswered. But she never stopped asking God for a baby.

One day, an old priest named Eli heard her praying and asked her what was wrong. When she explained, he told her to go home in peace and to trust God. So Hannah went home and did that. Sure enough, later that year Hannah gave birth to a beautiful baby boy, and she named him Samuel! She promised God that she would dedicate Samuel to serving him all his life.

**Ask**

• What does this story teach us about God? (That God will listen to us; that God wants to help us.)

• What can we learn from Hannah about prayer? (We shouldn’t be selfish; we can ask God for anything.)

(continued on page 67)
Preschool Activities

God Answers Hannah’s Prayer

1 Samuel 1:1-28

Worship Theme:
God answers prayer.

Using Theo
Consider using Theophilus today in these ways:
• Have Theo lead the preschoolers from the main worship area to the preschool room.
• Have Theo tell the Bible story in the “God Answers Prayer” activity.
• See the KidsOwn Worship Kit for a puppet skit created to tie in to this week’s worship session.

Easy Prep for Leaders
Let’s Talk to God—Find magazine pictures that show the following: a happy child’s face and a sad or mad child’s face; someone needing help; something good to thank God for; someone saying he or she is sorry, perhaps by hugging someone. Glue each picture to a piece of construction paper or a large index card. Put the happy and sad faces on one card.

God Answers Prayer—if you don’t have enough stuffed animals or dolls to have one for each child, ask one or two of the parents to bring some to children’s church. Or simply have children choose a partner for the activity, and use one animal or doll for each pair.

* Let’s Talk to God
Gather children in a circle.

Say Welcome, preschoolers! We’re learning today that God answers prayer.

Ask • What is prayer?

Say Prayer is talking to God. He loves it when you talk to him.

Ask • What kinds of things do you think God likes to talk about?

Say We can talk to God about anything! He always has time to listen. We can tell him how we feel—for example, we can tell him when we’re happy or sad or mad. Show the picture of happy and unhappy faces. We can ask God for help when we need it. Show the picture of someone needing help. We can thank God for the good things he does for us. Show the picture of something good to thank God for. We can tell him we’re sorry when we do bad things. Show the picture of someone saying “I’m sorry.” Spread the pictures face up on the floor in the center of the children.

Say Let’s practice talking to God, because God answers prayer.

Have children take turns choosing one of the cards to hold. Encourage them to pray about something the picture illustrates, such as how they’re feeling or their own or someone else’s need. Encourage very young or shy preschoolers to repeat a short prayer or word after you, or have everyone say it together for them. Give everyone a chance to pray.

Have everyone stand up and spread out a bit.

Say Now let’s thank God for answering prayer. When I put one of these pictures on the floor in front of you, jump up in the air and say, “Thank you, God, for answering prayer.” Then put the picture in front of someone else so that person can thank God.

For extra fun, use one of the pictures at first, then gradually introduce the others so that more than one “thank you” is being said at a time.
God Answers Prayer

Spread the blanket out on the floor, and invite the children to sit on it.

The Bible tells a story about a woman named Hannah. Hannah believed that God would answer her prayers. If you believe God answers prayer, wave your hand at me.

Yes, I believe that, too. And so did Hannah. She wanted something very, very badly. She wanted a baby!

Pass out a stuffed animal to each child. Hold your stuffed animal, and pretend it's the baby that Hannah wanted. Now give your baby a hug, and put it behind your back to show that Hannah didn't have her baby yet. For a long time, Hannah prayed for a baby. But it didn't seem as if God was listening. Year after year went by, and still Hannah didn't have a baby. Keep your animals still and quiet behind you, because they're not born yet.

How do you think Hannah was feeling?

Was God listening to Hannah's prayers?

Even though it didn't seem like it, God was listening. He was waiting for just the right time! So one day when Hannah was praying, an old priest named Eli heard her crying. She told him she was asking God for a baby. Eli told her to go home in peace. Eli said, “May God give you what you ask for.” Hannah went home, and what do you think happened? She had a little baby boy and named him Samuel. Pick up your stuffed animal and hold it the way Hannah would hold her baby.

How did Hannah feel when she held her baby?

How did God answer Hannah's prayer?

What kinds of things do you pray for?

Does God answer your prayers?

God loves to answer prayers! Even if God says wait, the way he did to Hannah, God always hears our prayers and answers us.

Prayer Toss Up

Pass out paper and markers, and have the children draw pictures of what they'd like to pray about. Then help each child fold the prayer request and wrap it around a small, soft ball. Wrap a rubber band around the paper to hold it onto the ball.

Have children stand around the outside edge of the blanket.

Let's take turns saying a prayer to God and then tossing our balls on the blanket as if we're tossing the prayer up to God.

Help children pray and throw their balls in the middle of the blanket. When everyone's ball is on the blanket, have the children pick the blanket up by the edges and move it up and down together so the balls bounce around on it.

I'm so glad God hears our prayers. Look at all the prayers God is going to answer! Let's toss them up to God because he answers our prayers.

Have the children shake the blanket very hard until all the balls fall out. Repeat the activity if you have time.
Set the container of stones on a table near you.

**Say**  Think of something that you want to ask God for. It might be something you’ve been praying about for a while, or it might be something new that you thought of today as we’ve been talking about prayer.

In Old Testament times, people would build altars to remind them of good things that God had done for them. For example, after Noah and his sons got off the ark, they built an altar to worship God for saving them.

Let’s use our stones to build a prayer altar to remind us that God answers prayer. When I hand you a stone, come up to the table, say one or two words that represent your prayer, then place your stone on the table.

To keep this activity moving, pass out one or two stones while the previous child is praying and setting his or her stone on the altar so that at least one child is ready to pray all the time. Give everyone a chance to pray and to place a stone on the prayer altar.

**Say**  It pleases God when we pray and when we trust him to answer us. Our altar can remind us that God answers our prayers. Like Hannah, we may have to wait, but God always hears our prayers.

Before moving to the next activity, pray for the children, and tell them they can be at peace and trust God to answer their prayers.

* Asking and Answering

**Say**  I need volunteers to act out some scenes for us to discuss.

Choose three children, and have them each choose a partner. Tell them their job is to act out a child asking his or her parent for something. The first pair should act out the parent saying yes, the second pair should act out the parent saying no, and the third pair should act out the parent saying wait. Give the children one minute to discuss how they’ll act out their scene. While they discuss it, have the rest of the group count backward from 60 with you. When you reach zero, that’s the signal that their time is up.

Have each pair perform its scenario, then have everyone sit down.

**Ask**  • How are these situations like prayer? (Sometimes God says no; sometimes we have to wait for an answer.)

• Has God ever answered your prayer with a yes? no? wait? Tell us about it. (Answers will vary.)

**Say**  The story of Hannah shows us that God always answers prayer, but sometimes we have to wait and keep praying for the answer to come. We don’t know how or when he’ll answer. But he always does what’s best for us. God loves us and wants to build our faith. He wants us to trust him.
Pray> God, help us to trust you so that however you answer our prayers, we’ll say what Jesus did, “Yet not as I will, but as you will.” In Jesus’ name, amen.

Prayer Poster Praises

Display three pieces of poster board around the room. Write “Yes” at the top of one poster, write “No” at the top of the second poster, and write “Wait” at the top of the third poster.

Say> We’ve been talking about how God answers all prayers. Think about things you’ve prayed about. And think about the answers that God has given to those prayers. Think about the times he’s said yes to your prayers and the times he’s said no or wait. In a moment, I’ll ask you to go stand by one of the posters that are hanging around the room. I’ll play some music, and you’ll need to write or draw a picture of a prayer for which you’ve received the answer that’s written on the poster. For example, if you’re standing at the “No” poster, you’ll write about or draw a picture of a time God said no.

Have the children form three groups, and have each group stand by one of the posters.

Play about a minute of the song “Do Not Be Anxious About Anything” (Philippians 4:6-7) as children write or draw pictures of their prayers.

Then pause the music, and have the children rotate to the next poster. Continue until all the children have written or drawn pictures on all three posters.

Ask> • Why does God sometimes say yes to our prayers? (Because God wants us to have what we ask for; because God wants to help us.)

• Why does God sometimes say no to our prayers? (Because we don’t need what we asked for; because what we asked for isn’t good for us.)

• Why does God sometimes say wait to our prayers? (Because God wants us to be patient; because God wants to wait for a better time.)

Have the children call out some of the things they wrote on the “Yes” poster.

Pray> Thank you, God, for saying yes to our prayers.

Have the children call out some of the things they wrote on the “No” poster.

Pray> Thank you, God, for saying no to our prayers.

Have the children call out some of the things they wrote on the “Wait” poster.

Pray> Thank you, God, for saying wait to our prayers. In Jesus’ name, amen.
Let’s Pray!

The Offering

God answers prayer. He loves it when we come to him and tell him our needs and concerns. As we give our gifts to God today, we’re going to listen to the song “Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah.” While you listen, think about how good it is that God is a God who answers prayer. Thank him for that.

Have volunteers take the offering.

Play “Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah.”

Prayer Hands

Have everyone stand in a circle.

Do this: Close your eyes and hold your hands together, palms touching, and fingers up. Can you feel your hands touching each other? Imagine that one hand is your prayer and the other hand is God’s answer to your prayer. They are always together. When you put your hands together like this, you can always remember that God answers prayer. Several people have mentioned things today that they are praying about. Let’s pray about those needs now.

Have several children pray for the needs of others.

Circle Prayers

Ask children if anyone has any prayer needs that haven’t been mentioned yet today. Then encourage children to remember these, as well as any needs mentioned earlier, and to pray for them this coming week.

Now turn to your right and put your hands on the shoulders of the person in front of you. Silently pray for that person to receive from God whatever he or she needs this week. (Pause.) Now turn around, and put your hands on the shoulders of the person in front of you. Silently pray for this person to trust God to answer his or her prayers this week.

God, thank you for loving us so much. Help us believe that you answer prayer. Help us trust you to answer us in the way we need, whether it’s a yes, no, or wait answer. We give you all the needs that were mentioned here today, and we trust you to answer them. In Jesus’ name, amen.
## Worship Theme:

God directs us.

## Weaving Faith Into Life:

Kids will learn how to follow God’s directions.

### Session Sequence | What Children Will Do | Supplies
---|---|---
**Let’s Praise God!** (up to 25 minutes) | **Sing**
- “The Plans I Have for You” (Jeremiah 29:11) (track 11)
- “And We Know” (Romans 8:28) (track 15)
- “Trust in the Lord” (Proverbs 3:5-6) (track 6)
- “Everything We Need” (track 5)
- “My God Is” (track 7) | KidsOwn Worship Kit: Songs From FaithWeaver
Classroom Supplies: CD player, flashlight

### Session Sequence | What Children Will Do | Supplies
---|---|---
**Let’s Learn the Point!** (up to 25 minutes) | **God’s Call** *(about 8 minutes)*
Learn that God’s voice directed Samuel. | Classroom Supplies: Bible

| **Direct Me** *(about 8 minutes)*
Play noisemakers to practice paying attention to God’s directions. | Classroom Supplies: Rhythm noisemakers, pencil

**Following God’s Directions** *(about 9 minutes)*
Practice listening for God’s directions.
### Session Sequence | What Children Will Do | Supplies
--- | --- | ---
### Let’s Learn the Point! (up to 25 minutes)
1. **“Where Are We?”** *(about 8 minutes)*  
   Watch a DVD and discuss getting directions.  
   - **Supplies:**  
     - **KidsOwn Worship Kit:**  
       - Lesson Videos DVD: “Where Are We?”
     - **Classroom Supplies:**  
       - TV, DVD player
2. **Familiar Voices** *(about 8 minutes)*  
   Play a game to prepare for the story of Samuel.  
   - **Classroom Supplies:**  
     - 1 photocopy of “The Lord Calls Samuel” handout (at the end of this session) per child
3. **Listen, Check, and Do** *(about 9 minutes)*  
   Create gift boxes to remember a strategy for discovering God’s plans.  
   - **Classroom Supplies:**  
     - 1 photocopy of the “Box Pattern” handout (at the end of this session), three 1x6-inch paper strips, and gift bow per child; markers; scissors; tape

### Let’s Pray! (up to 10 minutes)
1. **The Offering** *(about 3 minutes)*  
   Give offerings and affirm God’s plans for each other’s lives.  
   - **Classroom Supplies:**  
     - Offering bowl, flashlight
2. **Ask for Directions** *(about 4 minutes)*  
   Stop everything and ask God for direction.
3. **Praise Him** *(about 3 minutes)*  
   Give God praise for his guidance.  
   - **KidsOwn Worship Kit:**  
     - Songs From FaithWeaver: “Trust in the Lord” (Proverbs 3:5-6) (track 6)
     - **Classroom Supplies:**  
       - CD player

* Starred activities can be used successfully with preschool and elementary children together. Customize your session to fit your needs. You can separate preschoolers and elementary children for Section 2. Or, if you keep the children all together for the entire worship session, we suggest you choose from the starred activities.
The Bible tells us little about the childhood of most Bible characters. Samuel, however, is an exception. We've already studied the events surrounding his birth and his dedication to service at the tabernacle, and, in today's passage, we read of his first personal encounter with God.

Both Samuel and Eli had lain down for the night when God called out to Samuel. Perhaps Samuel was accustomed to calls for assistance from Eli, who was losing his eyesight (1 Samuel 3:2). At first, Eli might well have thought Samuel had been dreaming when he heard a voice calling his name. First Samuel 3:7 explains that Samuel “did not yet know the Lord.” This doesn't mean that Samuel didn't understand who the Lord is or hadn't really been serving him; he simply had never before received a direct revelation from God. So it is not surprising that the boy continued to return to Eli when he was called.

When Eli realized that Samuel was hearing a call from God, he didn't get up, go with Samuel, and hear what God had to say. He knew that whatever God wanted to say to Samuel was between God and the boy. The prophecy Samuel received echoed the words of a prophecy Eli had received from a “man of God” earlier. Because Eli's sons had dishonored God in their priestly duties, that prophecy predicted the death of Eli’s sons and their replacement by a priest who would be faithful to God (1 Samuel 2:27-36). The prophecy given to Samuel made it clear that Eli had not raised his sons properly and that Eli would be punished. As difficult as it must have been for Samuel to pronounce judgment upon the priest he served, Samuel faithfully reported to Eli what God had said.

From 1 Samuel 3:19-21 it is clear that this was the first of many times God spoke to Samuel. Samuel grew up listening to God. The phrase “from Dan to Beersheba” (1 Samuel 3:20) was used to describe the entire Promised Land. Samuel became God’s mouthpiece to the nation of Israel. He listened when God appeared to him, and “Samuel's word came to all Israel” (1 Samuel 3:21b).

**Devotion for Leaders**

In our relationship with Jesus, God sometimes speaks to us through the Bible or God's people. When he does, he wants us to listen and obey.

**Weaving Faith Into Your Life:** Go back and read 1 Samuel 3:10, 19-20 again. What does it mean to really listen to God? How does your listening to God compare to Samuel's? What might God be guiding you to do? Faithfully following God’s direction in our lives will lead us to God’s best for us. Listen for God’s voice today.
Why We Worship for Leaders

Today we worship God because he directs us. His direction is not the rule of a dictator but the loving guidance of the one who knows both our deepest secrets and our greatest potential. God directs us best because only he knows who we were created to be.

Children need to know that no one is too insignificant to receive the attention of God. God spoke to Samuel when Samuel was a child and set the course for his life. Like Samuel, your kids can receive God’s direction from trusted spiritual leaders, from God’s Word, and through listening to God in prayer. It’s never too early—or too late—to ask for God’s direction and to embark on his plan.

Easy Prep for Leaders

Let’s Praise God!—Darken the room before children arrive. If your room has movable chairs, arrange them to form a path through the room. Have a flashlight available.

“Where Are We?”—Set up a TV and DVD player, and cue the Lesson Videos DVD to the “Where Are We?” Watch the track at least once before the worship session so you’ll be familiar with it.

Familiar Voices—Photocopy the script ”The Lord Calls Samuel” (at the end of this session) for each child.

Listen, Check, and Do—Make a copy of the box pattern at the end of this session for each child. Cut enough 1x6-inch paper strips to have several for each child.

1 Let’s Praise God!

Darken the room, and play Songs From FaithWeaver. As the children arrive, use a flashlight’s beam to direct them to a seating area. Say, “Isn’t it great to know that God directs us?”

Turn the lights on.

Say

Hello, everyone! Today I directed you to your seats with a flashlight, and today we worship God because he directs us.

God has a plan for you. God’s plans for you are always good. Just as I had a plan for where you would sit today, God has specific plans for you. And God will direct you—he’ll help you find his plan.

Sing “The Plans I Have for You” (Jeremiah 29:11).

Lyrics are in the back of this book.

Say

You know, some of you probably thought you had a better idea about where you should sit than I did. Sometimes we think we have better plans for our lives than God does. But God wants to prosper us—not to harm us. Another way to remember that truth is through our next song, “And We Know.”
Sing “And We Know” (Romans 8:28).

Lyrics are in the back of this book.

**Say**

Let’s do something to illustrate how all things work together for good. Have the children form groups of three and move to a large open space. Make sure there isn’t more than one preschooler per trio.

Sometimes good things happen. If you’re the tallest in your trio, you represent the good things that come along in life. Stretch out your arms in front of you with your palms up. If you’re the next tallest in your group, you represent the difficult things that happen in our lives. Stretch out your arms in front of you with palms down. God joins both the good and the bad to create something special. Ones and Twos, clasp your hands together.

Do you realize that you’ve made a strong seat? Threes, sit on that seat and let the Ones and Twos carry you across the room.

**Ask**

• What was the advantage of having both Ones and Twos?  
  (They made the seat stronger; we couldn’t have done the activity without both of them.)

• How is that like having both good and bad things in our lives?  
  (Sometimes it’s good to have bad things in our lives; both of them make us strong.)

• Why is it good to have good things happen to us?  
  (Because it makes us happy; because we will know that God loves us.)

• What good can come out of the bad things that happen to us?  
  (We can learn things about God; we can learn to be patient.)

**Say**

It was pretty amazing to watch all those Threes floating across the room, carried by the strength of the Ones and Twos! It’s also pretty amazing to watch how God works all things together for good for those who love him. As God directs people’s paths, we can see him at work in their lives, and it’s exciting! Let’s sing a song about keeping our eyes open so we can see God at work.

Sing “Trust in the Lord” (Proverbs 3:5-6).

Lyrics are in the back of this book.

**Say**

God is doing good things all over the place! God’s plans are very big, and they include everyone.

**Ask**

• What is God doing that you are glad to be part of?  
  (God is helping me do well on my baseball team; I’m glad to be a part of church.)

• What is God doing that you would like to be part of?  
  (I would like to help poor people; I would like to do something for my church.)

**Say**

When God is our all in all—our everything—we get to be part of some exciting things. It’s a huge privilege! Let’s sing about God, who is everything we need.

Sing “Everything We Need.”
We know God will answer our prayers when we ask him to direct us because, just as the song says, God is our Father and he cares for us.

**Ask**

- How do you know that God's plan for you is the right plan?
  (Because God knows what to do; because I trust God.)

**Say**

God is the God of creation. God made the land and the sea. God made you and gives you hope and salvation. If we know that God created everything and gave us salvation, we can know that God's plans for us are right and good. Let's sing “My God Is.”

Sing “My God Is.”

Lyrics are in the back of this book.

---

**Let’s Learn the Point!**

---

**Preschool Activities, pages 77-78**

At this time, have the preschool leader invite the preschoolers to go to their own room for this section of activities. Tear out the Preschool Activities page, and give it to the preschool leader. Have the preschool leader bring the preschoolers back to participate in Let’s Pray! with the older children. If you prefer to keep all the children together, do the starred (*) activities. They work well with both elementary and preschool children.

**Elementary Activities**

* “Where Are We?”

Show the Lesson Videos DVD track titled “Where Are We?” The video shows a family that gets lost and looks for reliable directions. After the video,

**Ask**

- How does it feel to be lost? (It’s scary; I don’t like to be lost; it’s confusing.)

- Where do you go to get directions when you’re lost? (I look at a map; I ask someone for help.)

- The Bible tells us that God directs us. What kinds of directions do you think God gives us? (God tells us how to treat other people; God tells us how to do what’s right.)

- Why do you think God gives us directions? (Because God wants to protect us; because God wants us to do the right thing.)

- How does God give us directions? (He uses other people to tell us; he tells us in the Bible.)
Turn to a partner, and tell your partner about a time you felt God was giving you directions. Give the children a few moments to share. Then invite individuals to share with the entire group.

God gives us directions every day. God helps us know right from wrong. God helps us make tough decisions. God helps us find the plan he has for our future. Let’s learn more about God’s directions.

Familiar Voices

Choose five to seven people to come to the front of the room.

If you haven’t been chosen to stand up front, close your eyes, and put your heads down with one ear turned upward so that someone can come by and whisper to you. The people up front will each whisper in one person’s ear. If someone whispers in your ear, raise your hand so the rest of the “whisperers” will know, but keep your eyes closed.

Ask: How were you able to guess who whispered your name? (I recognized the voice; I just guessed.)

Say: Those of you who knew who whispered your name recognized the person’s voice because you know that person. If you didn’t know the person, you couldn’t have recognized the voice.

Ask: What’s your first reaction when you hear your parents’ voices? (I know it’s them; if they’re happy, then I am glad to hear their voices.)

Ask: Who else’s voice causes you to have a similar reaction? (My friends; my cousin.)

Ask: Why do you respond in that way? (Because I like them; because I trust them; because I know them.)

Ask: Since we don’t usually get to hear God’s voice with our ears, how does God get our attention? (He talks to our heart; he uses other people to get our attention.)

Ask: When God does get your attention, how do you know it’s God? (Because I know him; because it seems like something God would say.)

Say: You’ve learned that when your parents or teachers call your name, it’s often to get your attention so that you can receive
God Speaks to Samuel
1 Samuel 3:1-21

Worship Theme:
God directs us.

Easy Prep for Leaders
Direct Me—Gather things that children can use as “rhythm instruments,” such as an unopened box of macaroni and a clean margarine container with some cereal inside it.

Using Theo
Consider using Theophilus the FaithRetriever puppet today in these ways:
- Have Theo lead the preschoolers from the main worship area to the preschool room.
- Let Theo signal the children to shake their noisemakers.
- See the KidsOwn Worship Kit for a puppet skit written for today’s worship session.

* God’s Call
Have the children sit in a circle. Open your Bible to 1 Samuel 3.

Say The Bible tells us about a time God called a little boy—someone who was young, just like you.

Ask • What do you think God’s voice would sound like?
Have the children demonstrate what they think God’s voice sounds like.

Say To Samuel, God’s voice sounded like the voice of his good friend Eli. Eli was like a father to him. Samuel worked with Eli at the Temple every day.

Let’s play a game to learn this Bible story. First we need a volunteer to be Samuel. Choose a volunteer.

This Bible story happened at night when Samuel was sleeping. Have your volunteer lie down on the floor and close his or her eyes. Listen carefully, Samuel. When you hear someone call your name, sit up and look around for the person who may have been calling you.

While “Samuel” has his or her eyes closed, tap another child on the shoulder. This child will play the role of God by calling out, “Samuel.” All the rest of the children will pretend to be Eli.

Have the child who is pretending to be God call out, “Samuel.” Remind Samuel to sit up, look around, and try to guess who called him. If the child guesses right,

Say That’s right. This child is pretending to be God. God is the one who called Samuel’s name in the middle of the night.

If the child guesses wrong, have “Eli” say, “No. I’m Eli, and I didn’t call you.” Give the child two guesses. Then choose another child to take the part of Samuel and another child to take the part of God. Play the game several times.

Say The Bible tells us that God called Samuel four times. The first three times, Samuel thought Eli was calling him. But the third time, Eli explained that God was the one who wanted to talk to Samuel. So Samuel invited God to speak to him.

God told Samuel about his plans for Eli. From that night on, God spoke to Samuel about his plans. God gave Samuel directions that all his people needed to hear. The people came closer to God because a boy named Samuel listened to God’s directions.
Preschool Activities

*Direct Me*

**Say**

Samuel had to listen hard and pay close attention to follow God’s directions. Let’s practice following a director.

Give each child a “rhythm instrument.”

**Say**

First, I want you to hear what your noisemakers sound like, so make some noise with your noisemakers. When I flash the lights, hold your noisemaker very still so that it’s completely quiet. Give the children about 30 seconds of free exploration before flashing the lights.

You followed directions. When the lights flashed, you stopped making noise. Now you’re holding your noisemakers quietly. Now instead of watching for lights, I want you to watch my pencil. Every time my pencil goes up, your noisemaker should go up. When my pencil goes down, your noisemaker should go down. Watch carefully.

Following God’s Directions

**Say**

We know that Jesus is kind and loving and good. God directs us to be like Jesus and to do what’s right. If something is not right, we shouldn’t follow that direction, no matter what.

I’m going to be the director. Listen very carefully, and if the thing I say is kind and loving like Jesus, wrap your arms around your shoulders in a big loving hug. If it’s not kind and loving, then move your feet and run in place as though you are running away from something bad. Help the children practice the motions together several times, then say the following statements, one at a time, and allow time for each child to think and react after each one.

- Give your mom a hug.
- Pick up your toys.
- Pull the kitty’s tail.
- Kiss your brother or sister.
- Share your toys.
- Stomp your feet and cry.
- Throw a book.
- Help a friend.

**Ask**

- How did you know which directions were good?
- Do people always give good directions?
- Who always gives good directions? Why?

**Say**

God always gives good directions because God loves us and wants the very best for us. We thank God for directing us and helping us do what’s right.

Raise your pencil, and hold it up until most of the children are holding their noisemakers up. Then lower it and wait. Do this several times very slowly. Then you can begin to present simple rhythms the children can copy. After several minutes, collect all the noisemakers.

**Ask**

- What did you have to do to play your noisemaker right?

**Say**

We have to keep our eyes on someone to live right, too. We have to watch and listen to God. We praise God today because he directs us. That means God shows us what to do and when to do it, just as I did with my pencil. I’m proud of how hard you worked to follow my directions, and God is pleased when we pay attention to directions he gives us through the Bible and the people who teach us about him.
important information or directions. That's true of God, too. Usually we recognize that it's God trying to get our attention when we feel that what he is asking us to do is "just like him." We recognize his direction because we know him. Let's look at a Bible story to see how one boy realized God was talking to him.

Have the children form groups of three. Have the groups choose one person to be Eli, one person to be Samuel, and one person to be God. Give each child a photocopy of the script "The Lord Calls Samuel." Read aloud the narrator parts yourself. Then have trios read aloud their parts and act out the story all at the same time.

**Ask** How does knowing that the God of the universe cares enough about you to give you directions make you feel? (It makes me feel happy; I am amazed.)

**Say** When God spoke to Samuel, who was just a young boy, it was to give him a special message that would change the direction of his life. First, God got Samuel's attention by calling his name. When Samuel recognized that it was God speaking to him, he responded in much the same way you might respond to your parents—he listened very closely.

**Ask** How do you let God know you are ready to listen to him? (I tell him I’m ready; I get really quiet.)

**Say** When God told Samuel his plans, Samuel told someone he trusted about God's direction. Eli, the priest who had cared for Samuel since he was a little boy, helped Samuel determine that this direction really was from God.

**Ask** Who might you tell about a direction or plan you think is from God? (My parents; my pastor.)

**Say** God is awesome in the way he directs us. The more Samuel listened to God's directions, the more easily he recognized God's voice and the more others heard God's directions through Samuel—which was God's plan for the rest of Samuel's life. God spent time with Samuel, directing him to be a listener first and then a doer. Samuel's story gives us a great three-step set of directions for finding and doing God's plans: listen, check, and do.

**Listen, Check, and Do**

Give each child three 1x6-inch strips of paper and a copy of the box pattern. Make markers, scissors, and tape accessible to everyone.

**Say** We're going to make listen, check, and do boxes. Think of a picture symbol for each of those words, and draw those pictures on the sides of the box. Cut the box out, fold it on the lines, and tape it together. Leave the top of the box open. Then use the strips of paper to write or draw ways you can listen for God's
voice, ways you can check to make sure you understand what God wants of you, and things that you know God is directing you to do.

**Say** Put the matching picture symbol on the strip, too. For example, if you write “read the Bible” on one strip, that could be either a way to listen or a way to check, so you could draw either of those picture symbols on that strip. Fold the strips and put them inside the box. When you’re done, fold in the top of the box to hold all the strips.

If you have young children in your group, pair them with older partners who can write their dictated ideas and help keep them on task. Give the children time to complete the boxes. While the children are working, walk around the room and talk to individual children. Ask them how they can listen to God. Ask them how they can check to make sure that they understand what God wants. Ask them to tell you about the things they know God wants them to do.

When the kids are finished with their boxes,

**Ask**
- **What would life be like if God didn’t give us any direction?** (It would be confusing; no one would know what to do.)
- **What would life be like if God made his directions too hard for us to find?** (We wouldn’t trust God; we would be lost; we’d get frustrated.)
- **Why are God’s directions good for us?** (Because God will always take care of us; because God knows what we need to do.)

**Say** I’m going to give each of you a bow to put on your box because you’re holding a precious gift from God to you. God loves us enough to direct us to the plans he has for us. You already know some of the plans—you wrote them on the strips of paper. God has other plans for your life that you haven’t discovered yet. But if you always follow the listen-check-do strategy, you will find God’s direction for your life. We can praise God for being willing to direct us.

**3 Let’s Pray!**

**The Offering**

Turn the flashlight on, and hold it up.

**Say** Remember how, when you came in today, you were directed to your seat with this flashlight? Each time you see a flashlight now, you can remember that God directs you. I’ll dim the lights, and let’s form a circle. I’ll place the offering bowl in the center of the circle. Pass the flashlight to the person next to you and say, “God has plans for you.” After you pass the light to the next person, you may place your offering in the bowl.
**Ask for Directions**

**Say** Think of a time you were in a car with someone who was lost. Or if that’s never happened to you, imagine what it would be like.

**Ask** • What suggestion would you like to have made to the driver?
(To check the map; to stop and ask for directions.)

**Say** We all know some really great ways to find out how to get where we’re going. We also know some great ways to find out where God wants us to go. But, just as the driver has to stop to ask someone or consult a map, we have to stop to pray or consult God’s Word. As we’re here today, we’re going to take time to do just that: We’re going to stop everything and ask God where he wants us to go.

Turn off the lights and anything that is making noise. Ask the children to turn away from their friends and freeze in position. Hold the freeze for at least 30 seconds, and have the children pray silently. After 30 seconds,

**Pray** Thank you, God, for directing our lives. I know you have great plans for each of these wonderful children. In Jesus’ name, amen.

**Praise Him**

Turn the lights on.

**Say** Let’s remember to praise God because he loves us enough to direct us. At the count of three, let’s all praise God for directing us. You can say whatever you feel in your heart. We’ll all say it at the same time so that God hears but others don’t.

Start “Trust in the Lord” (Proverbs 3:5-6) so that the music takes up where the children’s praise leaves off.
The Lord Calls Samuel

Narrator: Many years ago, in the land of Israel, a young boy named Samuel lived at the Temple where he served God. Eli, the priest, took care of Samuel and helped him learn how to serve God. One night after Eli and Samuel had gone to sleep, Samuel heard a voice calling him.

God: Samuel! Samuel!
Samuel: Here I am!

Narrator: Samuel jumped out of bed and ran to where Eli slept. He thought that Eli was the one who called him.

Eli: I didn't call you. Go back and lie down.
Narrator: So Samuel went back to bed. A little bit later, Samuel heard the voice again.

God: Samuel! Samuel!
Samuel: Here I am!

Narrator: Samuel jumped out of bed and ran to where Eli slept. He thought that Eli had called him.

Eli: I didn't call you. Go back and lie down.
Samuel: Here I am! You called me.

Narrator: So Samuel went back to bed. A little bit later, Samuel heard the voice again.

God: Samuel! Samuel!
Samuel: Here I am!

Narrator: Samuel jumped out of bed and ran to where Eli slept. He still thought that Eli was the one who called him.

Samuel: Here I am! You called me.

God: Samuel! Samuel!
Samuel: Here I am!

Narrator: Samuel jumped out of bed and ran to where Eli slept. He still didn't know that God was calling him. But by this time, Eli realized that God was the one calling Samuel.

Samuel: Here I am! You called me.

Eli: I didn't call you. The voice was God's. Go to bed. If God calls you again, say, "Speak, Lord. I am listening."

Narrator: So Samuel went back to bed.

God: Samuel! Samuel!
Samuel: Speak, Lord. I am listening.

Narrator: And then, God told Samuel about his plans. Finally Samuel understood that God wanted to talk with him.
# Session 7

## Saul Becomes King

**Worship Theme:**

God knows best.

**Weaving Faith Into Life:**

Children will learn they can trust God to do what's best for them.

### Session Sequence | What Children Will Do | Supplies
--- | --- | ---
**1. Let’s Praise God!** (up to 25 minutes) | **Sing**
- “And We Know” (Romans 8:28) (track 15)
- “The Lord Looks at the Heart” (1 Samuel 16:7b) (track 20)
- “I Sing the Mighty Power of God” (track 14)
- “The Plans I Have for You” (Jeremiah 29:11) (track 11)
- “Jesus Loves Me Rock” (track 10)
- “Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah” (track 16)
- “Holy, Holy, Holy” (track 3) | **KidsOwn Worship Kit:**
* Songs From FaithWeaver
**Classroom Supplies:**
CD player, Bible, jar, small candies, index cards, marker, slips of paper, pencils, scissors

### Preschool

**Session Sequence | What Children Will Do | Supplies
--- | --- | ---
**2. Let’s Learn the Point!** (up to 25 minutes) | **Fit for a King** *(about 8 minutes)*
Make crowns to help tell the Bible story. | **Classroom Supplies:**
24-inch length of aluminum foil per child, stapler, stickers, pen

**Which King?** *(about 8 minutes)*
Tell God they choose him as king, unlike the Israelites who chose Saul. | **Classroom Supplies:**
Crows from “Fit for a King,” bathrobe or blanket

**God-Knows-Best Smiles** *(about 9 minutes)*
Make a happy snack to praise God for knowing best. | **Classroom Supplies:**
Hamburger buns, knife, jelly, napkins, juice, cups
### Session Sequence | What Children Will Do | Supplies
--- | --- | ---
### 2 Let’s Learn the Point! (up to 25 minutes) | **“The Audience Knows Best”** (*about 9 minutes*)  
Watch a video that illustrates how God knows best. | **KidsOwn Worship Kit:**  
Lesson Videos DVD:  
“The Audience Knows Best”  
**Classroom Supplies:**  
Lesson Videos DVD:  
“Because God Knows Best”

| **The Best Way** (*about 8 minutes*)  
Discover why it’s important to choose to follow the one who knows best. | **Classroom Supplies:**  
Bible, photocopies of “The Best Way” (at the end of this session), scissors

| **Crowns of Praise** (*about 8 minutes*)  
Make crowns for God as they praise him for knowing best. | **Classroom Supplies:**  
Box of aluminum foil for every 2 or 3 kids

### 3 Let’s Pray! (up to 10 minutes) | **The Offering** (*about 3 minutes*)  
Offer their gifts to God. | **Classroom Supplies:**  
Offering bowls

| **Best Prayers** (*about 4 minutes*)  
Talk about trusting God to know best and pray for partners’ concerns. |  |

| **Because God Knows Best** (*about 3 minutes*)  
Thank God for knowing best. |  |

* Starred activities can be used successfully with preschool and elementary children together.  
Customize your session to fit your needs. You can separate preschoolers and elementary children for Section 2.  
Or, if you keep the children all together for the entire worship session, we suggest you choose from the starred activities.
Samuel grew to function not only as a prophet, but also as a judge, leading Israel in military excursions against the Philistines (1 Samuel 7:6-8). When Samuel grew old, he wanted his sons to be judges over Israel as he had been. However, his sons didn’t follow the Lord as Samuel had. It’s interesting to note that Samuel’s troubles with his sons were similar to those that his mentor, Eli, had experienced with his own sons.

Samuel strongly objected to Israel’s desire for a king. His objections may have arisen partly from the hurt caused by Israel’s rejection of him and his sons, but Samuel was also deeply concerned by the people’s motives in seeking a king. Because the people already had trouble trusting God, Samuel knew they would lean toward trusting the king and his military might instead of God.

God didn’t want Israel to have a king, but the people wanted a king so badly that they wouldn’t listen to Samuel’s warnings (1 Samuel 8:10-18). God decided to grant their request. God chose to use their demands to further his purposes, but he also continued to expect them to be faithful to him.

When God chose to give Israel a king, he proceeded to show Samuel exactly who that king should be. Saul, who was a head taller than his peers, would be readily accepted by the people because of his dominating physique. God told Samuel about Saul the day before Samuel met him (1 Samuel 9:15-16). And God “changed Saul’s heart” (1 Samuel 10:9), apparently to prepare him to lead Israel by relying on God’s power.

As Saul was being installed as king, Samuel used the situation to remind the people that they had rebelled against God when they asked for a king (1 Samuel 10:17-19). But he presented Saul to the people as the king God had chosen and admitted that there was “no one like him among all the people” (1 Samuel 10:24).

**Devotion for Leaders**

Jesus doesn’t force anyone to follow him. He wants us to love him as he loves us. We can choose an abundant eternal life by following him in obedience!

**Weaving Faith Into Your Life:** Reread 1 Samuel 8:19-21. When have you stubbornly demanded your own way as the people of Israel did? How did your situation come out? God loves us, cares for us, and wants us to live for him. God wants the best for you. Commit today to seeking his guidance and following it obediently in your life.
Why We Worship for Leaders

God knows best about everything. In love, he created it all and, therefore, understands it all. He knows and understands the universe. He knows how many stars there are, and he calls each one by name. He knows every sparrow that falls to the ground, and, likewise, he knows each one of us and calls us by name. Not one of us goes unnoticed by God.

God knows what we want, and he knows what we need to be truly happy. When we trust that God knows best and worship and obey him, we find true joy and fulfillment. What a privilege to worship a God who knows best in all things!

Easy Prep for Leaders

Let’s Praise God!—Put small candies in a jar, counting the candies as you go. Be sure you know how many candies are in the jar. Cut slips of paper large enough for kids to write on. Write the following questions on index cards, one question per card:

- Question #1: What time did the teacher get up?
- Question #2: What will be the first words of the Bible story today?
- Question #3: What time did the teacher go to bed last night?

Set the jar of candy, the slips of paper, the index cards, and pencils so they’re accessible.

“The Audience Knows Best”—Set up a TV and DVD player. Cue the Lesson Videos DVD to the segment titled “The Audience Knows Best.” Watch the DVD track at least once before the children arrive so you’ll be familiar with it.

The Best Way—Photocopy “The Best Way” situation cards (at the end of this session), and cut them apart. You’ll need one card (#1 to #6) for every two or three elementary children. You’ll need one of #7 or #8 for every two or three elementary children.

Crows of Praise—Get a box of aluminum foil for every two or three children.

Let’s Praise God!

Play Songs From FaithWeaver as children arrive. Direct children to the jar of candy and the questions. Encourage children to write their names on several slips of paper and write their guesses about the number of candies in the jar and the answers to the questions on the cards. Have the children write one guess per slip of paper and to be sure and include the question number. Have older children help younger children.

When all the kids have arrived,

Say Hello, everyone! Welcome to children’s church. Today we’re going to praise God because he knows best. He knows all about us and what his plans are for our lives.

ALLERGY ALERT
See Session 2.
Earlier you made some guesses about how many candies were in the jar and about some things I did or will do.

**Ask**
- **What does the Bible say God knows?** (God knows everything; God knows what's best for us.)
- **Would he know how many candies are in the jar?** (Yes, because he's God; no, that wouldn’t matter to God.)
- **Would he be able to answer the questions about what I did?** (Yes, because he knows what you're thinking; not if you didn't tell him.)

Tell the children the number of candies and the correct answers to the questions. Celebrate if any children guessed the right answers.

**Say**
- **God knows everything! He knows what is best in every circumstance! The Bible says that not only does God know everything, but he will also make everything work together for our good when we love him. That is totally cool.**

Sing “And We Know” (Romans 8:28).

Lyrics are in the back of this book.

**Say**
- **Our God is the God of creation. He made everything, so he understands everything. He knows us inside and out. He knows us better than anyone else does, because he looks at our hearts. Let’s sing about that!**

Sing “The Lord Looks at the Heart” (1 Samuel 16:7b).

Lyrics are in the back of this book.

**Say**
- **God is our king. We don’t have kings in our country, so it’s hard to understand what it’s like to be ruled by a king. We do have a president, but being president isn’t quite the same as being a king.**

**Ask**
- **What do kings do?** (Kings rule over a certain place; they tell people what to do.)

**Say**
- **Kings are rulers of their countries. They can do anything they want, and people have to obey them. Some kings are good, and some are bad. We have the best king of all: God. God is all-loving, all-knowing, and always good. He knows best about everything because he's perfect.**

Kings are powerful. Their people have to obey them. If the king is good, the people are happy. If the king is bad, the people suffer. Later we’re going to hear a story about one of Israel’s kings who failed in his job as king because he forgot about God and did bad things. God, our king, will never fail! He is God, and he knows best. Stand up, point high in the air toward heaven, and say, “God, you’re the best!”

Sing “I Sing the Mighty Power of God.”
Lyrics are in the back of this book.

Have a child read Psalm 147:4 from an easy-to-read version of the Bible.

**Ask** • What does God know? (How many stars there are; everything.)

**Say** Not only does he know how many stars there are, but he knows all their names! No human being could ever know all that. Let’s check out another thing that God knows best.

Have a child read Jeremiah 29:11.

**Ask** • What does this verse tell us about God? (God knows our future; God has plans for us.)

**Say** It shows us that God knows everything. He knows all about you. He knows what you’re good at and what you’re not as good at.

If you know what you’re really good at, stand up.

Call on a few of the children who stood to tell what they’re good at. Have the children sit down.

**Say** Some of you probably know what you want to be when you grow up. Stand up if you do.

Call on two or three of those children to tell what they want to be. Then have the children sit down.

**Say** If you don’t have a clue what you’re good at or what you want to be when you’re grown, stand up. (Pause.) Sit back down. Well, I have good news for you. God knows! He created each of you for a special purpose. That means he has plans for you, better ones than you could ever dream for yourself. Let’s all stand and close our eyes. (Pause.) Now silently thank God for having plans for you. (Pause.) Let’s praise him for knowing best.

Sing “The Plans I Have for You” (Jeremiah 29:11).

God knows all about us, and he knows what’s best for us. We can trust him because he loves us more than we can imagine.

Sing “Jesus Loves Me Rock.”

Close your eyes, and let’s get quiet for a moment. Think of some reasons that God is the greatest. (Pause.) Now let’s call out our reasons as praises to God. You could say, “God, you’re the greatest because you know all about me,” or “You have good plans for my life, God.” Allow time for several children to say their praises aloud.

Let’s spread out around the room now. Find a spot to stand by yourself as we sing our next song. Let’s worship God because he knows best.
Sing “Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah.”
Lyrics are in the back of this book.

**Say**
For our last song, let’s sit or kneel on the floor as we worship God. Close your eyes, and sing this one to the Lord with your whole heart.

Sing “Holy, Holy, Holy.”
Lyrics are in the back of this book.

**Pray**
Lord, thank you for being a good God. You are kind, thoughtful, and generous. Thank you for knowing what’s best for us, and thank you for planning good things for us. Help us to trust that you know best. We love you because you love us. In Jesus’ name, amen.

**2 Let’s Learn the Point!**

**Preschool Activities, pages 91-92**
At this time, have the preschool leader invite the preschoolers to go to their own room for this section of activities. Tear out the Preschool Activities page, and give it to the preschool leader. Have the preschool leader bring the preschoolers back to participate in Let’s Pray! with the older children. If you prefer to keep all the children together, do the starred (*) activities. They work well with both elementary and preschool children.

**Elementary Activities**

* “The Audience Knows Best”

Show the Lesson Videos DVD track titled “The Audience Knows Best.” It illustrates why we should rely on God’s wisdom—not what’s popular.

**Ask**
- Why did the contestants make the choices they did? (Because the audience told them to; they wanted to win the game.)
- What happened when they followed the advice of the crowd? (They got hurt; they got arrested.)
- What does the video say about making choices for yourself? (Other people can make the wrong choices; only God can tell us which choice to make.)

**Say**
It is hard to know what are the best choices. Just because an idea is very popular doesn’t mean it’s the best. Only God knows everything, and only he knows what’s best.

(continued on page 93)
Worship Theme:

God knows best.

Extra Impact

For extra fun, use a low-heat glue gun and pretty beads to decorate the crowns.

Preschool Leader Tip

If you do this activity with elementary children, pair them up with the preschoolers to help them fold the foil.

Fit for a King

God is good, and he knows best.

- What are some things God knows about?
- God knows everything! God knows how to make the birds sing, the dogs bark, the sun shine, and the flowers bloom. God knows all about you and me! God knows best and wants to be our king! Let’s make some crowns today to help us learn that God knows best.

Give each child a piece of foil, shiny side down. Help children fold the foil in half lengthwise, then in half again.

I’m going to say some statements. After I say each one, you say, “God knows best!” and put a sticker on your crown. Are you ready?

Use the following statements or statements you make up. After each, have kids say, “God knows best” and add a sticker to their crowns.

But the people didn’t want God as their king. They thought they knew best. They wanted a man to be their king instead.

- Have you ever wanted something, but your mom or dad said no? What was it?
- Why do you think your mom or dad said no?
**Preschool Activities**

**Say** Sometimes moms and dads say no because they know what’s best for you. If you only wanted to eat candy all day, they’d say no because they know you would feel yucky. God’s people wanted a king, and God said no because he knew it wasn’t good for them. God knows best. But they wouldn’t listen. So finally God gave them what they wanted. He chose a tall and strong man named Saul to be their king.

Ask a volunteer to stand on the chair to be Saul. Put a crown on your volunteer’s head, and put the robe around his or her shoulders. Have an adult stand nearby as a spotter.

**Say** The people said, “Long live the king!” Put your crown on your head to show that the people got what they wanted, then stand and say, “Long live the king!” (Pause.)

God was sad when the people chose a king instead of him. They were supposed to obey him because he knows best. A human king would not always know best. Sit down, and show me how sad you’d look if you were God. (Pause.)

Let’s not be like them. Let’s make God happy. Let’s celebrate wanting Jesus to be our king! Jump up and say, “Jesus is my king!” (Pause.)

**Good job, everyone!** Have the child step down from the chair. Drape the robe over the back of it.

Let’s pretend the chair is God’s throne. Let’s take our crowns off and put them on the floor around the chair to tell God we know that he knows best and he is our king.

Help children put their crowns on the floor. Have them hold hands in a circle and move around the “throne” as you lead them in singing the following song to the tune of “The Mulberry Bush.”

Jesus is king ’cause he knows best,  
He knows best, he knows best.  
Jesus is king ’cause he knows best,  
Yes, God knows best!

Sing the song a few times.

**Say** Let’s put our crowns back on now to show that Jesus is our king. When I give you your crown, say “God knows best!” and wear your crown.

**God-Knows-Best Smiles**

Gather children around the table.

**Say** We’ve been learning today that God knows best. That makes me happy! I’m going to show you how to make a happy snack, and I need your help. Then you’ll get to make one, too.

Hold one of the bun quarters.

**Ask** What are some things that God knows?

If children need help, remind them that he knows their names, he knows how many hairs they have on their heads, he knows the names of all the stars, and he knows how to make the sun rise and set. Every time children name something, take a bite out of the middle portion of your bun quarter until what’s left forms the shape of a smile. Hold it up for the children to see.

Give each child a bun quarter, and encourage children to eat the centers to form a smile. When they all have smiles, tell children to hold the smiles up to their faces. Then ask one or two children to pray and thank God for knowing best. Pass out juice, and finish eating.

**ALLERGY ALERT**

Be aware that some children have food allergies that can be dangerous. Know your children, and consult with parents about allergies their children may have. Also be sure to read food labels carefully as hidden ingredients can cause allergy-related problems.
The Best Way

Have kids form groups of two or three. Give each group one of the first six situation cards prepared before worship. If you have a large group, you may give a situation to more than one group. At the end of the activity, you’ll give each group a #7 or #8 card.

**Say** Choose someone in your group to read the situation. Then decide as a group what will happen next in your situation. Allow time for discussion. Then have the groups read their situations and report what they decided would happen next.

**Ask**

- Why did the same situations have different endings? (Because we had to make different choices; because different people made up the endings.)
- When have you needed to follow the advice of someone who knew better than you? (When I didn’t know what to do on my homework; when I needed to apologize to a friend.)

**Say** The Bible tells of a time God’s special people, the Israelites, needed to follow someone who knew better than they did. I have one more situation for each group to discuss. Read the situation in your group, then decide what you think will happen next.

Give each group a copy of either Situation 7 or Situation 8. Allow time for the groups to discuss the situations. Have one Situation 7 group read the situation aloud and report about what the group decided would happen next. If you have other groups who also had Situation 7, have them share what they thought would happen. Next have a Situation 8 group read the situation aloud and share the group’s ideas about what would happen. Have other Situation 8 groups share their thoughts also.

**Say** Here is what the Bible says is the true situation. Read 1 Samuel 8:19.

**Ask**

- How is what the Israelites said like some of the situations you discussed? (The Israelites wouldn’t listen to God; the Israelites were stubborn.)
- What awesome, powerful things had God done for the Israelites? (He took care of them; he brought them out of Egypt.)
- Do you think the Israelites made a good choice? Why or why not? (No, because they didn’t listen to God; yes, because they needed a king.)

**Say** There are many times in life when we do not know what is best for us. We must follow people who know better than we do. We also need to remember that God knows everything. He knows what’s best. We can choose to trust him with everything in our lives. The Israelites did not do that, and their choice made life much harder for them. Let’s always follow the one who knows what’s best for us—God.
Crowns of Praise

Give each group a box of aluminum foil.

_Say_ We’ve been learning that God knows best. He has always known best, throughout all of history. He’s been with us and guided us from the time of Adam and Eve, to the time Jesus was on earth, and to today.

As a group, use your aluminum foil to make a crown of praises to Jesus, who knows best about everything. Work with your teammates to make a crown from the foil, but only use your hands and the foil—no scissors, tape, glue, or staplers. You can use the foil any way you can think of. You can crumple it, fold it, twist it, and pinch it.

There are two rules: Rule one is that everyone must participate by taking a turn adding to the crown. Rule two is that before each person does something, the person must say thank you to God for knowing best. For example, you might say, “Thank you, God, for knowing best about how I should spend my spare time,” then add a piece to the crown. You can help each other out with ideas about what praises to say. I’ll give you three minutes to make your crowns. Are you ready?

After three minutes, get everyone’s attention.

_Say_ Nice work, everyone! I know God is pleased with the praises you gave him. The crowns can remind us to make God our king because he knows best.

Have groups set the crowns on a table with the offering bowls.

**3 Let’s Pray!**

**The Offering**

_Say_ The crowns you made represent our praise and thanks to God for knowing best. Hold your hands cupped together in front of you. Imagine that your hands represent a crown for Jesus. As the offering bowl comes to you, give God your life and tell him you want him to be your king. Then place your offering in the bowl if you brought one.

Take the offering.

**Best Prayers**

Have kids find a partner and describe some areas of their lives where they need to trust that God knows best. For example, they might be worried about a sick family member, a friend who has turned on them, or moving to a new neighborhood or city.

Have the partners pray for each other’s concerns.
Because God Knows Best

**Say**  God knows what we want. He knows who we are and what we need to be truly happy. As I say the following prayer, answer everything I say by saying, “Thank you, God. You know best.”

**God, you were with the Israelites long ago.** Pause for response.

**You loved them and guided them.** Pause for response.

**Today, you love us and guide us, too.** Pause for response.

**Help us to trust you today and tomorrow.** Pause for response.

**Help us to trust you next week and next year.** Pause for response.

**Help us to keep only you as king in our lives.** Pause for response.

**We want to love you and obey you.** Pause for response.

**Pray**  God, thank you for knowing best about everything. Thank you for caring so much about us that you take care of all our needs—past, present, and future. Help us to trust your love and goodness today, tomorrow, and always. We praise you for being such an awesome God. You know best. In Jesus’ name, amen.
The Best Way

#1: Leaky Pipes
You have discovered that the pipes under the sink are leaking and ruining the cabinet. You do not really know anything about how to fix plumbing, but you don’t want to call a plumber. When you try to fix the problem…

#2: Leaky Pipes
You have discovered that the pipes under the sink are leaking and ruining the cabinet. You know you don’t know what is best to do in this situation, so you look in the phone book and find the number of a plumber. The plumber knows exactly what to do. The plumber comes right over, and…

#3: Turkey Dinner
It’s Thanksgiving, and you want to have a big turkey dinner. You have never cooked anything before, but you don’t want any help from anyone! You buy all the stuff you think you’ll need, and…

#4: Turkey Dinner
It’s Thanksgiving, and you want to have a big turkey dinner. You have never cooked anything before, so you decide to call your grandma who really knows how to do a great meal. With help from your grandma…
#5: Fire
You are camping, and the rest of your family has gone off hiking. It has turned very cold, and you decide you would really like to have a campfire to keep you warm. You have never made a fire before, but you don’t want to wait for your parents to return. You gather the wood, and…

#6: Fire
You are camping, and the rest of your family has gone off hiking. It has turned very cold, and you decide you would really like to have a campfire to keep you warm. You have never made a fire before, so you wait for your dad who makes wonderful, safe campfires. When he arrives…

#7: A King for Israel
The people of God wanted to have a king to rule over them instead of having God as their king. God had Samuel, the prophet, tell them all the bad things that would happen if they chose to have a human king instead of God. Samuel reminded the people of all the wonderful, powerful things God had done for them. The people decided they wanted a human king anyway. God chose a tall, strong man named Saul for their king, and…

#8: A King for Israel
The people of God wanted to have a king to rule over them instead of having God as their king. God had Samuel, the prophet, tell them all the bad things that would happen if they chose to have a human king instead of God. Samuel reminded the people of all the wonderful, powerful things God had done for them. The people decided they would listen to Samuel and only have God for their king, so…
Session 8

Saul Makes a Big Mistake

1 Samuel 13:1-14

Worship Theme:

God’s ways are important.

Weaving Faith Into Life:

Kids will learn to have faith in the directions God gives.

### Session Sequence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What Children Will Do</th>
<th>Supplies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Let’s Praise God!</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(up to 25 minutes)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sing</td>
<td>KidsOwn Worship Kit: Songs From FaithWeaver</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sing</strong></td>
<td>Classroom Supplies: CD player, wet wipes, snack-size plastic bags, bowl of M&amp;M’s candies, large bowl, potting soil, spoon, mini-candy bars, grocery sack</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• “Praise the Lord” (Psalm 150:6) (track 13)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• “My God Is” (track 7)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• “I Sing the Mighty Power of God” (track 14)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• “Trust and Obey” (track 8)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• “Do Not Be Anxious About Anything” (Philippians 4:6-7) (track 12)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• “Holy, Holy, Holy” (track 3)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• “Those Who Hope” (Isaiah 40:31) (track 9)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Session Sequence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What Children Will Do</th>
<th>Supplies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Let’s Learn the Point!</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(up to 25 minutes)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* If You Want to Follow God (about 9 minutes)</td>
<td>Classroom Supplies: White paper plate per child, hole punch, yarn, scissors, markers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Make a footprint necklace, and take steps to follow God.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saul’s Bad Choice (about 8 minutes)</td>
<td>Classroom Supplies: Footprint necklaces from “If You Want to Follow God”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hear a Bible story about Saul’s mistakes, and praise God for his ways.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>That’s Important! (about 8 minutes)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Identify God’s ways and praise him for them.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Session Sequence</td>
<td>What Children Will Do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2 Let’s Learn</strong>&lt;br&gt;(up to 25 minutes)</td>
<td><strong>the Point!</strong>&lt;br&gt;* At the Right Time (about 8 minutes)&lt;br&gt;Do an experiment to see how Saul failed to wait to do things God’s way.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>* “Baking Cookies” (about 9 minutes)&lt;br&gt;Watch a video about a cook making cookies and discuss how God’s ways are important.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Change the Ending (about 8 minutes)&lt;br&gt;Change endings of Bible stories to see the importance of God’s ways.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session Sequence</th>
<th>What Children Will Do</th>
<th>Supplies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>3 Let’s Pray!</strong>&lt;br&gt;(up to 10 minutes)</td>
<td><strong>(up to 10 minutes)</strong>&lt;br&gt;The Offering (about 3 minutes)&lt;br&gt;Offer gifts to God.</td>
<td>Classroom Supplies:&lt;br&gt;Offering bowls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>God’s Good Ways (about 4 minutes)&lt;br&gt;Praise God according to the number of candies they have.</td>
<td>Classroom Supplies:&lt;br&gt;Bags of candies from Let’s Praise God</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Following Your Path (about 3 minutes)&lt;br&gt;Sing to tell God they love him and to thank him because his ways are important.</td>
<td>KidsOwn Worship Kit:&lt;br&gt;Songs From FaithWeaver:&lt;br&gt;“Trust and Obey” (track 8)&lt;br&gt;Classroom Supplies:&lt;br&gt;CD player</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Starred activities can be used successfully with preschool and elementary children together. Customize your session to fit your needs. You can separate preschoolers and elementary children for Section 2. Or, if you keep the children all together for the entire worship session, we suggest you choose from the starred activities.
After becoming king, Saul quickly demonstrated his leadership and was accepted as king by all the people (1 Samuel 11:14-15). Saul was 30 years old when he became king, and he reigned until he was 72. But that reign was not without problems.

Jonathan, Saul’s son, attacked a Philistine outpost. Saul had trumpets blown throughout Israel and essentially claimed responsibility for the victory. Though this was a common tactic for a king, it demonstrated that pride was beginning to grow in Saul.

As the Israelite army gathered to prepare for a counterattack by the Philistines, they began to fear, thinking of the thousands of chariots, horses, and soldiers the Philistines could muster. And as some of the Israelite soldiers began to desert, Saul panicked. Samuel had told Saul to wait seven days for him to arrive at Gilgal before taking action (1 Samuel 10:8). Samuel wanted to offer sacrifices to God and prepare the army spiritually for the coming battle.

In his fear and anxiety, Saul overstepped his authority and proceeded with the sacrifices without Samuel. Saul was king, but he was not God’s appointed spiritual leader. Saul’s impatient actions demonstrated at least two flaws: He trusted his army more than he trusted God, and he thought performing a ritual could take the place of genuine faith.

Saul could have prayed to God at any time, seeking God’s guidance and protection. He could have expressed his fears to God and asked for confidence to proceed at the proper time. Instead, he disobeyed a command of God that had come through Samuel, and he took matters into his own hands because of his lack of faith.

The punishment for Saul’s offense was severe: Saul’s descendants would not inherit the throne of Israel. God had allowed Israel to have a king, but he wanted that king to honor and follow him. Saul sacrificed his dynasty through his willful disobedience. He was more concerned with consolidating his power and pacifying his people than with obeying God. Had Saul confessed his worries to God and trusted God to take care of him and win the battle for Israel, things may have been different. However, it’s impossible to know if Saul’s lack of faith and tendency toward fear would have emerged later even if he had waited for Samuel.

Devotion for Leaders

It’s easy to get worried and fearful when things don’t look like they’re going our way, but because we have Jesus in our lives, we don’t need to be afraid!

Weaving Faith Into Your Life: As much as God had done for Saul, Saul failed to truly trust him. How well does your life demonstrate the faith you have? In what areas does your trust fall short? Trusting in God isn’t a matter of saying the right words; it’s living out our trust in our actions. Demonstrate genuine trust in God as you live your life.
Why We Worship for Leaders

How often do we get impatient waiting for God to answer our prayers? How often do we take matters into our own hands? How often do we choose our own ways instead of God's? Choosing our methods instead of God's leads to trouble, as Saul discovered when he acted rashly and sacrificed a burnt offering instead of waiting for Samuel to do it, as he had been instructed. Because of his impatience and disobedience, Saul lost his kingdom in the end. What God wanted from Saul and his people was love from pure hearts and a willing obedience that showed respect for his ways. God wants the same from us today.

Use this session to teach kids that God's ways are important. Help them see that God loves us and wants only the best for us. His best comes when we listen to him and obey. Let's worship him for that!

Easy Prep for Leaders

Let's Praise God!

- Set out snack-size plastic bags, a large bowl of M&M's candies, and wet wipes so the supplies are accessible to the children.
- You'll need a large bowl filled about two-thirds full with potting soil or sand, a large spoon, and one small, individually wrapped candy bar per child. Bury three or four candy bars in the dirt. Put the remaining candy bars in a grocery sack so children won't see them.

At the Right Time—Each group of four kids will need a plastic soda bottle with 2 tablespoons of water, a straw, a plastic bag with 1 teaspoon of baking soda, and a balloon. Be ready to add a tablespoon of lemon juice to each bottle as indicated during the story.

“Baking Cookies”—Set up a TV and DVD player, and cue the Lesson Videos DVD to “Baking Cookies.” Watch the track at least once before the worship session so you’ll be familiar with it.

Change the Ending—Write the names of Bible characters on slips of paper. The characters should be people who chose to do things either their way or God’s way. Include the Scripture references of stories about these people. Some possibilities are Noah (Genesis 6:9–7:5), Abraham (Genesis 22:1-19), the Israelites worshipping a golden calf (Exodus 32:1-9), Joshua (Joshua 5:13–6:5), and Jonah (Jonah 1). Fold the papers in half, and put them in a basket or bowl. You’ll need one paper for every three or four children. If necessary, you can give the same character to more than one group.

Let’s Praise God!

Play Songs From FaithWeaver as children arrive. Greet children by name, and welcome each one. Tell the children that it’s important that they do exactly what you tell them to do. Tell them to wash their hands with the wet wipes, put a few M&M’s candies in a snack bag, and then put the bag in a designated spot. Choose
a few children to watch to make sure that hands are washed and
that no one eats the candies. During Let’s Pray!, you’ll give one of these bags to
each child.

When you’re ready to start,

**Say** Welcome to children’s church, everyone! We’re here to praise
God today because his ways are important. His ways come from
his love for us. Let’s praise God now.

Sing “Praise the Lord” (Psalm 150:6).

Lyrics are in the back of this book.

**Say** Our God made everything in creation. He’s our Father, Savior,
Creator, and Master, so he knows what’s good for us. His ways
are important. Let’s worship him for who he is.

Sing “My God Is.”

Lyrics are in the back of this book.

**Say** Let’s think for a minute about the creation. Since God is the
creator of everything, his creation can tell us wonderful things
about him.

**Ask** • What are some examples in creation that show us God is
mighty? (The mountains; the waves in the ocean; lions.)

If kids need help, remind them of examples such as volcanoes, sunsets, the
ocean, tornadoes, outer space, and mountain ranges.

**Say** All those things show us that God is mighty. God is also a God
of love. When you put power and love together, it makes an
awesome God! And if our God is that awesome, his ways must
be pretty important. Let’s praise our mighty, powerful God.

Sing “I Sing the Mighty Power of God.”

Lyrics are in the back of this book.

**Say** God loves us so much. He promises that if we do things his way
at the right time, he will lead us to good things. His ways are
very important.

Show children the bowl of dirt.

**Ask** • If I said I had a treat for you and offered you this bowl of dirt,
would you be excited? (No, that’s gross; yes, dirt is fun.)

• What if I offered you a spoon—would that help? (No, I don’t
want to eat the dirt; yes, I could dig in the dirt.)

**Say** No, it wouldn’t help. But if I told you to use the spoon to dig
through the dirt to find a treat, would that make a difference?

Have a child come up and dig through the dirt to find the candy bars.
Sometimes life is like this dirt—we can have a messy situation that we don’t know what to do about. Then we read the Bible and learn God’s ways, and God tells us what to do—just as I told you what to do with the spoon to find the treasure. When we do things God’s way, we find treasure instead of dirt. God’s ways are important and always lead to good things!

Have helpers pass out candy to everyone.

Let’s decide today to show God we love him by obeying him and telling him his ways are the only way.

Sing “Trust and Obey.”

God’s ways are important. When we live according to them, good things come to our lives. Think of a time you followed God’s ways instead of doing what you wanted to do.

Ask

• What are some good things that have come to your life because you followed God’s ways? (My friend came to church with me; I got some ice cream because I kept my room clean.)

Say

God wants us to talk to him about everything we need. He’ll take care of us and give us his peace. His ways are good!

Sing “Do Not Be Anxious About Anything” (Philippians 4:6-7).

God is holy; he is merciful; he is mighty. His ways are important. They bring us life. Let’s worship him by singing about his holiness.

Sing “Holy, Holy, Holy.”

If you’re discouraged today, or if you’re sad today, God knows the way you should go. His ways are perfect. Just as he directs the ways of the eagles, he wants to direct us. He wants us to soar like the eagles.

Sing “Those Who Hope” (Isaiah 40:31).

Pray

God, what a good God you are! We worship you because you are powerful and mighty. We worship you because you are kind and good. Your ways are important, and we want to go in your ways. Help us follow you. We love you, Lord. In Jesus’ name, amen.
Let’s Learn the Point!

Preschool Activities, pages 105-106

At this time, have the preschool leader invite the preschoolers to go to their own room for this section of activities. Tear out the Preschool Activities page, and give it to the preschool leader. Have the preschool leader bring the preschoolers back to participate in Let’s Pray! with the older children. If you prefer to keep all the children together, do the starred (*) activities. They work well with both elementary and preschool children.

Elementary Activities

* At the Right Time

Have the children form groups of four. Give each group one set of the supplies you prepared before the worship session (the plastic soda bottles with water, baking soda, straws, and balloons). Explain that you’ll tell them what to do with the items and the right time to do it.

We are going to use the things I’ve given you to illustrate the power of doing things God’s way at the right time. Let’s pretend that the bottle with water in it represents Saul while he was king of Israel. He was facing a huge battle against the Philistines and needed God’s power to fill him and his army for victory. The prophet Samuel told King Saul to wait for seven days, when Samuel would come to offer sacrifices to God for the battle.

Let’s say that the powder in the bag you have is worry that filled Saul’s heart. Add the powder to the water in your bottle. Saul waited one day for Samuel. Use the straw to stir the powder in the bottle once for the first day Saul waited. (Pause.) Saul’s men were hiding in bushes and caves and rocks because they were afraid.

Saul waited another day. Have another person in your group stir the mixture in the bottle for the second day. (Pause.)

Saul waited three then four days. His men were quaking with fear. Have someone else stir the mixture for days three and four. (Pause.)

He waited five, six, and seven days. His men were beginning to scatter. Still Samuel did not come! Have another person stir the mixture for days five, six, and seven. (Pause.)

On the seventh day, Saul got tired of waiting for Samuel to arrive to make the sacrifices to God. He thought, “I must do the sacrifices myself. I can’t wait to do it the way God asked because...”

(continued on page 107)
Preschool Activities

Saul Makes a Big Mistake

1 Samuel 13:1-14

Worship Theme:

God’s ways are important.

Easy Prep for Leaders

If You Want to Follow God—You’ll need one white paper (not foam) plate for each child, a hole punch, scissors, yarn, and markers. Punch two holes on the edge of each plate, about 6 inches apart. Cut the yarn into lengths of about 24 inches.

Using Theo

Consider using Theophilus the FaithRetriever puppet today in these ways:

• Have Theo lead the preschoolers from the main worship area to the preschool room.
• Have Theo make the statements in the “That’s Important!” activity.
• See the KidsOwn Worship Kit for a puppet skit written for today’s worship session.

* If You Want to Follow God

Set the markers, yarn, and plates on a table.

Say

Today we’re learning that God’s ways are important. Sit on your bottom and wiggle your feet in the air. (Pause.) Good job! Now put your feet on the floor, and let them rest.

Ask

• How can you use your feet to follow God’s ways?

Say

You use your feet by running to obey when mom or dad tells you to do something. You use your feet when you walk over to a friend to help your friend, play with your friend, or give your friend a hug. When we follow God’s ways, we tell him his ways are important. Let’s make something to tell God his ways are important and that we want to follow them.

Help kids trace their feet on paper plates and decorate their footprints. Be sure to add children’s names to their plates. Then help them thread yarn through the holes and tie it so the plates can be worn as necklaces. As children work on their plates, talk with them about some of God’s ways, such as obeying parents, sharing toys, being kind to pets, and helping at home and at school.

Say

You’ve all done such a good job making footprints! Let’s use these footprints to remind us that God’s ways are important. If you want to walk in God’s ways, put your footprints around your neck. (Pause.) Now take one step and say, “God’s ways...” (Pause.) Take another step and say, “Are important...” (Pause.) Good job, everyone! Let’s keep taking little steps and saying these words until our feet get to the story area. Pause after each step, and have children say the words.
Preschool Activities

Saul’s Bad Choice

**Say**

God is so wonderful, wise, and loving that we know his ways of doing things are important. God’s ways keep us safe and happy. One of God’s instructions in the Bible is “Children, obey your parents in the Lord for this is right.”

One time, Oliver’s mom told him to wait until his dad got home to use his dad’s flashlight. Later, when his mom wasn’t looking, Oliver found the flashlight.

• What should he do? Stomp your feet on the floor if you know, then stop. Call on one or two children to share their ideas.

**Ask**

Another one of God’s instructions is “Do what is right and good.”

Nicole had a friend at her house. Her friend wanted to play with her favorite toy, but Nicole wanted it.

• What should Nicole do? Wave your footprints at me if you know, then stop. Call on one or two children to share their ideas.

**Say**

I’m so proud of you! You know exactly how to obey God’s ways! Now wave your footprints in the air to tell God his ways are important. (Pause.) Now let’s sit on our footprints and hear a story about what happened to King Saul when he didn’t obey God. Wait until children are sitting on the footprints.

One time, King Saul was getting ready for a big battle. Samuel told King Saul that God wanted him to wait seven days for Samuel to come. God wanted Samuel to lead everyone in worship before the fighting started. Stop, and just wait, without doing anything, until the children begin to fidget and wiggle a bit.

• Saul waited one day. Stop again, and wait until the children get restless.

• Saul waited two days. Stop again, and wait until the children get restless.

• Saul waited three days. Stop again, and wait until the children get restless. Continue in this fashion for days four, five, six, and seven.

**Ask**

• How did it feel to have to wait for me to continue the story?

• Were you impatient for me to go on with the story?

**Say**

Saul waited seven days. Then he got impatient. Saul didn’t want to wait anymore. He thought Samuel was taking too long.

**Ask**

• What should Saul do?

**Say**

Say, “Wait, Saul!” (Pause.) But Saul didn’t wait. He didn’t think God’s ways were important.

**Ask**

• What do you think happened to Saul when he didn’t wait to do things God’s way?

**Say**

Samuel was upset. God was upset. God wanted a king who would live according to his ways.

**Ask**

• What happens when we don’t wait to do things God’s way?

• What can we learn from Saul?

**Say**

Let’s not be like Saul. Let’s take time to do things God’s way. Hold your footprints in your hands, and say, “God, your ways are important!”

Set the footprints aside. When it’s time to go home, give them to the children, and remind the children that God’s ways are important.

**Say**

Let’s praise God because his ways are important.

Take your toys away from your friends.

Share your toys with your friends.

Give lots of hugs.

Don’t feed your pet.

Feed your pet, and give it water.

**Say**

God’s ways are important! I’m glad you know some of those ways. Let’s jump up and tell God we love him!

**Pray**

Thank you, Jesus, for loving us. We thank you because your ways are important. We know you want us to be safe and happy. In Jesus’ name, amen.
my men are leaving and the Philistines will come against me any minute now and Samuel hasn’t come yet.” So Saul made the sacrifices himself!

**Ask**

- Was it wrong to offer sacrifices to God and seek his favor for the battle? (Yes, because Samuel was supposed to be there; no, because he got tired of waiting.)

- What did Saul do wrong? (Saul wasn’t patient; Saul didn’t trust God; Saul disobeyed God.)

**Say**

Saul got impatient and did things his way instead of waiting to do things God’s way. Put the balloon over the top of your bottle to represent the sacrifices Saul made without waiting for Samuel. Now I want you to carefully watch your balloon to see if anything happens. This is like God’s response to Saul’s sacrifices. Allow time for the children to watch their balloons. While you are waiting, go to each group and ask children if they see anything happening to the balloon.

Nothing is happening to your balloons because we put them on the bottles too soon. What we did is just like what Saul did. He made the sacrifices without waiting to do it God’s way. Samuel showed up just as Saul was finishing the sacrifices. Samuel was angry. God was angry. God said that he would not allow Saul’s kingdom to continue and that he would choose a new king.

Now let’s see what would have happened if Saul had waited and done things God’s way. Carefully take the balloon off the top of your bottle. Now I will add something to each of your bottles. It will represent Samuel coming and making the sacrifices. As soon as I add this ingredient to your bottle, put the balloon back on the bottle. Now we are waiting to do things the right way. Let’s see if anything will happen to our balloons. Go to each group, and add a tablespoon of lemon juice to each bottle. Encourage children to watch the balloon carefully.

**Ask**

- What happened to your balloon? (It got bigger; it almost popped.)

**Say**

What’s happening to the balloon is like what God said would have happened to Saul if he had not been impatient—if he had waited to do things God’s way. God would have enlarged Saul’s kingdom and established it over Israel for all time. How sad! Saul lost so much because he couldn’t wait to do things God’s way. Let’s explore what happens when we do things our way instead of the right way.

* “Baking Cookies”*

Show the Lesson Videos DVD segment titled “Baking Cookies.” It shows what happens when a cook makes bad choices instead of following a recipe.
Ask

• How did the video show that doing things the right way is important? (The cook made a gross cookie; the recipe didn't work right.)

• How is what happened on the video like what Saul did? (Saul didn't follow God; Saul wanted to do things his own way.)

• Have you been impatient and done something at the wrong time? Turn to a partner, and tell your partner about that time.

Have volunteers share their ideas with the rest of the group.

Say

We sometimes say that God’s ways are important, but our actions are proof of what we really believe. Let’s make sure we wait to do things when God tells us to do them to show God that we love him and that his ways are important to us. Think about something that you need to do at the right time to show God that you believe his ways are important. Then share that with the people near you. Give kids a few moments to share.

God loves us no matter what we do. And it’s because he loves us so much that he’s so happy when we do things his way. Let’s pause for a moment so each of us can offer God a silent prayer of praise because his ways are important.

Give children time to pray.

Change the Ending

Have kids form groups of three or four. Set out Bibles and the basket of papers with the names of Bible characters and Scripture references. Pass the basket around, and have each group take a paper.

Say

With your group, recall the story of the Bible character on your paper. Use your Bibles to look up the story if you don’t remember it. Then talk about how your character did or didn’t follow God’s ways at the right time. Give kids a few minutes to do this, then have them discuss with their group the following question.

Ask

• Did your character think God’s ways were important? What evidence do you have? (Yes, because he did what God said and built the ark; no, because he ran away from God and got swallowed by a big fish.)

Say

Now, in your group, come up with a different ending to the story by having your character make a different choice. For example, maybe Noah got impatient and didn’t want to take the time to build the ark the way God said. Or maybe he didn’t wait for any animals to come to the ark. I’ll give you two minutes to make up a new ending for your character’s story. Circulate among the groups, and make sure they change the character’s actions and choices, not God’s. For example, rather than have God tell Noah it’s OK to only bring in one of each animal, kids should change Noah’s actions.
Give kids two minutes to make up a new ending, then get their attention.

Say Now, in your group, discuss how your character’s choices had an impact on things. In other words, did it matter whether or not he or she did things God’s way? Describe how it made a difference.

After giving kids a few minutes to discuss this, have each group briefly share its new endings and what the kids discovered about the significance of doing things God’s way.

Ask • Do the choices your characters made affect you and me today? Explain your answer. (Yes, because we wouldn’t be here if everyone had been killed in the flood; no, because it happened a long time ago.)

• Does it matter if we think God’s ways are important? Why or why not? (Yes, because we need to obey God; yes, because God knows what’s best.)

Say The consequences of not following God’s ways at the right time can be serious. Every time we don’t follow God’s ways, we’re telling God we don’t think his ways are important. That’s what Saul did. Let’s not be like him! Let’s choose to love God and obey him because his ways are important.

Let’s Pray!

The Offering

Have the children form one large circle.

Say God’s ways are important. He shows us his ways so that we’ll know how to follow him. We’re going to take the offering by passing the bowl around the circle. As we pass it around, notice the person who’s holding it and silently pray for that person to wait to do things God’s way this week.

God’s Good Ways

Set out the bags of M&M’s candies that kids put together when they first arrived. Be sure you have a bag for each child, and hand them out.

Say When you get your bag of M&M’s, take the M&M’s out and hold them in your hand, but don’t eat them.

When everyone has a bag, have children take turns praising God for as many different things as he or she has M&M’s. For example, if the first child has three M&M’s, he might pray, “Thank you, God, because your ways are important. Thank you for loving me and for sending Jesus to us.” Make sure everyone gets a chance to pray.
You did a good job praising God for his ways! One of God’s ways is to always give us more than we could ever give him. Think about that when you eat these M&M’s today. I’m glad his ways are always good!

Pass out the extra M&M’s, and let kids eat them.

Following Your Path

As we close today, let’s sing “Trust and Obey.” With this song, we’ll tell God that we want to follow his path. As you sing, tell God you love him and his ways are important.

Sing “Trust and Obey.”

Lyrics are in the back of this book.

God, we thank you because you are good and your ways are important. Help us choose you and your ways—not out of fear, but out of love for you. You are a great God, and we want to serve you. We love you, Jesus. In Jesus’ name, amen.
Encouragement for Leaders

Dear God, thank you for the encouragement I can always find in your Word. Help me remember your teachings and always speak encouraging words to the students in my class. In Jesus’ name, amen.

**Worship Theme:**

God knows us.

**Weaving Faith Into Life:**

Kids will praise God for knowing everything about them.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session Sequence</th>
<th>What Children Will Do</th>
<th>Supplies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Let’s Praise God!** *(up to 25 minutes)* | **Sing**  
- “This Is the Day” (Psalm 118:24) (track 18)  
- “The Lord Looks at the Heart” (1 Samuel 16:7b) (track 20)  
- “My Jesus, He Loves Me” (track 4)  
- “The Plans I Have for You” (Jeremiah 29:11) (track 11)  
- “And We Know” (Romans 8:28) (track 15)  
- “Everything We Need” (track 5) | **KidsOwn Worship Kit:**  
- Songs From FaithWeaver  
- Lesson Videos DVD:  
  - “C. Lou Less, Talent Agent”  
**Classroom Supplies:**  
- CD player, TV, DVD player,  
- 1 photocopy of the “Who’s Who” page (at the end of this session) per 4 kids, scissors, pencils, modeling dough, Bible |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session Sequence</th>
<th>What Children Will Do</th>
<th>Supplies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Let’s Learn the Point!** *(up to 25 minutes)* | **What’s Inside?** *(about 8 minutes)*  
Guess what’s inside common boxes and learn that God knows what’s inside. | **Classroom Supplies:**  
- Three identifiable boxes, egg carton, “unexpected” items, treats, grocery bag |
|                  | **Who Will Be King?** *(about 9 minutes)*  
Hear the Bible story. | **Classroom Supplies:**  
- Aluminum-foil crown, heart stickers |
|                  | **Praise Dance** *(about 8 minutes)*  
Thank God for knowing us. | **Classroom Supplies:**  
- CD of children’s praise songs, CD player |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session Sequence</th>
<th>What Children Will Do</th>
<th>Supplies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Let’s Learn the Point! (up to 25 minutes)</strong></td>
<td><strong>Name That Face (about 8 minutes)</strong>&lt;br&gt;Match people to descriptions, and learn that only God knows what’s on the inside.</td>
<td>Classroom Supplies: Magazine pictures, tape, index cards, pencils, scissors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>A Kingly Candidate (about 8 minutes)</strong>&lt;br&gt;Create a candidate for king, and learn the Bible story.</td>
<td>Classroom Supplies: Bible, poster board, paper, pencils, markers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Heart of Hearts (about 9 minutes)</strong>&lt;br&gt;Design fold-out heart necklaces to see what God knows about them.</td>
<td>Classroom Supplies: Photocopies of the “Heart of Hearts” handout (at the end of this session), pens, scissors, markers, yarn, hole punch</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session Sequence</th>
<th>What Children Will Do</th>
<th>Supplies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Let’s Pray! (up to 10 minutes)</strong></td>
<td><strong>The Offering (about 3 minutes)</strong>&lt;br&gt;Offer their gifts and their hearts to God.</td>
<td>Classroom Supplies: Offering bowls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Round the Clock (about 4 minutes)</strong>&lt;br&gt;Pantomime what they do ‘round the clock, and thank God for seeing them all the time.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>God Knows Me (about 3 minutes)</strong>&lt;br&gt;Participate in a responsive prayer based on Psalm 139 to thank God for knowing them.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Starred activities can be used successfully with preschool and elementary children together. Customize your session to fit your needs. You can separate preschoolers and elementary children for Section 2. Or, if you keep the children all together for the entire worship session, we suggest you choose from the starred activities.
First Samuel 14–15 describes Israelite victories under the leadership of Saul and his son, Jonathan. The Philistines were routed (1 Samuel 14:22, 31). Saul then fought and won against enemies on every side, freeing Israel from the oppression it had been under (1 Samuel 14:47-48). But Saul again made a big mistake. God directed Saul to attack the Amalekites and to totally destroy them because the Amalekites had resisted the Israelites when they came from Egypt toward the Promised Land (1 Samuel 15:1-3). The Amalekites were known for attacking defenseless villages in Israel, killing people, and taking everything—leaving those left alive without food. God wanted Israel to avenge the Amalekites' cruelty and to destroy them entirely. God also knew that some of the valuables the Israelites might want to keep would be the Amalekites' idols, and God wanted to protect his people from practices of idolatry.

Instead of wiping out everything, Saul spared the king's life and kept the best of the sheep and cattle. Once again, Saul disobeyed a direct command from God, doing what he thought would be most profitable for himself. As a result, God decided it was time to select another king.

God again directed Samuel to the one who would be king of Israel. Samuel did what God told him to do and found himself looking over Jesse's sons for the one who would replace Saul. Even Samuel was apparently expecting someone strong and tall, as Saul had been, but God had other plans. His statement should echo in our minds today: "Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart" (1 Samuel 16:7b).

Apparently, David didn't look very kingly at this point in his life. The evidence suggests that he may have been only about 12 when he was anointed by Samuel to be the next king. However, he had apparently developed in strength and courage as he tended his father's sheep. The fact that God chose David after emphasizing the importance of his heart tells us that David's heart must have been right before God.

Devotion for Leaders

Jesus isn't most concerned that we look like good Christians; appearance really doesn't matter much. What Jesus wants most is for our hearts to be totally devoted to him.

Weaving Faith Into Your Life: Reread 1 Samuel 16:7. When have you done some act of service at church, even though your heart really wasn't in it, just to avoid looking bad in front of others? How honored do you think God was by your actions? God has done so much for us! Seek daily to keep your heart focused on God.
Why We Worship for Leaders

Samuel surprised everyone by choosing David to be king. The youngest of Jesse's sons and only a shepherd boy, he seemed the most unlikely candidate. But, to God, the choice was perfect because he alone could see into the hearts of men. He knew that David had a heart that loved him and would obey him. Those are the qualifications God wants. God looks beyond physical characteristics, personality, and cultural trappings to find people whose hearts are his.

God knows us in an intensely personal way. He created us and knows us better than anyone, better than even we know ourselves. Because God knows us so intimately, we can enjoy an honest relationship with him. We can trust his plans for our future and respond to him with love and obedience, as David did. Let's praise God for knowing us so deeply.

Easy Prep for Leaders

Let's Praise God!

- Set up a TV and DVD player, and cue the Lesson Videos DVD to “C. Lou Less, Talent Agent.” Watch the segment at least once before the worship session so you’ll be familiar with it.
- Make copies of the “Who’s Who” lists at the end of this session, and cut the lists apart. You’ll need one list for each child. Set modeling dough and an easy-to-understand translation of the Bible on a table in the worship area.

Name That Face—Cut out five pictures of people from magazines. Use full-page pictures, if possible, and choose pictures that are the opposite of what you would expect from the descriptions (see activity). Label the pictures A to E. Tape the pictures to the wall, or pin them on a bulletin board, where all the children can see them. You’ll need an index card and pencil for every three or four children.

1 Let’s Praise God!

Play Songs From FaithWeaver as children arrive. Ask two children to help you welcome everyone who comes into the room. Ask them to greet children by name, hand them a “Who’s Who” list and a pencil, and tell them to find others in the room who fit the categories on the list and write their names in the spaces provided. Pair preschoolers with older children to work on a list together.

After a few minutes, say:

Welcome, everyone! I’m glad you came to children’s church today. We’re here to worship God because he knows us. No one knows or understands you better than God. Let’s rejoice about that!

Sing “This Is the Day” (Psalm 118:24).

Lyrics are in the back of this book.
You may not know the names of all the people in this room or in the church today, but God does. He knows everyone! Listen to John 10:3b: “He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.” He knows your name! Take a minute to say hello to the people next to you and call them by name. If you don’t know a person’s name, find out what it is, and tell your name, too.

Give children a few moments to greet each other.

Let’s look at the “Who’s Who” lists you worked on when you arrived today. Ask if anyone filled out all seven categories, six categories, or five categories.

Did you learn something new about anyone? Tell us about it. (Answers will vary.)

When children finish sharing, read each item, and have kids raise their hands if they fit that category.

This game is a fun way to get to know a little bit about one another. But these descriptions tell only a very small part about us. God knows everything about each of us because he made us. No matter what your life is like right now—whether you’re happy or sad or mad or glad—God knows all about it. We might only get to know bits and pieces of each other, but God knows us inside and out.

Sing “The Lord Looks at the Heart” (1 Samuel 16:7b).

God knows us. He knows we need love and safety in our lives to be happy. Our next song says that God will protect us. He’s like a shield.

Sing “My Jesus, He Loves Me.”

Let’s watch a video that shows how important it is to know people well.

Show the Lesson Videos DVD segment titled, “C. Lou Less, Talent Agent.”

Would you say that C. Lou knew his clients well? Why or why not? (No, because he always gave them the wrong jobs; no, because he didn’t care about them.)

If he had known his clients better, what kinds of jobs would he have gotten for them? (He would have gotten them the right jobs; he would have given the swimmer a swimming job.)

Why is it good for us that God knows us even better than we know ourselves? (God knows what jobs to give us; God knows what’s best for us.)

How does knowing that God knows all about you make you
feel about him? (It makes me feel good; I feel safe.)

God knows you. He created you for a purpose. That means he made you just as you are, and he likes you. No matter what you think of yourself, God thinks you’re pretty special. God has a plan picked out just for you. He wants to use you for good things in this life.

Sing “The Plans I Have for You” (Jeremiah 29:11).

Lyrics are in the back of this book.

Show kids the modeling dough.

Our lives are a little bit like this dough. We’re all made of skin and bones and muscles and things, just like this dough is all made out of the same material.

Begin making two different items with the dough as you talk. The items can be as simple as two different sizes or shapes of snowmen or two different cookie-cutter shapes. Or, if you’re artistically inclined, they could be people or animals. When you finish the items, have a volunteer stand and hold them so everyone can see them.

But in God’s hands, each one of us becomes special. He makes each of us like no one else on earth. How God creates each of us depends on what he plans to do with us.

Have you ever wished you could be someone else? Have you ever thought that God must have made a mistake when he made you? Well, listen to what the Bible says about that.

Have a child read Romans 9:20-21 from an easy-to-understand version of the Bible.

That passage means God knows what he’s doing with you! So don’t ask or wish to be someone else. Don’t compare yourself to other people. That would be as silly as if [name of one of the things you made] told me it wanted to be [the other item you made], God wants you to be you! He never makes mistakes. Everything he does is very, very good. And that includes you!

Sing “And We Know” (Romans 8:28).

Lyrics are in the back of this book.

God is the Father who cares for you. He knows you and loves you. As we sing the next song, tell God how much he means to you.

Sing “Everything We Need.”

Lyrics are in the back of this book.

Dear God, thank you for being our creator. We praise you because you know us better than anyone else does. You call us by name, and you have good plans for us. Lord, you’re the best. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Worship Leader Tip
If you have time, hand out 3 ounces of modeling dough to all the children and have them all make something.
2 Let’s Learn the Point!

Preschool Activities, pages 119-120

At this time, have the preschool leader invite the preschoolers to go to their own room for this section of activities. Tear out the Preschool Activities page, and give it to the preschool leader. Have the preschool leader bring the preschoolers back to participate in Let’s Pray! with the older children. If you prefer to keep all the children together, do the starred (*) activities. They work well with both elementary and preschool children.

Elementary Activities

* Name That Face

Have kids form groups of three or four. Give each group an index card and a pencil. Tell groups to write the numbers 1 through 5 down the side of the card.

Say Today we’re learning that God knows us. Let’s see how much we know about people just by looking at them.

Point out the magazine pictures taped to the wall.

Say I’m going to describe some interesting things about these people. After I read the description, discuss with your group which person—A through E—you believe matches what I read. Give reasons for your answers, and come to an agreement in your group. Then write the letter for that picture next to the number. Let’s begin.

Read the following descriptions, allowing a few minutes between each description for kids to discuss the pictures and choose one they think matches the description. Don’t reveal the correct answers until all the descriptions have been read.

Say

1. This person is a computer whiz! He or she tutors young people in computer skills at a neighborhood after-school program. Which person—A through E—does this describe? (The picture could be a senior citizen or a young mom.)

2. This person won the state fair’s blue ribbon for baking his or her famous apple pie. (The picture could be a teenager or a doctor.)

3. This person has a full-time job, but his or her real love is watercolor painting. (The picture could be a bodybuilder or a construction worker.)

4. This person passed a hunter-safety course last fall and has gone duck hunting, goose hunting, and pheasant hunting. (The picture could be an elderly lady or a teenage girl.)

(continued on page 121)
Preschool Activities

God Chooses David to Replace Saul

1 Samuel 16:1-13

Worship Theme:

God knows us.

Easy Prep for Leaders

What’s Inside?—Collect three boxes that children can easily identify, such as a shoe box, a cereal box, and a crayon box. Remove the contents of the boxes, and put something unexpected—a piece of jewelry, a pack of gum, or a small toy, for example—inside each one. Put enough candy treats in an empty egg carton for each child to have one. Hide the boxes in a paper grocery bag, with the egg carton on the bottom.

Who Will Be King?—Use aluminum foil or construction paper to make a child-size crown.

* What’s Inside?

Have children sit on the floor, and set the grocery bag of boxes near you.

I brought some boxes with me today. Let’s look at them. See if you can tell what’s inside. Show children the boxes one by one, leaving the egg carton in the bag. Ask what they think is inside.

Sometimes when we look at something, we see only the outside. We think we know what’s inside by what the outside looks like. Let’s open our boxes to see if you were right.

Hold up the cereal box. This one is easy. It’s a cereal box. There should be cereal in here. Have a child open the box to find the surprise inside.

No cereal! There’s something special in there, instead. I thought it was just going to be plain old cereal! Set the box aside. Open the other boxes, except for the egg carton, and comment on them in the same way. Then have everyone stand up.

You remind me of these boxes. Move among the children, and touch each one on the head or shoulder as you continue. Your body is the package God put you in. We might look at you and say, “This is just a little boy” or “This is just a little girl.” But you’re much more than that.

Take out the egg carton.

We could look at this egg carton and say, “It’s just eggs.” But God knows what’s inside. Open the egg carton to reveal the candy treats. There’s something special in here! It’s just like you—special! God knows you and says you’re his special treasure.

Pass out the treats, and let children eat them.

ALLERGY ALERT

Be aware that some children have food allergies that can be dangerous. Know your children, and consult with parents about allergies their children may have. Also be sure to read food labels carefully as hidden ingredients can cause allergy-related problems.

Using Theo

Consider using Theophilus the FaithRetriever puppet today in these ways:

• Have Theo lead the preschoolers from the main worship area to the preschool room.
• Have Theo affirm the children in the “Who Will Be King?” activity.
• See the KidsOwn Worship Kit for a puppet skit written for today’s worship session.
Preschool Activities

Who Will Be King?

Be ready to provide fancy heart stickers, one per child.

Say One day, God told a man named Samuel to find a new king for his people. So Samuel went to see Jesse, who had a lot of sons. He looked at all of them, but none seemed right. Samuel asked Jesse, “Are you sure these are all of your sons? Is there anyone else?” Jesse said, “Well, my youngest son, David, is out in the pasture, watching the sheep. But he’s just a boy.” “Bring him in!” Samuel said.

Choose a child to stand next to you. Have one of the fancy heart stickers hidden in the palm of your hand. Gently put your hand with the heart sticker in it on the child’s back to stick the heart to the child’s clothing. Try to do this so that the children don’t notice.

Say God told Samuel, “Yes, this is the one to be king.” Place the crown on the child. Everyone was surprised that God would choose a little shepherd boy to be the king. [Name of child]

Praise Dance

You’ll need a CD of children’s praise songs and a CD player.

Say We’re learning today that God knows us. Let’s praise God for that. When I turn on the music, you can dance and move around the room to thank God for knowing us. When I stop the music, freeze in place. Can you do that? Let’s try. Play the music for a few moments, then stop it, and wait for everyone to freeze. Good job, everyone! Now this time, when you freeze, shout out, “God knows us!” Then we’ll do it again.

Say God saw that David had a beautiful heart—a heart that loved God and was ready to serve him in any way. Nobody thought David would make a good king. But God knew he was just the right one. God sees your heart, too. He has something special for you to do, just as he did for David. You are something special to God, just as David was.

As you have each child stand in turn, put the crown on that child, and say something affirming. For example, you might say, “God knows all about [name of child]. [Name of child] is a little girl, but someday she might be [name several possibilities, such as a missionary, mother, or athlete]. But best of all, she is God’s child.” Then put a fancy heart sticker on the child’s shirt. Repeat the activity for each child.

Repeat the activity several times. Then have everyone sit down.

Pray It’s so much fun to praise you, God! We love you and thank you for knowing us. Thank you for making us your treasures. Help us be like David and love you more than anything in the world. In Jesus’ name, amen.
5. This person volunteers in the recreation department of a large nursing home. She or he helps take the residents on outings or sits and visits with them. (The picture could be a bodybuilder, a model, or a child.)

After all the descriptions are read, ask a few groups to share which pictures they chose for each description. Make sure they give reasons for their choices. Then reveal the pictures you chose beforehand to be the “right” answers.

Ask  • Which of these surprised you the most? (I didn’t think the teenager would do that job; I think the descriptions didn’t match the pictures at all.)

Say  • This was just a game. These people are all fictitious. But the point is that making guesses about people based on their age, their race, or any other outward appearance is not a good thing to do. It’s called stereotyping. When we stereotype someone, we decide something about the person because of how he or she looks without really knowing him or her. Usually we do this without realizing it. And many times, we’re totally wrong!

Ask  • Have you ever stereotyped someone and found out you were wrong? Tell us about it. (Answers will vary.)

Say  • Have you ever felt that someone was stereotyping you? Explain. (Yes, because I wear glasses; no, because there’s nothing really different about me.)

Say  • In today’s Bible story, we learn that God never stereotypes people. He always looks beyond appearances, right into our hearts. He made us and knows us, inside and out.

* A Kingly Candidate

Have children form seven groups. A group can be as small as two children, but don’t put more than four people in each group. If you have more than 28 children, form more groups.

Give each group a piece of poster board, a sheet of paper, pencils, and markers.

Say  • There came a time in the history of Israel when the people needed to choose a new king. Usually a new king was the son of the previous king. But Israel’s king, Saul, had disobeyed God, and God decided to choose someone other than Saul’s son to be the new king.

Your job is to make up a person who wants to be the new king of Israel. Choose a name for this man, and think about what qualities he should have. Write a short biography that includes these qualities. Then draw a picture of your candidate to show what you think a good prospective king should look like.
Give the groups 10 minutes to work on their projects. Then have each group show its candidate for king to the rest of the group.

**Say** All of these candidates look like they’d make good kings!

**Ask** • What qualities do you think a good king should have? (He should be fair; he should be smart; he should be rich.)

**Say** When our country needs a new president, we hold a national election. The candidate who wins the election becomes our new president. It didn’t work that way in Bible times, though. The Bible tells us that God sent the priest named Samuel to anoint a new king. God had already chosen the new king—the people of Israel didn’t elect him king.

Open your Bible to 1 Samuel 16:1-13.

**Say** Samuel would anoint God’s choice with oil in a special ceremony that would set him apart as the future king. Here’s what happened.

God told Samuel to go to the town where Jesse lived and prepare to make a sacrifice to God. Samuel did just as he said. He went to Jesse’s town. Seven of Jesse’s sons were there. Jesse had each of the seven sons pass by Samuel.

Hold up one of the group’s posters.

**Say** Samuel thought the first son he saw was surely the one God had chosen to be king. He was tall and good-looking. But God said, “Don’t make a judgment based on his looks. I look at the condition of his heart.”

Hold up another group’s poster.

**Say** The next son passed by Samuel. But God had not chosen him either.

Have the rest of the groups hold up their posters one by one. Continue to say, “The next son passed by Samuel. But God had not chosen him either.” When you’ve talked about seven sons,

**Say** Seven of Jesse’s sons passed by Samuel. But God hadn’t chosen any of them to be the new king. Samuel asked Jesse if he had any more sons. Jesse replied that the youngest son was out in the field taking care of the sheep.

Samuel told Jesse to send for him.

When the youngest boy came in from the pastures, God told Samuel that this was the one who would be the new king of Israel. So he anointed Jesse’s youngest son, David, with oil. David was to be the new king.

**Ask** • Why do you think God chose David to be king? (Because that’s who he wanted; because he knew David would do a good job.)

**Say** God made us, and he knows all about us. He had plans for David. God knew that David would be a good king. God has plans for us, too. God knows what’s best for us because God sees what’s in our hearts.
Heart of Hearts

Say If you think about it, different people know you on different levels. Some people might know only your name, but a close friend knows a lot about you. And God knows things about you that you might not even know yourself. I’m sure David never suspected that he’d be a king! Let’s make something that illustrates people knowing us on different levels.

Distribute copies of the “Heart of Hearts” handout. Have the kids cut out the pattern then turn the pattern over, blank side up. When they’re ready, have them fold the hearts in this order:

1. Fold the right heart to the inside.
2. Fold the left heart to the inside.
3. Fold the bottom heart up.
4. Fold the top heart down. (The name and date lines should be on top.) Wait until everyone gets to this point. Then have kids flip the top heart up.

Say In this heart space, write something that a stranger would notice about you—for example, your hair color, what you’re wearing, or your smile. Have kids fold the heart down.

In this heart space, write something that an acquaintance—someone you know just a little bit—would know about you. You might put a hobby, a favorite food, or the street you live on. Have the kids fold this heart to the left.

In the next heart space, write a secret that only a good friend or a family member would know about you—where you were born, your most embarrassing moment, or your ultimate dream vacation, for example. Have the kids fold this heart to the right, revealing the “secret” heart.

Pretend that this last space is the most secret, hidden place in your heart. God sees even this space! Write a message to him here. Remember, no one will see this space except you and God.

Let kids decorate their hearts with markers. Then punch two holes near the top of the folded hearts and string a piece of yarn through the holes to make a necklace.

Say God knows us better than any person ever can. His plans are best for us because he knows us so well. Let’s trust God this week to help us in every situation because he knows us.
Let’s Pray!

The Offering

Say Today we learned that God knows us better than anyone else. During our offering today, give money if you brought it, but also offer God your heart—that part of you that no one else knows but him. Let’s do that by making the sign for heart and then pretending to place it in the offering bowl when it comes to you. Tell God you love him and want to be like David.

Show kids how to sign “heart” by using both index fingers to trace a heart shape, from top to bottom, on their chests.

Take the offering.

‘Round the Clock

Say Psalm 139 tells us that God sees us wherever we are, at all times of the day and night. That’s really amazing when you consider that people all over the world do different things at different times. Let’s see what you do each hour of the day. When I say a time, you pantomime what you usually do at that time. Let’s pretend it’s Saturday morning at 7:00.

Wait while kids pantomime what they do at that time. Remind them that what they do might not be the same for everyone. Then select four or five different times in the next 24 hours, and announce them one at a time. Several times during the activity, say, “God knows you and loves you all the time!” as children pantomime.

Say It’s so good to know that God always has his eye on us! Remember this week that God knows you. He’ll be with you wherever you go and whatever you do.

God Knows Me

Say Let’s end our session today by praising God with a prayer taken from Psalm 139. After each line I read, you’ll say, “You know all about me!” Ready?
Leader: Oh Lord, you look into my heart.

Children: You know all about me!

Leader: You know when I sit down and when I stand. You even know what I’m thinking.

Children: You know all about me!

Leader: You know all of my habits.

Children: You know all about me!

Leader: You know what I’m going to say even before I say it!

Children: You know all about me!

Leader: If I say, "I'll hide in the dark—God won't find me there," you'll find me! The darkness is as clear as day to you.

Children: You know all about me!

Leader: You created me before I was even born and formed me inside my mother!

Children: You know all about me!

Leader: I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made!

Children: You know all about me!

Leader: You have plans for my life that are good.

Everyone: You know all about me!

Pray: God, thank you for loving us and knowing us. You know everything about us, even the stuff that we don’t know. Help us to trust you to guide our lives and lead us into the great plans you have for each one of us. We love you, Jesus. In Jesus’ name, amen.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Who’s Who</th>
<th>Who’s Who</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Someone who wears glasses</td>
<td>Someone who wears glasses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Someone who plays an instrument</td>
<td>Someone who plays an instrument</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Someone who plays on a sports team</td>
<td>Someone who plays on a sports team</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Someone who can say hello in another language</td>
<td>Someone who can say hello in another language</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Someone whose favorite color is the same as yours</td>
<td>Someone whose favorite color is the same as yours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Someone who likes to eat pizza for breakfast</td>
<td>Someone who likes to eat pizza for breakfast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Someone who is wearing red</td>
<td>Someone who is wearing red</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Heart of Hearts

Directions: Cut along the solid lines.

GOD LOOKS AT THE HEART!

Name: __________________
Date: __________________

Something a good friend might know:

Something an acquaintance might know:

Something a stranger might see:
### Worship Theme:
- God can use anyone.

### Weaving Faith Into Life:
- Children will learn that God can use them.

### Session Sequence | What Children Will Do | Supplies
--- | --- | ---
1. **Let’s Praise God!** *(up to 25 minutes)*  
**Sing**  
- “The Strength I Need” (Philippians 4:13) (track 23)  
- “Trust in the Lord” (Proverbs 3:5-6) (track 6)  
- “The Plans I Have for You” (Jeremiah 29:11) (track 11)  
- “My Help Comes From the Lord” (Psalm 121:2) (track 2)  
- “Those Who Hope” (Isaiah 40:31) (track 9)  
- “Praise the Lord” (Psalm 150:6) (track 13)  
- “Trust and Obey” (track 8)  
**KidsOwn Worship Kit:**  
**Songs From FaithWeaver**  
**Classroom Supplies:**  
CD player, stones, heavy object, board, block

### Preschool

### Session Sequence | What Children Will Do | Supplies
--- | --- | ---
2. **Let’s Learn the Point!** *(up to 25 minutes)*  
**David and Goliath** *(about 9 minutes)*  
Make puppets to use to tell the Bible story.  
**Classroom Supplies:**  
Copies of “David and Goliath” (at the end of this session), large and small paper plates, markers, scissors, stapler, elastic

**A Surprise Ending** *(about 8 minutes)*  
Use puppets in a story-song.  
**Classroom Supplies:**  
“David” and “Goliath” puppets

**Thank You, God** *(about 8 minutes)*  
Celebrate that God can use them.
## Session 10 • KidsOwn Worship

### Elementary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session Sequence</th>
<th>What Children Will Do</th>
<th>Supplies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Let’s Learn the Point!** *(up to 25 minutes)* | *What a Team* *(about 8 minutes)*  
See how God used a small boy to solve a giant problem. | **Classroom Supplies:**  
Photocopies of the “David” and “Goliath” cards (see activity), scissors, foil |
| | **”The Hero You Can Be”** *(about 9 minutes)*  
Watch a DVD segment about how it feels to have Jesus living in them. | **KidsOwn Worship Kit:**  
Lesson Videos DVD: “The Hero You Can Be”  
**Classroom Supplies:**  
TV, DVD player |
| | *It Fits Like a Glove* *(about 8 minutes)*  
Relate the function of gloves to how God uses us. | **Classroom Supplies:**  
5 pairs of different gloves, paper, pencils, Bibles |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session Sequence</th>
<th>What Children Will Do</th>
<th>Supplies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Let’s Pray!** *(up to 10 minutes)* | **The Offering** *(about 3 minutes)*  
Give their offerings and thank God for using them. | **Classroom Supplies:**  
Offering bowls, stones from Let’s Praise God! |
| | **Prayer Chain** *(about 4 minutes)*  
Beginning with the youngest, say a prayer to thank God for using us. | |
| | **Live in Harmony** *(about 3 minutes)*  
Recall God’s unique plans. | **KidsOwn Worship Kit:**  
Songs From FaithWeaver: “Live in Harmony” *(Romans 12:16)*  
(track 19)  
**Classroom Supplies:**  
CD player |

* Starred activities can be used successfully with preschool and elementary children together.  
Customize your session to fit your needs. You can separate preschoolers and elementary children for Section 2.  
Or, if you keep the children all together for the entire worship session, we suggest you choose from the starred activities.
Samuel’s anointing David as the next king of Israel was apparently kept secret. It’s possible that even David’s family didn’t realize exactly what had happened and that they thought David was being anointed for some special service to God.

When David was asked to play the harp to soothe Saul’s troubled spirit (1 Samuel 16:23), Saul was completely unaware that David was to replace him as king. David served Saul faithfully, and Saul liked him so much that the king made David one of his armorbearers. This exposure to the workings of leading a nation was likely a great training experience for David, even though Saul had no idea he was training his replacement!

In reading the story of David and Goliath, it may seem strange that two armies would occupy hills opposite each other and wait for 40 days without attacking. However, if either army rushed down its hill and across the valley and then tried to rush up the other hill to attack, that army would likely suffer tremendous casualties. So each army waited for the other to attack first.

In ancient times, when “champions” such as Goliath were designated to fight as representatives of their armies, the outcome of the entire battle was to rest on that one fight. However, the results of that fight were thought to be controlled more by the gods of the warriors than by the strength or cunning of the warriors themselves. Saul apparently wasn’t confident enough in his God to face Goliath. Fortunately, David was!

One might wonder how David killed a giant the size and strength of Goliath with a sling and a stone. We tend to think of the “five smooth stones” as pebbles, maybe as big around as a quarter. However, each one was probably bigger than a baseball. The impact of such a stone, which could be slung at a speed of about 100 miles per hour by someone skilled with a sling, would definitely be sufficient to kill a man.

The mighty Saul, who stood a head taller than the other Israelites, was afraid to fight Goliath. But David, who was probably only 17 or 18 years old at the time, knew that God was with the Israelites and that God would defeat Goliath. Anyone who trusts fully in God can do great things for him!

Devotion for Leaders

No matter who we are, when Jesus is our friend and our lives are devoted to following him, he can do exciting things through us.

Weaving Faith Into Your Life: It wasn’t the great warrior David who killed Goliath; it was the humble shepherd boy. When have you done something for God that you didn’t feel qualified to do? How did God respond? What great things might God be waiting to do through you? Thank God for the chances he gives you to do great things for—and through—him.
Why We Worship for Leaders

Today we worship the God who can use anyone—young, old, rich, poor, educated, or unschooled. David was the youngest son in a family of many strong, handsome sons. His brothers appeared to be more accomplished, yet God chose David to be the king of Israel. And even though David was the youngest son, he was the one God used to slay Goliath. God knew what he could accomplish through David.

God will use your children to bring him honor, too! He has already planted within them gifts and talents that can be nurtured into magnificent acts of service. We worship God because he uses potential often missed by the human eye to bring about miracles that cause generations to praise his mighty power.

Easy Prep for Leaders

Let's Praise God!—Provide a small stone for each child; a heavy object, such as a sandbag or a large landscaping rock, that a small child cannot easily lift; a board to use as a lever; and a block to use as a fulcrum. Test the setup to make sure the lever will lift the heavy object safely. Put the lever away until time to use it.

What a Team—Photocopy the “David” and “Goliath” cards (see activity), cut them apart, and fold the “David” cards on the dotted line. One quarter of the children will get the “David” cards; three quarters will get the “Goliath” cards.

“The Hero You Can Be”—Set up a TV and DVD player, and cue the Lesson Videos DVD to “The Hero You Can Be.” Watch the segment at least once before the worship session so you’ll be familiar with it.

It Fits Like a Glove—Collect five different kinds of gloves. Try to include garden gloves, rubber gloves, plastic gloves, boxing gloves, and winter gloves.

1 Let’s Praise God!

Play Songs From FaithWeaver as children arrive. Hand each child a small stone, and say, “God can use anyone!” Ask children to put the stones in their pockets, backpacks, or socks.

When they’ve done this,

Say Hello, everyone! Today we worship because God can use anyone to accomplish his plans.

Ask • When you choose teams for baseball, what kind of players do you want? (Fast players; my friends; smart players.)

Say God doesn’t need the best, the fastest, or the strongest. God looks at things differently. God is the best and the strongest, so God can use the smallest, the slowest, the weakest—anyone! Let’s sing “The Strength I Need” and praise God that he can use us no matter who we are.
Sing “The Strength I Need” (Philippians 4:13).

Lyrics are in the back of this book.

**Say**

God’s kingdom is very different from the way we are used to looking at things. It’s not about who or what you are; it’s about who God is. God does mighty things, and he uses us when we trust in him and obey him. Let’s sing “Trust in the Lord.”

Sing “Trust in the Lord” (Proverbs 3:5-6).

Lyrics are in the back of this book.

**Say**

God uses people to make good things happen all over the world. God has ideas for how he can use you to carry out his plans.

Sing “The Plans I Have for You” (Jeremiah 29:11).

Lyrics are in the back of this book.

**Say**

God has a plan for you, and God can use you to carry out his plans. God’s plans don’t depend on how strong you are; they depend on how strong he is.

I have something very heavy here. Raise your hand if you think you can lift it. (Pause.) Raise your hand if you think it’s too heavy for you to lift.

Choose a child who raised his or her hand for the second option. Ask that child to try to lift it, but don’t allow the child to strain him- or herself.

**Say**

You were right. You’re not strong enough to lift it. God sometimes asks us to do things we’re not strong enough to do. But God can use you because God is strong enough. Let’s see how that might work.

Place a block on the floor to serve as a fulcrum. Place the board on the block, and put the heavy weight on one end of the board. Using the board as a lever, show the volunteer how to lift the heavy object by pushing down on the end of the board opposite the stone.

**Ask**

• Why was [name of child] able to lift the [object] this time?
  (Because the board helped; I don’t know, it doesn’t seem possible.)

**Say**

Just as I provided a way to give our volunteer extra strength, God provides ways for us to do what he wants us to do—he just wants us to ask! That’s why God can use anyone.

Sing “My Help Comes From the Lord” (Psalm 121:2).

Lyrics are in the back of this book.

**Ask**

• What do we mean when we say God is the rock? (We can trust God; God is strong.)

**Say**

God is strong, and God is great. And God can use anyone to accomplish his plan. God doesn’t depend on your strength; you depend on God’s strength. When you feel weak or tired or not
very capable, you can depend on God to give you new strength.

Let’s sing a Bible verse that reminds us about God’s promise.

Sing “Those Who Hope” (Isaiah 40:31).

Lyrics are in the back of this book.

**Ask**  
What can you do when you feel down or have troubles? (I talk to a friend; I pray.)

**Say**  
When you pray, God renews your strength so that you can serve him. God can use you for his purposes. One of God’s purposes is to show God’s love on the earth. God can use you to pass his love around to others. Raise your hand if you can think of a way God can use you to spread his love around. (Pause.) God can use anything that’s alive to praise him. Let’s sing “Praise the Lord.”

Sing “Praise the Lord” (Psalm 150:6).

Lyrics are in the back of this book.

**Say**  
We don’t have to worry about whether we’re good enough, strong enough, old enough, or smart enough for God to use us. As we give God our hands to serve, our mouths to speak, our ears to hear, and our feet to follow, God uses us. Let’s stand and give ourselves to God with a song.

Sing “Trust and Obey.”

Lyrics are in the back of this book.

**Pray**  
God, I thank you for making it possible for you to use each one of us to do your will. In Jesus’ name, amen.

2. Let’s Learn the Point!

**Preschool Activities, pp. 135-136**

At this time, have the preschool leader invite the preschoolers to go to their own room for this section of activities. Tear out the Preschool Activities page, and give it to the preschool leader. Have the preschool leader bring the preschoolers back to participate in Let’s Pray! with the older children. If you prefer to keep all the children together, do the starred (*) activities. They work well with both elementary and preschool children.
Elementary Activities

* What a Team

Help kids form two groups according to their ages. The oldest three-quarters of the children should be one group. The youngest one-quarter should be the other. Have the groups stand against opposite walls.

**Ask**

- If I were to tell you that you’re going to play in a dodge-ball tournament on these teams, who do you think would win? (The older team would win; the team with more people would win.)
- How about if we were to play Who Wants to Be a Millionaire? (The older team would win, because they’re smarter; no one would win, because it would be too hard.)
- How about if we were to have a spelling bee? a swim meet? a bike race? Why? (The older team would win, because they’re stronger; the bigger team would win, because they have more people.)

Ask the smaller group:

- Do you mind being younger and smaller than the other team? Why or why not? (Yes, because it’s not fair; no, because I will grow up someday.)

**Say**

That could be how David felt when he saw Goliath! Your side is going to be David as we review that story today, and the bigger side is going to be Goliath. Whenever I point to your side, you say the lines written on the card.

---

**David:**

I killed a bear; I killed a lion.
And God will help me with this giant.

-------------------

Killed the lion, killed the bear,
Now Goliath is history—so there!

**Goliath:**

The name’s Goliath, and I’m the best.
You’ve got no need to fight the rest.
Just send me your strongest man—
We’ll skip the war; that’s my plan.
We’ll be your servants if he kills me,
And you’ll be ours if I kill he.
Come on, Israel, I dare you!
Or can’t this God of yours see you through?

---

Permission to photocopy these cards from KidsOwn Worship® Leader Guide, Summer, granted for local church use. Copyright © Group Publishing, Inc. group.com

Give the teams the cards for the characters they’ll be portraying. Appoint a leader to read the lines with the large group. Read the lines with the small group yourself, and point out the two parts. Tell kids on the “David” team not to read the second part until you let them know it’s time to read it.

(continued on page 137)
Preschool Activities

David Defeats Goliath
1 Samuel 17:1-50

Worship Theme:

God can use anyone.

Easy Prep for Leaders

David and Goliath—Before the session, photocopy the “David and Goliath” handout (at the end of this session). Each child will need a full-size copy and a copy made at 50 percent. Cut out the bodies along the dotted lines. Provide one large and one small paper plate for each child.

Using Theo

Consider using Theophilus the FaithRetriever puppet today in these ways:

• Have Theo lead the preschoolers from the main worship area to the preschool room.
• Have Theo appear wearing a large hat (a helmet) and a large shirt (a breastplate) for “David and Goliath.”
• See the KidsOwn Worship Kit for a puppet skit written for today’s worship session.

Ask

• Which puppet is the biggest?
• Which puppet looks strongest?
• Which puppet looks smartest?
• Which one looks like the one you’d choose to help you win?

Say

Let’s use our puppets to tell the Bible story and find out the answers to these questions.

David and Goliath

To make Goliath puppets, have each child color a large body and draw a face on a large paper plate. Staple the paper plate to the body. Staple a 4-inch length of ¼-inch-wide elastic to the back of the paper plate horizontally.

Repeat the process with the small body and the small paper plate to make David puppets.

Say

Today we’re going to hear a story about a giant and a little guy.

A Surprise Ending

Have the children sit in a circle. Show them how to put the fingers of one hand in the elastic strap on the David puppet and the fingers of the other hand through the elastic strap on the Goliath puppet. Sing this song to the tune of “Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star,” encouraging the children to follow your lead.

Sing

Little David, youngest son, Hold up David puppet.
Go see how your brothers have done.
Take them food, and bring back news.
Leave your sheep at home to snooze.
Little David, youngest son,
Go see how your brothers have done.

David said he would fight the giant. Hold up the David puppet. Goliath thought that was funny! Hold up the Goliath puppet, and laugh in a deep voice.

Say

David’s brothers were away trying to protect God’s people from an army. David stayed home to take care of the family’s sheep. One day, his father sent him to check on his brothers. When

David found his brothers, he learned that God’s people had met a big bully. David’s brothers wanted him to go right home.

Sing

See the giant? Hear him shout? Hold up the Goliath puppet.
“Come and send a fighter out! I am big, and I am strong.
Send someone—we won’t fight long!”
See the giant? Hear him shout?
“Come and send a fighter out!”
FaithWeaver • Summer Quarter

Preschool Activities

**Sing**

See the giant! Hear him shout!
“Come and send a fighter out!
I don’t want to fight a boy!
Send him home to play with toys!”
See the giant! Hear him shout!
“Come and send a fighter out!”

**Say**

King Saul wanted David to borrow his armor so that he would be protected. But Saul’s armor was way too big for little David. David went to the river and picked up five rocks to put in his sling. David said, “God will keep me safe!” and off he went to fight Goliath.

**Sing**

“Hey, Goliath! My God’s strong! Hold up both puppets.
He will help me right your wrong.”
David raised and slung his sling. Rotate David puppet in circular motion.

Goliath fell and shook everything! Lower Goliath puppet to the floor and shake your hand from side to side.

“Hey, Goliath! My God’s strong! He helped me to right your wrong.” Raise David puppet high in victory.

**Ask**

- Who was really the strongest? Why?
- Which one would you want to help you win? Why?

**Say**

God used a little boy to protect his people from a big army. David’s story reminds us that God can use anyone—even little kids like you!

**Ask**

- How would you like God to use you?

**Say**

Those are big dreams! I don’t know if God will use you to do any of those things, but if we will obey him the way David did, God can use us in big ways, too. Repeat the song, allowing the children to act out the story again.

Thank You, God

**Say**

When David won the fight with Goliath, everyone in God’s army celebrated and remembered the God they served. We’re going to celebrate, too!

Have the children stand, then sing this song to the tune of “Hokey Pokey.” Encourage the children to follow the song’s directions.

**Sing**

You put your right foot in,
You take your right foot out,
You put your right foot in, and you shake it all about.
You know that God can use you, and it makes you want to shout—YEAH!
That’s what life’s all about! WHOO!

On the last line, slap your knees twice, clap your hands twice, put your hands on your shoulders, then raise them to the sky as you shout “Whoo!”

Repeat the song for different body parts.

**Say**

Raise your hand if you would like God to use you this week. (Pause.) Let’s pray and ask God to do that.

**Pray**

God, we thank you for making it so that you can use anyone. Please use each of us this week. Help us be a part of your big, beautiful picture. In Jesus’ name, amen.
Israel was being attacked by the Philistines. There was little chance of avoiding war. The camps were set up not far from each other. Every day the Philistines sent out one man to tease the Israelite army. Point to the large group, and have kids read their chant.

Goliath repeated his taunts every day for more than a month. There was not a man in the Israelite army who would go out to fight Goliath. So he just kept on terrorizing the Israelites, and they kept running away.

One day a young shepherd boy heard Goliath insult God. He was furious! Point to the younger group, then the older group, then the younger group again.

Everyone laughed and told David to go home. But David was confident. He knew that God had used him to protect little lambs against lions and bears. Surely, God would help him protect his people against a God-slurring giant! Point to the younger group.

King Saul tried to give David his armor as Goliath taunted again. Point to the larger group. While that group is chanting, wrap the smaller group together in one sheet of foil. Wrap the foil several times around the group, then ask them to try to walk.

Nice thought, Saul, but David had a better protector than that! Point to the smaller group, and rip off the foil as they chant.

David went to a stream and collected a handful of stones. David put one stone in his sling. That’s all it took. Indicate to the smaller group to read the second chant with you:

Killed the lion, killed the bear,

Now Goliath is history—so there!

Have the older group fall down, then have both groups be seated.

You may have had a pretty good idea how this story was going to end, but how do you feel when someone who’s smaller or weaker wins? (I’m proud of David; I know it doesn’t matter how big you are if God helps you.)

Do you think God could have used a giant to save the Israelites? Why or why not? (Yes, because God can use anyone; no, he wanted to use David.)

Why do you think God used David instead of a giant? (Because God wanted to show his power; because David believed God could use him that way.)

David didn’t have confidence in his own strength. He had confidence in God. Goliath had confidence in his own strength, and it let him and his whole army down. David was weaker than many of the grown men in the Israelite army, and God could have used any of them.
• Why do you think God chose to use David? (Because David was small; because David was the right person for the job.)

Say God can use anybody he wants to use. God works through people who are ready and confident in him, not themselves.

Ask • When do you think God uses you? (When he needs to get something done; when he wants me to do something nice for someone.)

Say Let’s watch a video that talks a bit about how God uses us.

* "The Hero You Can Be"

Show the Lesson Videos DVD segment titled “The Hero You Can Be.” It shows that, with God guiding them, kids can do anything.

Ask • Have you ever felt that you were too young or that you wished you were older? Tell us about it. (Answers will vary.)

• What specific things can young people accomplish with God’s help? (They can give their things to charity; they can work in their church; they can tell others about Jesus.)

Say Listen to this verse from the Bible. First Timothy 4:12 says, “Do not let anyone treat you as if you are unimportant because you are young. Instead, be an example to the believers with your words, your actions, your love, your faith, and your pure life” (New Century Version).

Ask • How can you be an example to other Christians? (By showing them how to follow God; I can tell them about God.)

• What obstacles get in the way? (Sometimes I’m selfish; sometimes I don’t listen to God; people think I’m too young.)

Say David had an important job to do. He was going to fight Goliath—a huge giant—even though he was a young boy. But God helped him feel 10 feet tall, and God helped him cut the giant Goliath down to size.

* It Fits Like a Glove

Have kids form five groups. Give each group a pair of gloves. If you have more than 25 children, have them form 10 groups, and give each group only one glove. Also give each group a Bible, a piece of paper, and a pencil.

Say I’m going to give your groups three minutes to come up with five uses for the gloves I’ve given you. Someone in your group should write down the uses, and someone else should be ready to tell the uses.
At the end of three minutes, call time and ask each group to report its two favorite uses for its glove. Ask someone from each group to bring a glove up and set it where everyone can see it. Ask these volunteers to take five steps away from the gloves they brought up and make their gloves do one of the things on their lists.

**Ask**

- **Are these gloves useless? Why or why not?** (No, because we had a lot of ideas; no, because there are lots of things you can do with them.)
- **Why can’t the gloves do what you want them to do?** (Because I’m too far away; because the gloves don’t work by themselves.)

Give each volunteer a chance to come to the glove and pantomime the thing the glove can be used for. Thank the children, and ask them to return to their groups.

- **What made the difference?** (I was allowed to touch the glove; I made the glove do what it was supposed to.)
- **Are all these gloves suited for the same purpose? Would you wash dishes with the garden gloves? Would you garden with the boxing gloves? Why or why not?** (No, because the gloves were made for different things; no, because the boxing gloves don’t have any fingers.)
- **What is the same about all these gloves?** (They all go on your hands; they all protect your skin.)
- **How are these gloves like us?** (They are all different; they can’t do things by themselves.)

**Say**

You came up with some wonderful and creative uses for each of these gloves, yet the gloves are all weak and powerless on their own. Each one has its own purpose, but unless it has a hand to power it, it’s useless. In the same way, each of us has a unique purpose. We are all usable, but we can only do what we’re made to do when we let God get inside to give us his power.

Choose someone in your group to look up Philippians 4:19 and Isaiah 40:29. Choose someone else to read the verses. Then trace your hands on a piece of paper to remind you of our gloves. Write what you believe God will do so that you can do what he asks. Allow several minutes to complete the activity.

**Pray**

God, we’ve learned a little about how you can use anyone—including us! Please help us to trust you to make us able to do your will. In Jesus’ name, amen.

**3 Let’s Pray!**

**The Offering**

Remind the children of the large object from the Let’s Praise God! activity and how it couldn’t be lifted until the lever was used.
• **Ask** What will God do about the obstacles we face? (God will take care of us; God will make the obstacles seem small.)

• **Say** We can praise and thank God because he can use any of us to accomplish his plans in the world. Even when he asks us to face huge obstacles, he helps us by giving us the strength and the wisdom and the abilities we need to do the job.

As you give your offering today, place the stone I gave you at the beginning of our session in the offering bowl with your offering. Your stone is a reminder that God can use anyone no matter how small. As you pass the bowl, thank God for using you and your gift to accomplish his plans.

---

**Prayer Chain**

Have the kids line up so that the youngest are at one side of the room and the oldest are at the other side of the room forming a continuous line, then join the group into a circle. Show the kids how to raise their arms one right after the other creating a wave. Have the youngest children start the following prayer, doing only one word at a time, so that the prayer “waves” word by word around the circle as they wave their arms.

• **Pray** Thank you, God, for using us!

---

**Live in Harmony**

• **Say** God’s plans sometimes seem strange and different to us.

• **Ask** What are some strange or different things you found in today’s session? (God can use everyone; even small people can do great things.)

• **Say** Let’s sing “Live in Harmony” as we close today and thank God as we remember that he can use any one of us!

Sing “Live in Harmony” (Romans 12:16).

Lyrics are in the back of this book.
David and Goliath
**Worship Theme:**

God provides friends.

**Weaving Faith Into Life:**

Kids will thank God for their friends.

## Session Sequence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session Sequence</th>
<th>What Children Will Do</th>
<th>Supplies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Let’s Praise God!</strong></td>
<td>Sing</td>
<td>KidsOwn Worship Kit: Songs From FaithWeaver</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(up to 25 minutes)</td>
<td>- “My God Is” (track 7)</td>
<td>Classroom Supplies: CD player, marker, poster board, tape</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- “Jesus Loves Me Rock” (track 10)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- “Everything We Need” (track 5)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- “Do Not Be Anxious About Anything” (Philippians 4:6-7) (track 12)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- “Praise the Lord” (Psalm 150:6) (track 13)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- “Real Love” (Romans 12:10) (track 21)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- “Live in Harmony” (Romans 12:16) (track 19)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Preschool

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session Sequence</th>
<th>What Children Will Do</th>
<th>Supplies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Let’s Learn the Point!</strong></td>
<td>* God Provides Friends <em>(about 8 minutes)</em></td>
<td>Classroom Supplies: Bible, washable markers, paper, sponge, plate, water, tub, soap, towels (for washing hands)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(up to 25 minutes)</td>
<td>Learn from the story of Jonathan and David that God wants to give them friends, too.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>* Partners and Friends <em>(about 8 minutes)</em></td>
<td>Classroom Supplies: Magazines, scissors, construction paper, glue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Play a game to explore what friends do.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>* Friendly Hearts <em>(about 9 minutes)</em></td>
<td>Classroom Supplies: Butcher paper, marker, 3 washable-ink stamp pads, tape, tub, water, soap, towels (for washing hands)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Make a heart poster to thank God for providing friends.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Session Sequence | What Children Will Do | Supplies
---|---|---
**Let’s Learn the Point!** *(up to 25 minutes)* | **“Bean: A Documentary” (about 8 minutes)**
Watch a video about a lonely jelly bean and discuss how God provides friends. | **KidsOwn Worship Kit:**
Lesson Videos DVD: “Bean: A Documentary”
**Classroom Supplies:**
TV, DVD player
---|---|---
| **Mix and Match Friends (about 8 minutes)**
Play a game to find out new things about a friend. | **Classroom Supplies:**
“Friend” poster from Let’s Praise God!, paper, pencils
---|---|---
| **Working on Friendship (about 9 minutes)**
Work with a friend to make a special creation. | **Classroom Supplies:**
3 ounces modeling dough per pair

### Session Sequence | What Children Will Do | Supplies
---|---|---
**Let’s Pray!** *(up to 10 minutes)* | **The Offering (about 3 minutes)**
Offer their gifts and think about people who need friends. | **Classroom Supplies:**
Offering bowls, paper, scissors, pencils, bulletin board and pushpins or poster board and glue sticks
---|---|---
| **Harmonious Friends (about 4 minutes)**
Take friends by the hand and move through the room singing a song. | **KidsOwn Worship Kit:**
*Songs From FaithWeaver:*
“Live in Harmony” (Romans 12:16) (track 19)
**Classroom Supplies:**
CD player
---|---|---
| **Closing Prayer (about 3 minutes)**
Thank God for providing friends. |  

* Starred activities can be used successfully with preschool and elementary children together.
Customize your session to fit your needs. You can separate preschoolers and elementary children for Section 2.
Or, if you keep the children all together for the entire worship session, we suggest you choose from the starred activities.
Jonathan and David became friends on their first meeting. At the time, Jonathan didn’t know that David had been anointed king after Saul, when Jonathan would have expected to succeed his father. However, when Jonathan learned that God had anointed David, his feelings for David didn’t change. Jonathan preferred losing the throne of Israel to losing David’s friendship.

After killing Goliath, David apparently became part of Saul’s court, doing whatever Saul asked him to do. And he did everything so well that Saul gave him a high rank in the army (1 Samuel 18:5). Unfortunately, the people began to honor David above Saul, and Saul grew jealous (1 Samuel 18:6-9). Twice Saul tried to kill David by hurling a spear at him, but David managed to dodge the spear (1 Samuel 18:10-11).

The remainder of 1 Samuel 18 records Saul’s continuing efforts to have David killed, but none of his schemes worked. Finally, Saul openly told his son and servants to kill David (1 Samuel 19:1). At this point Jonathan demonstrated the depth of his love for David. He warned David about his father’s decree and cautioned David to go into hiding.

We have no reason to believe that Saul’s agreement not to kill David (1 Samuel 19:6) wasn’t sincere. But the evil spirit that had been tormenting Saul wasn’t finished. Saul again tried to spear David, and David escaped for good (1 Samuel 19:9-10).

As revealed in 1 Samuel 20, Jonathan at first couldn’t believe that his father wanted to harm David. When Jonathan discovered how fervently Saul wished for David’s death, Jonathan was so troubled that he couldn’t eat (1 Samuel 20:30-34). The following day Jonathan warned David to stay away for his safety. David bowed before Jonathan to acknowledge his debt to his friend, and they sadly went their separate ways.

Jonathan was loyal to his friend David, even though his loyalty provoked the anger of his father and sacrificed his own right to the throne of Israel. That’s a supreme example of loyalty!

Devotion for Leaders

Jesus is such a loyal friend that he died on the cross for us. He’ll be pleased if we’re faithful to our friends when it’s tough to do.

Weaving Faith Into Your Life: Reread 1 Samuel 20:28-32. What did Jonathan give up to remain faithful to David? What have you ever had to give up to stay true to a friend? In what situation might you need to choose loyalty over something you desire? God wants us to be true to our friends. Commit today to stay loyal to your friends in ways that honor both God and your friends.
Why We Worship for Leaders

God knows our needs, including our need for friends. God sent his Son to be our best friend, but God also knows we need human friends. Jesus set the pattern for friendship: "Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13). Jonathan displayed that kind of friendship when he risked his life to save David from his father, King Saul. God met powerful needs in both Jonathan and David when he gave them to each other in friendship. Today we can worship God because he knows we need friends and provides them for us.

Easy Prep for Leaders

“Bean: A Documentary”—Set up a TV and DVD player. Cue the Lesson Videos DVD to the segment titled “Bean: A Documentary.” Watch the segment at least once before the children arrive so you are familiar with it.

The Offering—Cut out paper heart shapes so you have one for each child. You’ll also need a pencil for each child. Set pushpins and offering bowls near the bulletin board, or, if you’re using poster board, set a few glue sticks near the offering bowls.

Teaching This Bible Story to Children

When you use FaithWeaver, your Sunday school, children’s church, midweek, and home life are woven together as everyone in your church studies the same Bible story in interactive, age-appropriate ways.

You might be surprised to see that this week’s session teaches children about Jonathan’s warning to David that Saul intended to kill David. Rest assured that for this age level we have chosen to focus on David and Jonathan’s friendship. Check out the session—we think you’ll find God has a lot to teach children through this important Scripture!

1 Let’s Praise God!

Play Songs From FaithWeaver as children arrive. Greet children by name, and say to each one, “God is your friend.”

When all the kids have arrived,

Say: Hello, everyone! We’re here today to worship God because he provides friends. Give the people around you a high five, and say hello to your friends. (Pause.) Let’s start our worship by praising God for being the best friend we could ever hope for.
Sing “My God Is.”
Lyrics are in the back of this book.

**God knows we need friends, and he provides them for us. God is good. We can depend on him to always be there and to love us. Let’s praise him for that!**

Sing “Jesus Loves Me Rock.”
Lyrics are in the back of this book.

Display a blank piece of poster board where kids can see it. On the poster board, write the word friend in the center and circle the word.

- What is the nicest thing one of your friends has ever done for you? It might have been something really cool and spectacular, or it might have been something small but special to you. (Answers will vary.)
- What makes a good friend? As you tell me things, I’ll write them down, and I’ll make a web of the qualities that make a good friend. (Kindness; truthfulness; someone who is funny.)

As a child mentions an attribute, draw a spoke radiating out from the circle and write the attribute at the end of the spoke. Draw more spokes radiating from each word you write, and continue brainstorming, letting each new attribute lead children to more discoveries.

**Wow! By looking at our web, we can tell that good friends are a lot of things!**

- Do any of your friends exhibit all these traits all of the time? (No, they make mistakes sometimes; yes, I have some really good friends.)

**There is someone who is this kind of friend all the time—Jesus! Our next song says that God is “everything we need,” and everything includes being our best friend.**

Sing “Everything We Need.”
Lyrics are in the back of this book.

**Jesus is the best friend we’ll ever have. But he knows we need human friends, too.**

- Have you ever heard the expression “To have a friend, be a friend”? What does it mean? (You have to be friendly first; you have to treat your friends the way you want them to treat you.)

The Bible tells us to treat others the way we want to be treated—and the Bible also tells us to love others. Loving others is a good way to make and keep good friends. When we reach out to someone and that person reaches back, a friendship starts!
Sometimes when you’re lonely, the hardest thing to do is to reach out to someone because you want so badly for someone to reach out to you first. But if you wait for others, you could wait a long time. There’s nothing wrong with you when that happens; that’s just the way life is.

**Ask**
- What are some things you can do to reach out to someone when you need a friend? (Call on the phone; share something.)

**Say**
You can say, “Hello!” and start talking to someone by asking the person about things he or she likes to do. Or you could invite the person to do something with you. If that person turns you down, try someone else. Think of someone you’d like to be friends with. As we sing our next song, tell God about that person, and ask God to help you reach out to him or her.

Sing “Do Not Be Anxious About Anything” (Philippians 4:6-7).

Lyrics are in the back of this book.

**Say**
- Let’s praise God for providing friends for us to love.

Sing “Praise the Lord” (Psalm 150:6).

Lyrics are in the back of this book.

**Ask**
- What are some ways to reach out when you know someone doesn’t have many friends and you think he or she is lonely? (I can be their friend; I can talk to them; I can sit by them at lunch.)

- What can you do when someone you don’t like very much wants to be your friend? (I can be nice to them anyway; I can pray about it.)

**Say**
Just because someone reaches out to you doesn’t mean that you have to be best friends. But God wants us to be kind and loving to everyone. So you could talk to that person and hang out with him or her for a little while, then go and do what you want to do. Or invite the person to join a group of friends so you’re not the only one he or she is with. God wants us to reach out to the people around us, no matter who they are.

Our next song says that we’re supposed to love everyone. Let’s put our arms on the shoulders of the people next to us as we sing “Real Love.” As you sing, ask God to help you be kind to people even during the times they’re unkind to you.

Sing “Real Love” (Romans 12:10).

Lyrics are in the back of this book.

**Say**
Move around the room now, and stand next to one or two kids you don’t know very well. Give children time to respond. Now find out their names, if you don’t know, and then ask them one silly question. For example, you could ask what they eat for a snack before bed or what color their favorite pajamas are. Give children time to ask each other questions.
Questions are a way to start talking to someone you don’t know well. If we have Jesus’ love in us, we can be a good friend to anyone! Now give your friend a high five as we get ready to sing our last song. Let’s sing our last song about living in harmony with everyone.

Sing “Live in Harmony” (Romans 12:16).

Lyrics are in the back of this book.

God, thank you for knowing everything we need. Thank you for providing friends for us. But most of all, thank you for sending your Son, Jesus, to be the best friend we could ever have. Help us to be good friends to each other the way Jesus is to us. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Let’s Learn the Point!

Preschool Activities, pages 149-150

At this time, have the preschool leader invite the preschoolers to go to their own room for this section of activities. Tear out the Preschool Activities page, and give it to the preschool leader. Have the preschool leader bring the preschoolers back to participate in Let’s Pray! with the older children. If you prefer to keep all the children together, do the starred (*) activities. They work well with both elementary and preschool children.

Elementary Activities

* “Bean: A Documentary”

God is so good. He knows we need friends, and he provides them for us. Often we have friends in different places. We have school friends, church friends, and neighborhood friends. God wants to help us be a friend and to have friends. Let’s watch a video about making friends.

Show the Lesson Videos DVD segment titled “Bean: A Documentary.” This segment shows a lonely jelly bean looking for friends.

• Why was Bean lonely? (Because he didn’t have any friends; because he didn’t know how to make friends.)
• Why did Bean have trouble making friends? (Because he didn’t ask God for help; because he was looking in the wrong places.)
• Have you ever felt like Bean? Tell us about it. (Answers will vary.)

(continued on page 151)
Preschool Activities

Jonathan Warns David

1 Samuel 18:1-4; 19:1-7; 20:1-42

Worship Theme:

God provides friends.

Easy Prep for Leaders

Partners and Friends—Cut out magazine pictures that show friends doing things together. The pictures could include children with other children, children and adults, or children and pets. You’ll need one picture for every two children. Glue each picture onto construction paper or a large index card. When the glue is dry, cut the cards in half.

Using Theo

Consider using Theophilus the FaithRetriever puppet today in these ways:

• Have Theo lead the preschoolers from the main worship area to the preschool room.
• Have Theo give each child a hug and thank him or her for being his friend. Make sure everyone gets a hug.
• See the KidsOwn Worship Kit for a puppet skit written for today’s worship session.

* God Provides Friends

You’ll need washable markers, paper, a sponge, a plate, and water. Set the sponge on the plate, and dampen it with water.

Open your Bible to 1 Samuel 18.

Say We’re going to hear a Bible story about two friends today. This story is about two young men named David and Jonathan.

Draw smiley faces on the tips of both of your index fingers with a washable marker. Wiggle your fingers at the children, and explain that one is David and the other is Jonathan. Then draw a face on each child’s index fingers. If a preschooler is reluctant to have you draw on his or her hands, explain that the drawing will wash off with soap and water after the Bible story.

Say When Jonathan and David met, they liked each other a lot. Wiggle your fingers and have Jonathan and David say hello to each other. Jonathan and David became best friends. Hook your fingers together to show they were best friends.

To show his friendship, Jonathan gave David some presents. He gave him his favorite robe, sword, belt, and bow. Have your Jonathan puppet give your David puppet gifts. (Pause.) That’s a lot of presents, but Jonathan loved David very much. Have Jonathan and David give each other a hug. (Pause.)

Jonathan’s father, King Saul, was jealous of David because David was a better fighter against their enemies than he was. King Saul wanted to kill David. But Jonathan heard his father’s plan and told him not to do it. Have Jonathan tell his dad no. (Pause.)

At first King Saul listened. Then he tried to kill David anyway because he hated him so much. Jonathan went quickly to David and helped him run away. He saved David’s life. Make your fingers talk to each other, then hide David behind your back. (Pause.)

Jonathan and David promised to be friends forever. Jonathan was a good friend because he helped David.

Ask • How did Jonathan and David show they were friends?
• How can you be a good friend?

Say God provides friends for us the way he did for David and Jonathan. Let’s thank God for providing friends.

Give each child a piece of paper. Set the sponge where children can reach it easily.

Say When we’re a good friend to others, something special happens. Press one of your smiley face fingers on the damp sponge, then press it several times on a piece of paper to make prints of the
Preschool Activities

face. (The sponge should be damp, but not wet.)
We get lots more friends! God provides friends.
Let’s say, “Thank you, God, for providing friends.”

Encourage the children to say, “Thank you, God, for providing friends.” Then help them dampen their fingers and stamp some faces.

Pray

Dear God, we thank you for providing friends.
Help us be good friends in return. We love you,
God. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Have children wash their hands.

Partners and Friends

Say
We’re learning today that God provides friends.
That means he gives us friends. Look around
the room at everyone. How many children are
here today? Let’s count! Lead the children in
counting. Wow! [Number] children! That’s how
many friends you have at church today! Say
hello to your friends by giving one another a
handshake.

While children are greeting each other with handshakes,
shuffle the picture cards and fan them out in your half
hand toward the children. If you have more than 15 children, divide the
group into smaller groups to do this activity.

Say
Let’s play a game of friendship to thank God for
providing friends. Choose one of these cards,
and look at the picture on the other side. Wait
until everyone has a card. Your picture is only
half a picture! The person who has the other
half of your picture will be your partner. Find
your partner, and put your pictures together.

Ask
• Who are some of your friends?
• What are some things that friends do?

Collect the cards.

Say
Friends do lots of things together. One thing
friends do is sit together like you’re doing right
now with your friend. Another thing friends do
is share. Act out how you and your friend would
share toys with each other. Give children time to
respond. Good job, everyone! Let’s say together,
“Thank you, God, for my friend,” then we’ll give
our friends a hug.

Repeat the activity a few times, having children choose a new
card and find another partner. Each time, have children act out
something friends do, based on actions illustrated on the cards,
and thank God for providing friends.

* Friendly Hearts

You’ll need butcher paper or poster board, a marker, and two or
three washable-ink stamp pads or pie tins containing tempera paint.
Provide a tub of warm, soapy water and towels for cleanup. (If you use
tempera paint instead of stamp pads, pour a small amount in the pie
tins, just enough to cover the bottom, and gently stir in a few drops
of liquid soap.) Write “God Provides Friends” at the top of the butcher
paper. Put the paper and the stamp pads on a table.

Say
Let’s make a poster to thank God for providing
friends for us, just as he did for David and
Jonathan. You stamped smiley faces with your
fingers to thank God for providing friends. Now
we’re going to stamp with our hands again, but
this time we’ll work with a friend.

Help a child make a fist and press the pinky side of it onto a
stamp pad. Then help the child make a print on the poster. Next,
open a second child make a fist print at a slight angle to the first
child’s print, so that the bottom edges are on top of each other to
form a heart shape. Write the children’s names next to their prints.

Ask
• What did [name of child] and [name of child]
make together?

Say
When they put their hand stamps together, they
made a heart. When we work and play together,
we show that we love each other. Thank you,
God, for providing friends.

Let each child make a few fist stamps
and pair up with different children to
make hearts. Write children’s names by their prints. Be sure to let older
preschoolers write their own names
or initials, if they’re able. Have children
wash their hands as soon as
they finish stamping. Tape or
tack the poster on a wall for
children to admire.
We can count on God to care about every need we have. God knows that we need friends. And if we ask God, he’ll send good friends our way.

**Mix and Match Friends**

In our Bible story today, King Saul had a son named Jonathan. One day Jonathan met David, who had killed Goliath. They liked each other from the very start and promised to be friends always. To show his friendship, Jonathan gave David some of his clothes and his sword and bow. If you’ve ever given gifts to a friend because you liked that friend a lot, you know how Jonathan felt.

Point out the “Friend” poster you made in the Let’s Praise God! section. Hand out paper and pencils.

Let’s look at the web we made about what makes a good friend. As I finish telling you the story of David and Jonathan, listen for the friendship traits they showed and list those traits on your paper.

David and Jonathan were both brave soldiers. Both fought for King Saul, Jonathan’s father. David became such a good warrior that the people loved him more than Saul. That made Saul angry. He wanted to kill David.

- How do you think Jonathan felt when he discovered that his dad wanted to kill his best friend? (Probably sad; he was angry.)
- What would you do if you were Jonathan? (I would be really scared; I would warn David and help him.)

Jonathan told King Saul that killing David was wrong. He reminded his dad that David helped him win many battles and that it was David who killed Goliath. Saul decided not to kill David. But later his anger and jealousy grew, and he again gave orders to have David killed. He even threw a spear at Jonathan, his own son, when he discovered that he was helping David. Jonathan warned David even though his father was mad enough to kill him, too. He helped David run away to safety. But first they promised to be friends forever.

- What friendship traits on our web did Jonathan and David show? (Kindness; truthfulness.)
- What can we learn from Jonathan and David’s friendship? (We can be good friends no matter what happens; we should take care of our friends.)

Jonathan was a good friend to David because he risked his own life to help him. He also gave David his clothes and weapons to show his friendship. Let’s use our shoes, like Jonathan used his clothes, to play a game of friendship.
Have children take off one shoe and put the shoes in a pile in the center of the group. Mix up the pile, and have kids quickly choose a shoe that is not their own.

**Say** Find the owner of the shoe you have. Then find out two things that you didn’t already know about that person. Then we’ll share those things with each other.

Give children several minutes to find and talk to their shoes’ owners. Then have children briefly tell the whole group the two things they learned.

**Say** Learning new things about someone is a good way to start a friendship or make a friendship better.

---

**Working on Friendship**

Have children form pairs and sit at tables.

**Say** David and Jonathan’s friendship worked because they loved and cared about each other. A true friendship takes work from both sides.

Give each pair a lump of modeling dough.

**Say** You and your friend have two minutes to work together to make something with your modeling dough while you keep one hand behind your back. Make sure all children work on the creation together and keep one hand behind their backs. After two minutes have them stop. Ask a few children to share what they made.

**Say** Now you have one minute to make a new creation. This time you can use both hands, but you must work together. Call time after one minute.

**Ask** Which way of making something together was easier? Explain. (It was easier to use both hands because we could control what we were doing; both hands, because we could work together better.)

Did you have to communicate more when you each used one hand or two hands? Why? (When we each used one hand because it was hard to do; no, because we had one hand at least.)

**Say** Part of friendship is working together the way David and Jonathan did. Friendship is about communicating with each other and helping each other. Let’s remember this week that God provides friends. Have kids display their creations to remind them that God provides friends.
Let’s Pray!

The Offering

Put the offering bowls near a bulletin board with pushpins or next to poster board and glue sticks. Distribute heart-shaped papers and pencils.

Say

On one side of your paper heart, write the first initial of someone you’d like to be friends with but aren’t yet. On the other side of the heart, write the initials of someone you know who needs a friend. Wait while children do this. As you bring your money offerings today, bring your heart papers to offer to God. Ask him to help you reach out to those people this week. We’ll form a cross with the heart papers to remind us that Jesus provides friends for us.

Have kids give their offerings and pin the hearts in a cross shape on the bulletin board or glue them in a cross shape on the poster board.

Harmonious Friends

Say

God knows we need friends and provides them for us. The song “Live in Harmony” tells us to be like brothers and sisters to our friends. While we sing this song, thank God for providing friends for you, and ask him to help you be a friend to others.

As the song begins, have a child grab the hand of someone he or she doesn’t know well, and “snake” around the room, singing “Live in Harmony” (Romans 12:16). The child whose hand is taken should then take the hand of someone he or she doesn’t know well until everyone is connected and singing. Repeat the song if necessary.

Sing “Live in Harmony” (Romans 12:16).

Lyrics are in the back of this book.

Closing Prayer

Have children find partners. Give partners a minute or two to pray for each other.

Pray

God, thank you for loving us. You know we need friends, and you provide them for us. Help us be the kind of friend Jonathan was, one who loves and gives, cares and helps. In Jesus’ name, amen.
## Session 12

### Abigail Makes Peace

1 Samuel 25:1-35

**Worship Theme:**
- God brings peace.

**Weaving Faith Into Life:**
- Kids will trust God to give them peace.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session Sequence</th>
<th>What Children Will Do</th>
<th>Supplies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Let’s Praise God! (up to 25 minutes)</td>
<td>Sing &lt;br&gt;• “My Jesus, He Loves Me” (track 4) &lt;br&gt;• “Live in Harmony” (Romans 12:16) (track 19) &lt;br&gt;• “Praise the Lord” (Psalm 150:6) (track 13) &lt;br&gt;• “Real Love” (Romans 12:10) (track 21) &lt;br&gt;• “Trust and Obey” (track 8) &lt;br&gt;• “Do Not Be Anxious About Anything” (Philippians 4:6-7) (track 12)</td>
<td>KidsOwn Worship Kit: &lt;br&gt;Songs From FaithWeaver&lt;br&gt;Classroom Supplies: &lt;br&gt;CD player, photocopies of “Dove” handout (at the end of this session) on stiff paper, scissors</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Preschool

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session Sequence</th>
<th>What Children Will Do</th>
<th>Supplies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 Let’s Learn the Point! (up to 25 minutes)</td>
<td>God Brings Peace (about 8 minutes)&lt;br&gt;Be part of the story about how God brought peace through Abigail.</td>
<td>Classroom Supplies:&lt;br&gt;Graham crackers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>* Let There Be Peace! (about 8 minutes)&lt;br&gt;Play a game and talk about how God’s peace makes us feel.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>* Peace Passers (about 9 minutes)&lt;br&gt;Make doves of peace to share with someone.</td>
<td>Classroom Supplies:&lt;br&gt;Craft foam, three 18-inch lengths of curling ribbon per child, plastic straws, tape, scissors, marker, copy of “Dove” handout (at the end of this session)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Session Sequence

#### Let’s Learn the Point!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What Children Will Do</th>
<th>Supplies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ambassador of Peace</strong> <em>(about 9 minutes)</em>&lt;br&gt;Learn that God used Abigail to bring peace.</td>
<td>Classroom Supplies: Rope, Bibles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Stomp</strong> <em>(about 8 minutes)</em>&lt;br&gt;Experience peace and discord through music.</td>
<td>KidsOwn Worship Kit: <em>Songs From FaithWeaver: “Praise the Lord” (Psalm 150:6) (track 13)</em>&lt;br&gt;Classroom Supplies: Unusual percussion instruments, CD player</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Peace Doves</strong> <em>(about 8 minutes)</em>&lt;br&gt;Discover ways that God brings peace.</td>
<td>Classroom Supplies: Bibles, markers, ribbons, stapler, scissors, tape, dove cards from Let’s Praise God!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Let’s Pray!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What Children Will Do</th>
<th>Supplies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>The Offering</strong> <em>(about 3 minutes)</em>&lt;br&gt;Give their offerings and pass the peace to others.</td>
<td>Classroom Supplies: Offering bowls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Troubled Times</strong> <em>(about 4 minutes)</em>&lt;br&gt;Pray for peace in troubling situations.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Peace Walk</strong> <em>(about 3 minutes)</em>&lt;br&gt;Rejoice in God’s peace with music.</td>
<td>KidsOwn Worship Kit: <em>Songs From FaithWeaver: “Do Not Be Anxious About Anything” (Philippians 4:6-7) (track 12)</em>&lt;br&gt;Classroom Supplies: CD player</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Session 12 • KidsOwn Worship

* Starred activities can be used successfully with preschool and elementary children together. Customize your session to fit your needs. You can separate preschoolers and elementary children for Section 2.
Or, if you keep the children all together for the entire worship session, we suggest you choose from the starred activities.
First Samuel 21–24 describes David’s movements as he gathered a band of loyal soldiers around him and roamed the countryside, seeking to evade capture by Saul and his troops.

David and his men had apparently been in the area of Nabal’s home for some time. In those days it was not uncommon for bands of raiders to steal livestock from men such as Nabal. But instead, David had instructed his men not to take anything that didn’t belong to them, and David’s band must have also driven off raiders who had intended to steal from Nabal. David simply asked Nabal for some provisions in return for his men’s kind treatment. Common hospitality of the day would have dictated that Nabal give food to David’s men if he was able to do so.

Nabal’s rude response set off a natural human reaction in David. Fortunately, Nabal’s wife, Abigail, was not as foolish as Nabal. She knew she had to intervene or many lives would needlessly be lost. She took matters into her own hands, bringing to David and his men a generous offering of food (1 Samuel 25:18). She then took the risk of confronting David and pointing out to him that taking revenge on Nabal would not please the Lord (1 Samuel 25:30-31).

It’s interesting to note Abigail’s injection of humor to lighten the conflict. She pointed out that Nabal’s name, likely a nickname, meant “fool.” Nabal embodied an Israelite’s description of a fool: insensitive, selfish, and disrespectful.

Abigail’s diplomatic efforts helped David see that she was right, and he praised God for having sent her to stop him from reacting hastily.

When Nabal found out what had happened, he had a heart attack and died 10 days later. David must have appreciated Abigail’s wisdom and initiative: After Nabal died, he took Abigail as his wife!

**Devotion for Leaders**

As much as most of us dislike conflict, it’s inevitable. But with Jesus at our side, we can handle it in a way that honors him: peaceably!

**Weaving Faith Into Your Life:** Reread 1 Samuel 25:10-13. You’ve probably never gone after someone with a sword, but when have you responded in anger after someone insulted you? How could you have handled that conflict better? If we trust that God is in control, we can respond in gentleness when we’re wronged. Determine today how you’ll resolve that conflict that troubles you.
Why We Worship for Leaders

Today we worship because God brings us peace. God offers us peace with him through a relationship with Jesus Christ. Secondly, he offers an inner peace to each of us. Finally, God enables us to live peacefully with others. God reveals himself as the God of peace through our peaceful relationships.

Peace is a remarkable gift. It replaces worry and allows us to turn the focus away from our own concerns. Abigail, the peacemaker, helped David to see past his desire to avenge Nabal’s insult and to focus on God’s purposes instead. When kids are able to focus on God, God gives them peace in place of anger, argument, and bickering. That’s a powerful witness of God’s presence! Kids can become peacemakers like Abigail as they allow the Prince of Peace to work in their lives.

Easy Prep for Leaders

Let’s Praise God!—Photocopy the “Dove” handout at the end of this session, and make enough copies on stiff paper so that you have one copy (all four doves) for each child. Cut the paper into quarters to form cards, and shuffle them.

Stomp—You’ll need to gather unusual items for the children to use as percussion instruments, such as garbage cans and lids, sand in plastic bottles, or plywood the kids can stomp on.

1 Let’s Praise God!

Play Songs From FaithWeaver as children arrive. Greet each child by name, and say, “God brings peace. Show a peace sign to at least three people as you prepare for worship today.” Show kids how to make a peace sign by holding up the index and middle fingers of one hand.

After a few minutes,

Say Hello, everyone! Today we praise God because God brings peace. Let’s get started by singing about God’s great love.

Sing “My Jesus, He Loves Me.”

Lyrics are in the back of this book.

Ask • When do we need God’s peace? (When we’re sad; when we’re afraid.)

Say We need God’s peace when we’re scared or worried. We need God’s peace when we’re having trouble getting along with one another.

Ask • When God gives us peace, how do we feel about people we were angry with? (We can forgive them; we can stop being angry.)

Say Let’s celebrate God’s peace with a song about love and harmony. When God gives peace, we have joy and love!
Sing “Live in Harmony” (Romans 12:16).

Lyrics are in the back of this book.

**Ask**
- **How can we share God’s peace, love, and joy with others?** (We can tell them about God; we can show them how they can have those things.)

**Say**
- God wants us to pass his peace around. Let’s play a game that helps us do that.

Be sure the dove cards are shuffled well, and give each child four cards. Show kids how to hold the cards facing their chests.

**Say**
- There are four different cards: peace, joy, love, and light. Your goal is to get a full set of doves. The catch is that you need a peace card before you can collect any of the other cards. When I say “go,” you may begin walking around the room trading cards with each other. You may only trade one card with each person. When you have a full set, sit down. When everyone is seated, I’ll call for your attention.

Pair up nonreaders and readers for this activity. When all the children have a full set of cards, call for their attention.

**Ask**
- **If you didn’t start with a peace card, how did it feel to be without it? Why?** (I didn’t like being without it because I wanted to win; I didn’t mind because I knew I would get one eventually.)
- **Once you found the peace card, how hard was it to find the rest of the cards? Why?** (It was hard because I didn’t know who had them; it was easy because I just traded with a few people.)

Just as there were plenty of peace cards to go around, God always has plenty of peace. We just have to ask God for it. When we have peace, the other things are easy to come by. But without peace, it’s hard to feel joyful, have good friends, or even to appreciate God’s light. It’s exciting to know that God has plenty of peace for all of us. Let’s praise God by singing “Praise the Lord.” Have someone collect all the dove cards as the children sing.

Sing “Praise the Lord” (Psalm 150:6).

Lyrics are in the back of this book.

**Say**
- When we accept God’s gift of peace, there’s so much more we can share with others. Without peace, we have fights, arguments, and bad feelings between people. When we have peace, we can share love, joy, and God’s light with others.

**Ask**
- **What are some things that usually lead to arguments with your friends or in your family?** (When we’re selfish; when we want to choose a TV show to watch.)
• How would remembering God’s gift of peace help in those situations? (It would help us get along; we could decide to do the right thing instead of getting mad.)

Say When we argue, it’s often because we think we need to get our own way. But we need God’s peace more than we need to get our own way. We need to love everyone no matter what.

Sing “Real Love” (Romans 12:10).
Lyrics are in the back of this book.

Say God knows that we really need to live in peace, so he brings his peace to our lives. God’s peace helps us turn the other cheek. We would find it impossible to live in peace on our own. But when we choose to obey God, we can be confident that he will help us do what it takes to live peacefully with others. Let’s make our pledge to God to live in peace as we sing “Trust and Obey.”

Sing “Trust and Obey.”
Lyrics are in the back of this book.

Say If we walk with our Lord, as the song says, we will walk in peace. Raise your hand if you have ever worried about anything.

Ask • What’s one thing you’ve worried about? (Getting my homework done in time; being the new kid at school.)

• What could you do instead of worrying? (Pray for help; trust God.)

Say You could pray just as Philippians 4:6-7 says to do:

“Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything: tell God your needs and don’t forget to thank him for his answers. If you do this you will experience God’s peace, which is far more wonderful than the human mind can understand. His peace will keep your thoughts and your hearts quiet and at rest as you trust in Christ Jesus” (The Living Bible).

Ask • What do these verses say happens when you pray? (We will have peace; our thoughts and hearts will be quiet.)

Say Let’s sing a song to thank God for bringing his peace.

Sing “Do Not Be Anxious About Anything” (Philippians 4:6-7).
Lyrics are in the back of this book.

Pray Thank you, God, for bringing peace to our hearts and minds and to our relationships. We praise you for being the God of peace. In Jesus’ name, amen.
Let’s Learn the Point!

Preschool Activities, pages 161-162

At this time, have the preschool leader invite the preschoolers to go to their own room for this section of activities. Tear out the Preschool Activities page, and give it to the preschool leader. Have the preschool leader bring the preschoolers back to participate in Let’s Pray! with the older children. If you prefer to keep all the children together, do the starred (*) activities. They work well with both elementary and preschool children.

Elementary Activities

* Ambassador of Peace

**Say** We’re going to play a game called Ambassador of Peace. Have the children form groups of five or six and be seated.

A dispute is a disagreement between people or groups. Ask for two volunteers to represent disputants. The two people in our dispute are a rich landowner and a brave leader. The landowner’s name is Nabal. Point to the volunteer representing Nabal. Nabal’s shepherds tend his sheep on the land.

The leader is David. Point to the volunteer representing David. He leads an army of men. They are brave, but not rich. Give each volunteer one end of the rope. Ask the volunteers to pull on the rope as if in a game of Tug of War. After about 20 seconds, take hold of the center of the rope, and ask the volunteers to be seated. Here is the problem. David’s men have been protecting Nabal’s men. David wants Nabal to give his men food for the festival that is coming up. Nabal doesn’t want to share his food.

All of you are ambassadors of peace. Discuss in your groups how you can make peace between the two people. Allow the groups to discuss peacemaking plans for three minutes. Ask each group to share ideas with the whole group.

David was so upset by Nabal’s rudeness and ingratitude that he planned to kill Nabal. God brought peace through Nabal’s wife, Abigail. Abigail brought a big offering of food to David and asked for forgiveness for her husband’s actions. She begged David not to kill her husband and his men.

The Bible story is told in 1 Samuel, chapter 25. Distribute Bibles to the groups. Read verse 35 to find out how the dispute ended.

**Ask**

- How did David respond to Abigail’s peacemaking efforts? (He decided not to attack Nabal; he stopped being angry.)
- How has God used you to bring peace to a situation? (I told my friends that they shouldn’t fight; I apologized to my sister for getting angry with her.)

(continued on page 163)
Preschool Activities

Abigail Makes Peace

1 Samuel 25:1-35

Worship Theme:

God brings peace.

Easy Prep for Leaders

Peace Passers—Use a marker to trace the dove (at the end of this session) onto craft foam or foam plates. Cut out one dove for each child. Use scissors to snip 2 inches down the length of each straw. Cut through both sides of the straws to make parallel slits.

Using Theo

Consider using Theophilus the FaithRetriever puppet today in these ways:

- Have Theo lead the preschoolers from the main worship area to the preschool room.
- Have Theo join David's men as they say “Grrrr!” to Nabal's people.
- See the KidsOwn Worship Kit for a puppet skit written for today’s worship session.

God Brings Peace

Ask

- Have you ever had a fight with anyone?
- How did you feel when you were fighting?

Say

- When you fight with someone, you feel upset and angry and icky inside. When you feel this way, you need God's peace. God sometimes uses people to bring us peace. Our Bible story is about how God brought peace through a woman named Abigail. I'll tell the Bible story, and you'll all have a part in it. Let the children choose to be part of David's men or part of Nabal's men. Have the two groups stand on either side of the room, facing each other.

David's men protected Nabal's shepherds. Ask Nabal's men to form a circle in the center of the room, and ask David's men to surround them and pretend to guard them.

One day, David asked Nabal for some food. When Nabal said, “No!” David became angry. Ask David's men to go back to their side of the room and look angry. Ask Nabal's people to return to their side.

David was so angry, he wanted to attack Nabal's people. Ask David's men to take one step toward the other group and say, “Grrrrrrr!” Ask Nabal's people to look scared and say, “Uh-oh!”

Abigail was Nabal's wife. Abigail allowed God to use her to bring peace to the people. Abigail sent a whole, whole, whole lot of food to David. Ask Nabal's group to deliver graham crackers to the other side. Ask David's group to smile and say, “Yum-yum!”

Abigail asked David to forgive Nabal for being rude. David let his men take the food, and he said, “Go home in peace. I have heard your words.” Ask the groups to shake hands with each other.

Ask

- What do we have now—fighting or peace?
- Who brought peace to the angry group of David's men and the scared group of Nabal's men?

Say

- Sometimes God brings us peace through people like Abigail. But God is the one who makes peace possible. We thank God today for bringing us his peace.

Distribute graham crackers to the rest of the children, and allow them to eat.

ALLERGY ALERT

Be aware that some children have food allergies that can be dangerous. Know your children, and consult with parents about allergies their children may have. Also be sure to read food labels carefully as hidden ingredients can cause allergy-related problems.
Preschool Activities

* Let There Be Peace!

**Say** Let’s play a game to help us understand God’s peace. When I say “go!” walk around the room and pretend to argue and whine. When I say, “God brings peace,” stop arguing and shake hands. Ready…go!

Allow the children to pretend to argue and fuss for about 30 seconds before saying, “God brings peace!” Play this game several times. Try giving distracting messages, such as “Mom brings hot dogs” or “Birthdays bring presents,” so the children have to listen closely to hear that God brings peace. Be sure kids understand that they should continue arguing and fussing until you say, “God brings peace.”

**Say** Some of the other things I said were good and happy things, but you didn’t have time to enjoy them because you were too busy arguing and complaining.

**Ask**
- How do you feel inside when you argue with your friends or your brothers and sisters?
- What might you miss out on if you’re busy arguing or complaining?
- How do you feel when you get along with your friends?

**Say** God wants to bring peace to us. God wants us to get along with people.

**Ask** How can we get God’s peace?

**Say** One way to get God’s peace is to ask God for it. Let’s ask God to help us live peacefully right now. Let’s all say,

“God, you’re great—great indeed!
Please give us the peace we need.”

Have the children repeat the prayer several times, and encourage them to make up spontaneous motions as they say the words.

* Peace Passers

**Say** God helped Abigail bring peace with a gift. She sent food to David’s men, but the real gift she delivered was her reminder to David that God is a God of peace. Doves remind people of God’s peace. We’re going to make some doves today to remind you that God gives us peace.

Give each child one straw, one foam dove, and three 18-inch lengths of ribbon. Show the children how to fold all three ribbons in half and insert the fold into the top of the straw, to make streamers on each side. Then show them how to put the foam dove in the slit to hold the ribbons inside the straw. Tape each half of the straw to the foam dove to hold it in place. Curl the ribbons with scissors, if desired. Let the children experiment “flying” the dove.

**Ask**
- When would you like God to send you peace?
- Who are some people you might need to make peace with?

**Say** As you play with your dove, remember that God gives us peace. When you need to make peace with someone, invite that person to play with your dove and tell him or her that you want to have peace between you.

Let the children practice saying “I want to have peace with you” as they take turns flying each other’s doves.
It’s an honor to be able to help bring peace to a situation, but it’s God who brings peace to us.

Ask the “David” and “Nabal” volunteers to take the rope again and work together to tie the ends to form a circle. Ask them to place the rope circle on the floor and step inside the circle.

When we obey God, God surrounds us with his peace, like this rope surrounds David and Nabal.

Stomp

Before the activity, let the children know that whenever the lights flash, everyone must stop whatever he or she is doing and look at you.

What do you know about percussion? (It’s made by drums; I don’t know what that means.)

In music, percussion is sound that’s made when two things are struck together. The percussion instruments include drums and cymbals. We can also play percussion with unusual things. We can play percussion with whatever is at hand. We can use garbage-can lids, we can stomp our feet on the floor, or we can pound our hands on our chests.

I brought some unusual percussion instruments. You may choose one of those or choose to play rhythms with your hands on your own bodies. Demonstrate. You may use your feet on the floor. Demonstrate. If you see something else in the room that you’d like to use, check with me first. Allow the children to consider what they want to use as percussion instruments. After about two minutes, flash the lights to call for the kids’ attention.

Let’s all play our percussion instruments in a way that sounds “unpeaceful.” Allow a minute or so of undirected noise, then flash the lights. What a creative rendition of the opposite of peace!

What are some words you would use to describe the opposite of God’s peace? (Anger; fear; noise.)

We could say that the opposite of peace is chaos, confusion, or strife. Peace isn’t necessarily quiet, but it is something that makes us feel good inside. Peace is orderly instead of chaotic. Let’s play our instruments to the rhythm of the song “Praise the Lord.” Remember to let the beat of the music direct your percussion.

Sing “Praise the Lord” (Psalm 150:6) and allow kids to use their instruments during the song.

What was different about our playing that time? (It sounded better; it made a nice song.)
Our percussion certainly wasn’t quiet, but it had order and direction. In the same way, we don’t have to be quiet to have peace, but God’s peace brings order and direction to our lives. God’s peace makes us feel good. It’s great to serve a God who brings peace to our lives.

**Peace Doves**

Have the children form four to seven groups. Give each group a Bible, and ask each group to look up one of the following verses: Psalm 29:11; Proverbs 16:7; Matthew 5:9; John 14:27; Romans 14:19; Ephesians 4:3; Philippians 4:7.

In each group, choose one person to look up the verse and another to read the verse aloud. Then, as a group, talk about how the verse illustrates God’s peace.

Distribute scissors, ribbons, markers, and the dove cards from Let’s Praise God! Ask children to cut out a dove.

On the blank side of the dove, write one way that God brings peace. Pair older children or adult volunteers with nonreaders. Help the children staple a ribbon to the dove to serve as a hanger. As you tape your dove on the wall, tell us about what you wrote on it.

After the children have shared,

- **What are some ways God brings us peace?** (He takes care of us; he gives us the gift of peace; he uses other people.)

- **Why does God want us to have peace in every part of our lives?** (Because he doesn’t want us to be afraid; he wants us to trust him.)

One of the characteristics of God is peace. The Bible tells us in Ephesians 2:14 that Jesus is our peace. Having peace with God means having a close relationship with him through Jesus.

Thank you, God, for bringing peace to our hearts, peace to our relationships, and peace to our relationship with you. In Jesus’ name, amen.

**Let’s Pray!**

**The Offering**

Today we learned that God brings peace. Let’s pass that peace along as we pass the offering bowl. As you pass the bowl to the person next to you, say, “The peace of God be with you.” When God brings us peace, we want to bring peace to others.

Take the offering.
Troubled Times

**Say** Let’s thank God because we can have peace even in troubled times. Raise your hand if you can think of a time you felt troubled. (Pause.) Raise your hand if God brought you peace when you prayed about it. (Pause.) Raise your hand if you are troubled about something now. (Pause.) Let’s ask God to bring peace to these people. Whisper a prayer for peace for someone whose hand is raised.

**Pray** God, we ask you to bring peace to these people. Bring peace in their situations, in their homes, and in their relationships. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Peace Walk

**Say** Not only can we have peace in times of trouble, we can walk in peace always. We’re going to have a peace walk. As you walk, I’ll play the song “Do Not Be Anxious About Anything” (Philippians 4:6-7). As you listen to the song, rejoice and thank God in your heart for the peace he brings. Ask the children to do a free-form, bunny-hop-type walk around the room as the song plays.

Play “Do Not Be Anxious About Anything” (Philippians 4:6-7).

When the music stops, have everyone freeze.

**Pray** God, we thank you for your peace that passes understanding. Thank you for guarding our hearts and minds with peace. Help us remember to walk in your peace wherever we go. In Jesus’ name, amen.
Dove

love

peace

joy

light

Permission to photocopy this handout from KidsOwn Worship® Leader Guide, Summer, granted for local church use. Copyright © Group Publishing, Inc. group.com
Encouragement for Leaders

Dear God, thank you for placing each of these children in my life and in my class. Teach me to love these children as you do and to see them as you see them. In Jesus’ name, amen.
**Worship Theme:**

God is just.

**Weaving Faith Into Life:**

Kids will learn that God is always just and fair.

### Session Sequence | What Children Will Do | Supplies
--- | --- | ---
Let’s Praise God! (up to 25 minutes) | Sing
  - “Everything Is Possible With God” (Mark 10:27) (track 1)
  - “Live in Harmony” (Romans 12:16) (track 19)
  - “This Is the Day” (Psalm 118:24) (track 18)
  - “I Sing the Mighty Power of God” (track 14)
  - “Trust and Obey” (track 8) | KidsOwn Worship Kit:
  Songs From FaithWeaver
Classroom Supplies:
  CD player, 2 plates, napkins, 2 kinds of cookies

### Preschool Session Sequence | What Children Will Do | Supplies
--- | --- | ---
Let’s Learn the Point! (up to 25 minutes) | * Cheese Race (about 8 minutes)
Play a game with cheese and wait for the reward. | Classroom Supplies:
  Cheese cubes, craft sticks, foam plates
Sing a Song of Sparing (about 8 minutes)
Sing about how David spared Saul’s life.
May I, May I? (about 9 minutes)
Play a game to see fairness in action. | Classroom Supplies:
  Rubber stamp, stamp pad
### Session Sequence | What Children Will Do | Supplies
--- | --- | ---
**2** Let’s Learn the Point! (up to 25 minutes) | **The Scales of Justice** (about 9 minutes)  
Stage a grand jury to weigh evidence about Saul.  
Classroom Supplies:  
Scale, photocopy of “Evidence Cards” (at the end of this session), scissors, rock, tape, towel |  
* **Engineering Justice** (about 8 minutes)  
Play a game to learn more about justice.  
Classroom Supplies:  
Shoe boxes, cans of tuna, tape, wrapping paper, boards |  
* **Pay for It** (about 8 minutes)  
See an illustration of how Jesus’ death paid for our sin.  
Classroom Supplies:  
5 balloons, bamboo skewer, cooking oil |

### Session Sequence | What Children Will Do | Supplies
--- | --- | ---
**3** Let’s Pray! (up to 10 minutes) | **The Offering** (about 3 minutes)  
Thank God for the opportunity to share.  
Classroom Supplies:  
Offering bowls |  
**Fair Prayer** (about 4 minutes)  
Pray with a partner about unfair situations. |  
**All the Power You Need** (about 3 minutes)  
Sing a song to remember that God can bring justice to all situations.  
KidsOwn Worship Kit:  
* Songs From FaithWeaver:  
  “Nothing Is Impossible” (Luke 1:37) (track 17)  
Classroom Supplies:  
CD player |

* Starred activities can be used successfully with preschool and elementary children together.

Customize your session to fit your needs. You can separate preschoolers and elementary children for Section 2.

Or, if you keep the children all together for the entire worship session, we suggest you choose from the starred activities.
This passage describes the second time David spared Saul’s life; the first is recorded in 1 Samuel 24. David and his men were hiding in a cave when Saul came into that very cave to relieve himself. Even though his men urged David to kill Saul on the spot, David refused. He still respected the one whom God had anointed king.

In spite of the events in the cave, Saul and his men continued to pursue David. David and one of his men, Abishai, sneaked into Saul’s camp at night, probably in order to spy on Saul’s army. David and Abishai may have intentionally sought out Saul or simply stumbled upon him as he slept; in any event, Abishai was ready to kill him. Abishai’s feelings are understandable in light of the fact that Saul had unjustly pursued David and his men in an effort to kill them! In fact, after all the months of running and hiding, David, too, must have been tempted to put an end to it all by killing Saul. But David again refused to kill God’s anointed king. David trusted that Saul would die according to God’s timing. David wasn’t about to force God’s hand!

When Saul learned that David had spared his life a second time, he promised to abandon his efforts to kill David. Saul’s response demonstrated his inner turmoil. At many moments such as this, Saul had made similar promises but then had hardened his heart and resumed his pursuit of David. Even Saul’s final statement to David in this passage (1 Samuel 26:25) is simply an acknowledgment of fact rather than an expression of good will. Saul simply admitted that David was blessed by God and would eventually prevail, a response that was almost forced upon Saul by David’s generous refusal to kill him when he had ample opportunity.

After parting, Saul and David never saw each other again. Saul continued to pursue David, and David chose to take refuge among the Philistines.

In the story of Saul and David, we are shown contrasting ways of dealing with enemies. Saul pursued and deceived, seeking to kill. David consistently showed mercy and an unwillingness to harm his enemy. Consumed with jealousy, Saul sought revenge with his own hands. Because of his faith in God, David waited for God to work things out according to his own timing, even when opportunities arose for David to avenge the wrongs that had been done to him.

**Devotion for Leaders**

Jesus loved even the people who nailed him to the cross. As we seek to be like him, we’ll be able to love even those who want to harm us!

**Weaving Faith Into Your Life:** Saul tried to kill David again and again. Yet when David had chances to kill Saul, he refused. How do you feel toward those who make things tough for you? Do those feelings please God? With God’s love in our hearts, we can love even our enemies. Choose to show love this week to that person who’s so hard to even like.
Why We Worship for Leaders

Today we worship God because he is just. Sometimes God’s justice isn’t evident to us because we’re looking for immediate fairness—a reward for what’s right or a punishment for what’s wrong. God’s justice is the natural outcome of his righteousness and is tempered by his mercy through Jesus. God’s justice is better than our understanding of fairness.

Kids have deep moral convictions about deserved punishments and are often more punitive than adults. It’s not unusual to hear a child comment that another child got what he or she deserved. During today’s session, you can help children discover that God is worthy of our worship because he sees beyond what looks fair to us and metes out in his time what is truly right.

Easy Prep for Leaders

Let’s Praise God!—Prepare at least two plates of different types of cookies.

The Scales of Justice—Photocopy the “Evidence Cards” (at the end of this session), then cut the cards apart. Tape Card 12 to a rock or brick. You’ll also need a balance scale.

Engineering Justice—Make a set of four “Balance Boxes” for each team of 10 or fewer children. Securely tape a can of tuna inside three of the four shoe boxes so the can is off-center. Leave the fourth box in each set empty. Put the lids on the boxes, and wrap each box with wrapping paper.

Pay for It—Blow up four balloons. Then blow up a fifth balloon but make it slightly underinflated, and set it aside.

1 Let’s Praise God!

Play Songs From FaithWeaver as children arrive. Greet each child by name, and give each a cookie on a napkin. It’s fun to have both homemade and store-bought cookies. When two or more children arrive together, make sure to distribute different types of cookies. Listen for comments about “fairness” so that you can refer to the responses during the session.

When you’re ready to begin, welcome the children warmly.

Say Welcome to children’s church! Today we’re worshipping because God is just. “Just what?” you might ask! Just wonderful, just amazing, just incredible! But today we’re using the meaning of just that’s like the meaning of justice.

Ask • What does justice mean to you? (Justice means being fair; I don’t know what the word means.)

Say Someone once said that justice is when a kid who lives on the fourth floor of an apartment building spits his gum out the window and then steps on it on his way to baseball practice.

Ask • Do you think that’s a good definition for justice? Why or why not? (Yes, because the kid got what he deserved; yes, because the
kid was the one who spit out the gum in the first place.)

**Say** Today we're going to discover how God is just and that there's nothing God can't do.

Sing "Everything Is Possible With God" (Mark 10:27).

Lyrics are in the back of this book.

**Say** When you came in, you each got one kind of cookie. I was listening to your opinions about the kind of cookie you were given. *Some of you said* [repeat several things you heard the kids say]. *If you think the cookies were given fairly, stand to my right.* If you think the cookies were not given fairly, stand to my left. Give the children time to follow your instructions. *With your group, come up with three reasons why the way cookies were given out was fair or unfair.* Choose one person who will report for your group. Give the kids about three minutes to discuss. Then have the kids be seated and ask groups for reports.

Most of the reasons I heard were the kinds of things people often say. But God looks at things a little upside down. Justice is not necessarily what I want when I want it. God's justice is bigger than our wants. The justice in our cookie giveaway was bigger than any one of you. I don't really know who got which cookie or what your preference was. The greater purpose for the cookie giveaway was to have this conversation, not to give you a snack. What happened to each of you was part of this bigger purpose.

**Ask** • Do you think the cookie giveaway served its purpose? Why or why not? (Yes, because we learned about justice; no, because it wasn't fair.)

• Has your opinion about whether it was fair or not fair changed? How? (Yes, because sometimes we want the wrong things; no, because I wanted another kind of cookie.)

**Say** God's justice is part of a picture that's bigger than we can see at first glance. Sometimes it takes time and experience to see how God is bringing about justice. In some cases, we may never really understand until we get to heaven. But until then, we need to live as peacefully with others as we can.

Sing "Live in Harmony" (Romans 12:16).

Lyrics are in the back of this book.

**Say** I'm going to give each of you a second cookie, and this time you get to choose the kind you want. God's justice doesn't always mean we get what we want, but God's justice is always for our best in his kingdom. Whatever he gives us will lead us to joy!

Have the children eat their cookies.

Sing "This Is the Day" (Psalm 118:24).

Lyrics are in the back of this book.
Stories about animals or things in nature sometimes help us to understand more about God. Jesus drew people’s attention to lilies in the field and birds of the air to teach them about worrying. I’d like you to think a little about the sun and the moon.

- Is it fair that the sun gets to be brighter than the moon? Why or why not? (Yes, because if the moon was hotter, we wouldn’t be able to sleep very well; yes, because that’s the way God made them.)
- Is it fair that the sun never gets to see what midnight’s like? Why? (Yes, because the sun is supposed to be out in the day; yes, because nighttime is the moon’s job.)

The song “I Sing the Mighty Power of God” says, “I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day. The moon shines full at God’s command, and all the stars obey.” Many of you know that the moon is only able to shine because it reflects the light of the sun. If the sun and moon could talk, they would probably tell about how God designed them to work together rather than arguing about who shines brightest.

- What are some other possible conflicts in nature that you can imagine? (Rivers are smaller than oceans; lions eat other animals.)

It’s easy to see that God gave different advantages to each of his creations. These differences may not seem “fair,” but they are right. God, in his mighty power, has a purpose for every created thing and for every situation in our lives. Let’s sing about God’s mighty power.

Sing “I Sing the Mighty Power of God.”

Lyrics are in the back of this book.

Often we think we need to fix something to make situations fair and to bring about justice. And sometimes we’re right! Because people don’t always do things God’s way—because of sin in the world—there are many situations that are unjust. God wants us to be like him: To love justice and show mercy.

When we see that we aren’t acting fairly, God wants us to stop and obey his principles. When we see someone being treated unfairly, God wants us to stick up for the person. Those things show others that the God we serve is just. Let’s give honor to our just God by promising to obey him today.

Sing “Trust and Obey.”

Lyrics are in the back of this book.

God, we honor you for being just. We know you have a bigger picture than we can see, and we trust that your ways are best. In Jesus’ name, amen.
Preschool Activities, pages 175-176

At this time, have the preschool leader invite the preschoolers to go to their own room for this section of activities. Tear out the Preschool Activities page, and give it to the preschool leader. Have the preschool leader bring the preschoolers back to participate in Let’s Pray! with the older children. If you prefer to keep all the children together, do the starred (+) activities. They work well with both elementary and preschool children.

Elementary Activities

The Scales of Justice

Distribute the “Evidence Cards” 1 to 11 to 11 children. Place the balance scale where it is visible, and have the children sit in a circle or semicircle around it. Use a towel to cover the rock with Card 12, and put the rock near the scales.

Say Today, we are going to use this scale to weigh evidence about Saul. You’ll all serve as a grand jury to determine whether Saul should be brought to trial. I’ll be the prosecuting attorney. First, I’ll make an opening statement so that you understand why Saul was in trouble.

Saul was following David. When God caused Saul and his men to fall into a deep sleep, David and two of his men entered the camp and found Saul’s spear and water jug near his head. Saul remained sleeping as David and his friends thought about what to do. David had the opportunity to pronounce an immediate death sentence on Saul. These are the facts.

I call the first witness. Have the child who has Card 1 stand, read the evidence, then place the evidence card in the left pan of the scale. Ask the rest of the group to shout out a verdict. The kids can shout out either “Spear him!” or “Spare him!” to register their opinions. Repeat this process for each of the first 11 pieces of evidence. After the 11 cards have been read, uncover the rock with Card 12.

Ladies and gentlemen of the grand jury, this evidence has just been uncovered. It apparently comes directly from David, who was unable to be here, but who recorded his words in the book of 1 Samuel, chapter 26, verses 9 through 11. Read Evidence Card 12, and put the rock and card in the right pan of the scale. I rest my case. In view of the weighty evidence presented, I now ask you to make your final recommendation: spear him, or spare him?

(continued on page 177)
Preschool Activities

David Spares Saul’s Life
1 Samuel 26:5-25

Worship Theme:
God is just.

Easy Prep for Leaders

Cheese Race—Cut or purchase cheese cubes. Place a stack of craft sticks in the center of each of two foam plates, and arrange cheese cubes around them. Set the plates on a table on one side of the room. Place two empty foam plates on a table across the room. Make sure the area between the tables is free from obstacles.

Using Theo
Consider using Theophilus the FaithRetriever puppet today in these ways:
• Have Theo lead the preschoolers from the main worship area to the preschool room.
• Have Theo cheer the players in “Cheese Race.”
• See the KidsOwn Worship Kit for a puppet skit written for today’s worship session.

* Cheese Race
Help children form two equal teams. Show them how to poke a craft stick into a cheese cube. Then have the teams stand on the empty-plate side of the room.

We’re going to have a race to see how quickly we can get a cheese cube for each person to these empty plates. Each of you will have a chance to walk to the other side of the room, poke a craft stick into a cheese cube, walk back to this side of the room, and place the cheese on one of these plates. Ready? Here we go!

Give all the children a chance to walk the race.

Did you enjoy this race?
Did you follow all my instructions?
What do you think we should do with the cheese now?

We’ll eat the cheese in a little bit. But first, let’s wait.

Sing a Song of Sparing
King Saul carried two important belongings with him. One was his spear. Make a fist with your right hand, and move it as though you were going to throw a spear but plant it in the ground, instead. The second was his water jug. Hold your left hand in a fist and shake it as though checking how much water is in the jug. Have the children practice both motions. When you hear either of those words—spear or jug—in the song, do the motions with me.
Sing this song to the tune of “My Bonnie Lies Over the Ocean.”

**Verse 1:** Oh, King Saul was chasing young David
With hundreds in his great army;
Oh, King Saul was chasing young David,
But then he lay down to sleep.

**Verse 2:** Oh, David took two of his friends,
And went to the camp of King Saul.
Saul was sleeping so soundly,
He wasn’t protected at all!

**Chorus:** Here’s his spear and
Here’s the king’s big water jug, jug, jug!
Here’s his spear, and
Here’s the king’s big water jug.

**Verse 3:** Oh no, my friends, we cannot hurt him.
Oh no, my friends, that would be wrong.
Oh no, my friends, we can’t hurt him.
Let’s count on God to make us strong.

**Chorus:** Take his spear and
Take the king’s big water jug, jug, jug.
Take his spear and
Take the king’s big water jug.

**Verse 4:** Oh, David went back to the hillside
And shouted to Saul and his men,
“Oh, you are the Lord’s chosen servant,
So you are still safe, my friend.”

**Chorus:** But here’s your spear, and
Here is your big water jug, jug, jug.
Here’s your spear, and
Here is your big water jug!

**Verse 5:** Oh, God made David the king,
And God took the kingdom from Saul.
Oh, God made David the king,
And God showed his justice to all.

**Chorus:** God is just, and
God always honors what’s right, right, right.
God is fair, and
He will make everything right.

**Ask**
- When David and his friends found Saul’s spear, what could they have done with it?
- Why do you think they took the spear and jug instead?
- Why did David decide not to hurt Saul?

**Say**
David wasn’t willing to do something wrong, even though Saul may have deserved to be punished for the way he treated David. David trusted God to take care of him because God is just. God punished Saul for what he had done wrong by taking away the kingdom. God rewarded David for doing what was right by keeping him safe so that he could be king.

**May I, May I?**

Have the children line up against one wall while you stand against the opposite wall. Play a quick game of Mother, May I? giving children simple directions that each one can follow, one at a time.

**Say**
We’re going to play a fair game. I will give each of you a direction. First, you have to remember to say, “May I, may I?” Let’s practice those words so you don’t forget to say them. When you hear me say, “Yes, you may,” follow the direction. When you get to the wall where I am standing, I’ll give you a stamp for doing such a good job. Ready?

Begin giving directions. Promptly send back any child who doesn’t say “May I, may I?” but if a child seems to have trouble with your direction, perform the action with him or her. Stamp each child’s hand as he or she gets to the opposite wall.

**Ask**
- Do you think this was a fair game? Why or why not?
- Was it OK for me to help you?
- How did you feel about kids getting sent back if they forgot to say “May I, may I?”

**Say**
God gives us his directions, and he rewards us for doing what’s right. We sometimes have to go back and start again when we don’t do the right thing. That’s because God is just. But he helps us when we need help. That’s because God is kind and merciful. He wants us to learn to do right, and he is always there to help us when we get confused.

**Pray**
Thank you, God, for teaching us right and wrong. You are just and fair. And thank you for helping us. In Jesus’ name, amen.
**Ask**
- Why do you think David decided to spare Saul’s life? (Because David was nice to him; because he knew he shouldn’t kill Saul.)

**Say**
David’s faith was in a God who is just. He wasn’t willing to do something wrong to solve his problem. Instead he waited for God.

**Ask**
- When have you wanted to take a situation into your own hands? (Answers will vary.)
- What happened? (Answers will vary.)

**Say**
Sometimes it’s a long time before the end of the story. But we can depend on our just God to be at work for our good, no matter how unfair a situation seems. That’s why we praise him today!

---

*Engineering Justice*

Have kids form teams of 10 or fewer children so that teams have the same number. Place a board on the floor for each team, and put two balance boxes at each end of it.

**Say**
This is a relay game in which you are going to pick up a box, balance it on your upturned palm, and walk across the balance board. Demonstrate with one of the empty boxes. When you get to the other end, put your box down and pick up one of the boxes on the other side. Carry that box in the same way across the board to the next person on your team. The goal is for your whole team to finish the course. When everyone has finished, have the kids be seated.

**Ask**
- What surprised you about this game? (It was hard to balance the boxes; sometimes my box fell, and I didn’t know why.)
- Why was it difficult to predict how to balance the box? (Because something was wrong with the boxes; because the boxes were all different.)

**Say**
We often say that something that’s fair is balanced.

**Ask**
- Were these boxes balanced? Why or why not? (No, because some were heavier on one side; yes, we just had to figure out how to balance them right.)
- How is that like understanding God’s perspective on what is fair or just? (Sometimes things don’t seem fair to us; sometimes we don’t understand what God understands.)
- Why can’t we always understand God’s justice? (Because we’re not God; because God doesn’t always explain it to us.)

**Say**
Because God is just, we can count on him to bring justice. But there’s a lot we can’t see or understand. We struggle to make things seem fair, just as we struggled to get the boxes balanced on our hands.

**Ask**
- What can you do when you’re struggling with a situation that seems unfair? (I can pray; I can read the Bible.)
As children name different things they can do, have them take a box and balance it on another to make a tower.

**Say** It may be difficult to cope with an unfair situation, but knowing that God is just (and that with him all things are possible!) can help us to build great things from unbalanced circumstances.

**Pay for It**

**Say** Because God is just, he set up a consequence for sin. Pop a balloon with the skewer. The Bible says that the wages of sin is death. Let a child pop another balloon. Every time. Let another child pop another balloon. God's justice demands that sin has to be paid for. Let another child pop a balloon.

But God is also a God of mercy. So he made a way for our sin to be paid for. Rub the wooden skewer generously with oil. God sent his own Son to die on a wooden cross to pay the price for our sins. Slip the skewer into the underinflated balloon through the darker area close to the neck of the balloon.

**Ask** Do you think that means that our sins don't have to be paid for anymore? Why or why not? (Yes, because Jesus only needed to die once; no, because we're always sinning.)

**Say** Jesus paid for our sins. That means that, instead of requiring our death, God accepts Jesus' death as full payment for our sin. When we accept Jesus, God asks for no further payment because he is just. He doesn't ask for overpayment. If you've never accepted Jesus' payment for your sin, talk to me more after the session.

If time permits, allow the children to practice this trick.

**Let's Pray!**

**The Offering**

**Say** Our just God wants us to be like him. One way we can do that is to share what we have with others who are less fortunate. Our church does that through [tell kids how your church helps others]. As you walk by the offering bowl today, thank God for giving you the opportunity to share.

Take the offering.

**Fair Prayer**

Have kids choose a partner to pray with.

**Say** Maybe as we've talked today, you've thought of some unfair situations. You might not know what to do about those situations, but you can pray about them! Tell your partner a
situation you’ve thought about. The partner can respond with the prayer “Lord, send your justice.” Then switch roles so that you each have a chance to share and pray.

Allow about two minutes for sharing and prayer.

**All the Power You Need**

*Say*  You talked about some pretty difficult situations. But God can and will bring justice because he is just. He is also powerful and can overcome even the worst kinds of injustice.

Let’s close with a song that reminds us that God will bring justice because he has the power to do anything.


Lyrics are in the back of this book.

*Pray*  Dear God, we praise you for being just. Help us to trust that you have all the power we need. You will always make things fair and right in the end. Help us to live in a way that reflects you to the world. In Jesus’ name, amen.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evidence Cards</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **1.** Saul was in his house while David was playing the harp, as he usually did. Saul had a spear in his hand, and he hurled it, saying to himself, “I’ll pin David to the wall,” but David got away from him twice.  
*From 1 Samuel 18:10-11* |
| **2.** “Saul was afraid of David because the Lord was with David but had left Saul.”  
*From 1 Samuel 18:12* |
| **3.** Saul saw how successful David was, and he was jealous.  
*From 1 Samuel 18:8-9* |
| **4.** Saul tried a second time to pin David to the wall with his spear.  
*From 1 Samuel 19:9-10* |
| **5.** Saul tried to kill David when he thought David was sick.  
*From 1 Samuel 19:11-16* |
| **6.** David had to leave his home and his wife to protect himself.  
*From 1 Samuel 19:11-16* |
| **7.** Saul invited David to a party so he could kill him.  
*From 1 Samuel 20* |
| **8.** Saul ordered priests to be killed for helping David.  
*From 1 Samuel 22:17* |
| **9.** Saul tried to trap David in a city with no escape.  
*From 1 Samuel 23:7-8* |
| **10.** Saul gave David’s wife to another man while David was away.  
*From 1 Samuel 25:44* |
| **11.** Saul admitted he was wrong in believing that David wanted to harm him and went home, but later he came after David again.  
*From 1 Samuel 25:16-22; 26:1-2* |
| **12.** “Who can lay a hand on the Lord’s anointed and be guiltless? As surely as the Lord lives…the Lord himself will strike him; either his time will come and he will die, or he will go into battle and perish. But the Lord forbid that I should lay a hand on the Lord’s anointed.”  
*From 1 Samuel 26:9-11* |
**Everything Is Possible With God (Mark 10:27)**

_March in place to the beat._

E-V-E-R-Y-  
T-H-I-N-G is possible.  
E-V-E-R-Y-  
Everything is possible  
With God!  

(Twist to the beat when spelling.)

(Make muscleman arms.)

(Punch both fists in the air twice.)

(Repeat.)

Everything is possible  
With God!  
Everything is possible.  

(Twist to the beat.)

(Make muscleman arms.)

(Punch both fists in the air twice.)

(Repeat from the beginning.)

E-V-E-R-Y-   
T-H-I-N-G is possible.  
E-V-E-R-Y-   
Everything is possible  
With God!  

(Twist to the beat when spelling.)

(Make muscleman arms.)

(Punch both fists in the air twice.)

(Repeat.)

_Everything Is Possible With God_ (Mark 10:27) by Wallace and Rachel Fa'agutu and Jay Stocker. © 2006 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

---

**My Help Comes From the Lord (Psalm 121:2)**

Sometimes I feel afraid;  
I need someone to help me find my way,  
Someone who holds me up  
And gives me strength  
To get me through the day.

My help comes from the Lord,  
Who made heaven and earth.  
You are all I’ll ever need.  
My help comes from the Lord;  
I’m trusting in your name.

You are my God;  
It will always be true,  
My help comes from you.

Sometimes I feel afraid;  
I need someone to help me find my way,  
Someone who holds me up  
And gives me strength  
To get me through the day.

My help comes from the Lord,  
Who made heaven and earth.  
You are all I’ll ever need.  
My help comes from the Lord;  
I’m trusting in your name.

You are my God;  
It will always be true,  
My help comes from you.

_My Help Comes From the Lord_ (Psalm 121:2) by Jay Stocker. ©2011 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

**Worship Leader Tip**

Find the motions for this song on the FaithWeaver Worship DVD in your KidsOwn Worship Kit.

FaithWeaver • KidsOwn Worship
FaithWeaver • KidsOwn Worship
Song Lyrics and Motions • Summer Quarter

Holy, Holy, Holy
Holy, holy, holy!
Lord God Almighty!Early in the morning, our songs shall rise to thee. Holy, holy, holy!Merciful and mighty!God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

"Holy, Holy, Holy" by Reginald Heber.

My Jesus, He Loves Me
You know, my Jesus, he loves me.
You know, my Jesus, he saves me.
You know, my Jesus, he loves me.
You know my Jesus.

We can depend on the Lord alone to save us.
Only he is the one who will protect us.
He is watching over us.
Like a shield that will not budge.
He is watching over us.

Track 4

My Jesus, He Loves Me
You know, my Jesus, he loves me.
You know, my Jesus, he saves me.
You know my Jesus.

We can depend on the Lord alone to save us.
Only he is the one who will protect us.

Track 3

Holy, Holy, Holy
Holy, holy, holy!
Lord God Almighty!
He is watching over us.
Like a shield that will not budge.

He is watching over us.

He is watching over us.
He is watching over us.

He is watching over us.

He is watching over us.

He is watching over us.

He is watching over us.

He is watching over us.

He is watching over us.

He is watching over us.

He is watching over us.

He is watching over us.

He is watching over us.

He is watching over us.

He is watching over us.

He is watching over us.

He is watching over us.

He is watching over us.

He is watching over us.

He is watching over us.

He is watching over us.

He is watching over us.

He is watching over us.

He is watching over us.

He is watching over us.

He is watching over us.

He is watching over us.

He is watching over us.

He is watching over us.

He is watching over us.

He is watching over us.

He is watching over us.

He is watching over us.

He is watching over us.

He is watching over us.

He is watching over us.

He is watching over us.

He is watching over us.

He is watching over us.

He is watching over us.
Everything We Need

When our hearts are hungry, ................ (Place both hands on your heart.)
He is a miracle indeed, ................ (Put both hands out, palms up, in front of you.)
We can trust him, ................ (Raise your hands.)
He’s everything we need, ................ (Hug yourself.)
(Repeat.)

He’s everything we need, ................ (Hug yourself.)
Everything we need.
And we can trust him, ................ (Raise your hands.)
He’s everything we need. ................ (Hug yourself.)
(At end of the song, pat the backs of people on both sides of you.)

“Everything We Need” by Jay Stocker. © 2007 Group Publishing, Inc.

Trust in the Lord (Proverbs 3:5-6)

Trust in the Lord (trust in the Lord) .......... (Clasp your hands in front of you.)
With all your heart (with all your heart) .... (Pulse your clasped hands to the beat.)
And lean not on your own understanding (understanding); ................ (Lean to the right.)
In all your ways (all your ways) ............ (Lean to the left.)
Acknowledge him (acknowledge him) ...... (Raise your hands to the ceiling.)
And he will make your paths straight ....... (Slowly bring your hands down, and point them straight out in front of you.)

Once you begin that way, .................. (Take several steps forward.)
Don’t you ever, ever stray; .................. (Take several steps backward as you shake your head “no.”)
You’ll be on your way ...................... (Walk in place as you slowly bring your hands above your head.)
To an amazing life, ........................ (Hold your hands up with your hands open wide and shaking.)

(Repeat.)

(Repeat from the beginning.)

My God Is

My God is the God of creation.
My God made the land and the sea.
My God gave me hope and salvation.
Oh, that’s what my God is to me.

Father, Savior—
Oh, that’s what my God is to me, to me.
Creator, master—
Oh, that’s what my God is to me.

My God is a friend to the lonely.
My God sets the prisoner free.
My God is a loving companion.
Oh, that’s what my God is to me.

Father, Savior—
Oh, that’s what my God is to me, to me.
Creator, master—
Oh, that’s what my God is to me.

(Repeat.)

“Trust in the Lord” (Proverbs 3:5-6) by Rob Biagi. © 2005 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.
Trust and Obey

When we walk with the Lord
..............
(Walk in place.)

In the light of his Word,
...................
(Open your hands as if opening a book.)

What a glory he sheds on our way!
........
(Raise your arms and flutter your hands.)

While we do his good will,
................
(Pound fists on top of each other over and over.)

He abides with us still
....................
(Hug yourself.)

And with all who will trust and obey.

......
(Spread your arms wide.)

Track 8


Who can soar on wings like eagles?
.......
(Hold out your arms as if you're flying.)

Who can run and not grow weary?
........
(Run in place.)

Who can walk and not be faint?
........
(Put your hand to your forehead and tip your head back as if lightheaded.)

(Chorus)

Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.
(Repeat from the beginning.)

Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.
(Repeat from the beginning.)

They will soar on wings like eagles.
........
(Hold out your arms as if you're flying.)

They will run and not grow weary.
........
(Run in place.)

They will walk and not be faint.
........
(Put your hand to your forehead and tip your head back as if lightheaded.)

(Chorus)

Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.
(Repeat from the beginning.)

Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.
(Repeat from the beginning.)

They will soar on wings like eagles.
........
(Hold out your arms as if you're flying.)

They will run and not grow weary.
........
(Run in place.)

They will walk and not be faint.
........
(Put your hand to your forehead and tip your head back as if lightheaded.)

(Chorus)

Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.
(Repeat from the beginning.)

Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.
(Repeat from the beginning.)

They will soar on wings like eagles.
........
(Hold out your arms as if you're flying.)

They will run and not grow weary.
........
(Run in place.)

They will walk and not be faint.
........
(Put your hand to your forehead and tip your head back as if lightheaded.)

(Chorus)

Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.
(Repeat from the beginning.)

Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.
(Repeat from the beginning.)

They will soar on wings like eagles.
........
(Hold out your arms as if you're flying.)

They will run and not grow weary.
........
(Run in place.)

They will walk and not be faint.
........
(Put your hand to your forehead and tip your head back as if lightheaded.)

(Chorus)

Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.
(Repeat from the beginning.)

Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.
(Repeat from the beginning.)

They will soar on wings like eagles.
........
(Hold out your arms as if you're flying.)

They will run and not grow weary.
........
(Run in place.)

They will walk and not be faint.
........
(Put your hand to your forehead and tip your head back as if lightheaded.)

(Repeat from the beginning.)

I wanna soar on wings like eagles!
........
(Hold out your arms as if you're flying.)

I wanna run and not grow weary;
........
(Run in place.)

I wanna walk and not be faint.
........
(Put your hand to your forehead and tip your head back as if lightheaded.)

(Repeat chorus twice.)

"Those Who Hope" (Isaiah 40:31) by Carol Smith. © 2005 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

Trust and Obey

When we walk with the Lord
..............
(Walk in place.)

In the light of his Word,
...................
(Open your hands as if opening a book.)

What a glory he sheds on our way!
........
(Raise your arms and flutter your hands.)

While we do his good will,
................
(Pound fists on top of each other over and over.)

He abides with us still
....................
(Hug yourself.)

And with all who will trust and obey.

......
(Spread your arms wide.)

Track 8


Who can soar on wings like eagles?
.......
(Hold out your arms as if you're flying.)

Who can run and not grow weary?
........
(Run in place.)

Who can walk and not be faint?
........
(Put your hand to your forehead and tip your head back as if lightheaded.)

(Chorus)

Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.
(Repeat from the beginning.)

Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.
(Repeat from the beginning.)

They will soar on wings like eagles.
........
(Hold out your arms as if you're flying.)

They will run and not grow weary.
........
(Run in place.)

They will walk and not be faint.
........
(Put your hand to your forehead and tip your head back as if lightheaded.)

(Chorus)

Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.
(Repeat from the beginning.)

Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.
(Repeat from the beginning.)

They will soar on wings like eagles.
........
(Hold out your arms as if you're flying.)

They will run and not grow weary.
........
(Run in place.)

They will walk and not be faint.
........
(Put your hand to your forehead and tip your head back as if lightheaded.)

(Chorus)

Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.
(Repeat from the beginning.)

Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.
(Repeat from the beginning.)

They will soar on wings like eagles.
........
(Hold out your arms as if you're flying.)

They will run and not grow weary.
........
(Run in place.)

They will walk and not be faint.
........
(Put your hand to your forehead and tip your head back as if lightheaded.)

(Chorus)

Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.
(Repeat from the beginning.)

Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.
(Repeat from the beginning.)

They will soar on wings like eagles.
........
(Hold out your arms as if you're flying.)

They will run and not grow weary.
........
(Run in place.)

They will walk and not be faint.
........
(Put your hand to your forehead and tip your head back as if lightheaded.)

(Repeat from the beginning.)

I wanna soar on wings like eagles!
........
(Hold out your arms as if you're flying.)

I wanna run and not grow weary;
........
(Run in place.)

I wanna walk and not be faint.
........
(Put your hand to your forehead and tip your head back as if lightheaded.)

(Repeat chorus twice.)

"Those Who Hope" (Isaiah 40:31) by Carol Smith. © 2005 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.
Jesus Loves Me Rock

Jesus loves me;  
This I know,  
For the Bible  
Tells me so.

Little children  
To him belong.  
They are weak, but  
He's so strong!

Jaaayyy! (J)  
Eeeeee! (E)  
Ssssss! (S)  
Uuuuuu! (U)  
Ssssss! (S)

And what's that spell? (Jesus!)  
And who do you love? (Jesus!)  
And who loves you? (Jesus!)  
Who died for you? (Jesus!)  
And who's your guy? (Jesus!)  
The apple of your eye? (Jesus!)  
And who's your friend? (Jesus!)  
He'll love ya to the end! (Jesus!)

(Repeat from the beginning.)

The Plans I Have for You (Jeremiah 29:11)

“For I know the plans I have for you,”  
Declares the Lord.  
“I know the plans I have for you,”  
Declares the Lord.  
(Repeat.)

They are plans to prosper you and  
not to harm you,  
Plans to give you hope and a future.  
They are plans for good and not disaster.  
Why? Because he tells us so.

(Repeat from the beginning.)

“Jesus Loves Me Rock” by Dean-o. © 2003 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

“The Plans I Have for You” (Jeremiah 29:11) by Ben Glover. © 2005 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.
FaithWeaver • KidsOwn Worship

Song Lyrics and Motions • Summer Quarter

Do Not Be Anxious About Anything

(Philippians 4:6-7)

Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, aah.

Do not be anxious about anything,
But in everything, by prayer and petition,
With thanksgiving,
Present your requests to God.

Yeah, yeah.

Do not be anxious about anything,
But in everything, by prayer and petition,
With thanksgiving,
Present your requests to God.

Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, aah.

And the peace of God (peace of God),
Which transcends all understanding (transcends all understanding),
Will guard your hearts (guard your hearts)
And your minds in Christ Jesus (minds in Christ Jesus).

Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, aah.

Do not be anxious about anything,
But in everything, by prayer and petition,
With thanksgiving,
Present your requests to God.

Yeah, yeah.

Do not be anxious about anything,
But in everything, by prayer and petition,
With thanksgiving,
Present your requests to God.

Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, aah.

Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, aah.

Do Not Be Anxious About Anything

(Philippians 4:6-7)

Track 12

FaithWeaver • KidsOwn Worship

Published by the rights reserved

Do not be anxious about anything (Philippians 4:6-7) by Jay Stocker © 2007 Group Publishing Inc.
FaithWeaver • KidsOwn Worship

Song Lyrics and Motions • Summer Quarter

Praise the Lord (Psalm 150:6)

Let everything that moves ................ (Freestyle motions.)
And everything that breathes ............ (Hold your arms out to the sides.)
Praise the Lord............................... (Wave your arms overhead with the beat.)
Praise the Lord............................... (Wave your arms overhead with the beat.)
From the rising of the sun ............... (Begin making a large arc with both hands from the bottom right over your head to the left, stopping over your head on the word “sun.”)
Till the time that it goes down.......... (Continue the arc to the left.)
Praise the Lord............................... (Wave your arms overhead with the beat.)
Praise the Lord............................... (Wave your arms overhead with the beat.)

Everybody, let’s prai-ai-ai-ai-aise the Lord!.. (Motion “come on,” alternating left and right arms twice; then wave your arms overhead to the beat.)
Come on, let’s prai-ai-ai-ai-aise the Lord.... (Motion “come on,” alternating left and right arms twice; then wave your arms overhead to the beat.)
Let everything that lives .................. (Crouch down, and slowly grow.)
Sing praises to the Lord.................... (Continue growing by bringing your hands over your head.)
Praise the Lord!.............................. (Wave your arms overhead to the beat.)
Praise the Lord!.............................. (Wave your arms overhead to the beat.)

Let everything that lives .................. (Crouch down, and slowly grow.)
Sing praises to the Lord.................... (Continue growing by bringing your hands over your head.)
Praise the Lord!.............................. (Wave your arms overhead to the beat.)
Praise the Lord!.............................. (Wave your arms overhead to the beat.)

Everybody, let’s prai-ai-ai-ai-aise the Lord!.. (Motion “come on,” alternating left and right arms twice; then wave your arms overhead to the beat.)
Come on, let’s prai-ai-ai-ai-aise the Lord.... (Motion “come on,” alternating left and right arms twice; then wave your arms overhead to the beat.)
Let everything that lives .................. (Crouch down, and slowly grow.)
Sing praises to the Lord.................... (Continue growing by bringing your hands over your head.)
Praise the Lord!.............................. (Wave your arms overhead to the beat.)
Praise the Lord!.............................. (Wave your arms overhead to the beat.)

Let everything that walks ................ (Walk in place.)
And everything that runs ............... (Run in place.)
Praise the Lord............................... (Wave your arms overhead with the beat.)
Praise the Lord............................... (Wave your arms overhead with the beat.)

No matter where you are,................ (Shrug your shoulders.)
No matter where you’ve been,........... (Shake your index finger side to side.)

FaithWeaver • KidsOwn Worship

“Praise the Lord” (Psalm 150:6) by Jay Stocker. © 2005, 2007 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.
I Sing the Mighty Power of God

I sing the mighty pow'r of God
That made the mountains rise, That spread the flowing seas abroad And built the lofty skies.

I sing the wisdom that ordained
The sun to rule the day. The moon shines full at God's command, And all the stars obey.

I sing the goodness of the Lord
That filled the earth with food. God formed the creatures with a word And then pronounced them good. Lord, how thy wonders are displayed Where 'er I turn my eye, If I survey the ground I tread Or gaze upon the sky!

"I Sing the Mighty Power of God" by Isaac Watts.

And We Know (Romans 8:28) by Rob Biagi © 2004 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

And We Know (Romans 8:28)
**Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah**

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,........ (Draw a winding path in front of you with your finger and then point up.)

Pilgrim through this barren land.......... (Put your forearm to your forehead to indicate weariness.)

I am weak, but thou art mighty;.......... (Sag like a scarecrow, and then stand firm with your fists on your hips.)

Hold me with thy pow’rful hand.......... (Pound your first on your open palm.)

Bread of heaven, Bread of heaven,....... (Raise your left arm and then your right arm.)

Feed me till I want no more;............. (Make eating motions.)

Feed me till I want no more.............. (Make eating motions.)

Open now the crystal fountain......... (Pound your fist in the air as if hitting a rock.)

Whence the healing stream doth flow;..... (Move your fingers to suggest a stream.)

Let the fire and cloudy pillar.......... (Wiggle your fingers to suggest a flame, and then wiggle your finger as you move your arms up and down to indicate a pillar.)

Lead me all my journey through........ (Draw a winding path in front of you with your finger.)

Strong Deliv’rer, strong Deliv’rer,....... (Make a muscle with your left arm and then raise that arm. Then make a muscle with your right arm and raise that arm.)

Be thou still my strength and shield;..... (Pound downward with your left fist and then with your right first.)

Be thou still my strength and shield....... (Pound downward with your left fist and then with your right first.)

"Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah" by William Williams.

**Nothing Is Impossible (Luke 1:37)**

Sometimes when you don't know what to do, .................. (Jump up and down to the beat.)

It feels like you don’t even have a clue. ...... (Place both hands on your cheeks, shaking your head side to side.)

That is when you’ve got to turn to God,..... (Walk in a circle with both hands raised.)

Because you know that he can do ........ (Point both index fingers to your head.)

ANYTHING! ............................... (Spread both hands wide.)

Nothing is impossible with God! .......... (Make “boxing” motions as you punch fists to the beat.)

Nothing is impossible with God! Yeah! .... (Punch one fist in the air on “Yeah!”)

(Repeat from the beginning.)

Nothing is impossible with God! .......... (Make “boxing” motions as you punch fists to the beat.)

Nothing is impossible with God! Yeah! .... (Punch one fist in the air on “Yeah!”)

"Nothing Is Impossible" (Luke 1:37) by Jay Stocker. © 2005, 2008 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

**This Is the Day (Psalm 118:24)**

This is the day; this is the day.......... (Sign “day” by pointing the right pointer finger up and touching the right elbow with the left pointer finger. Move the right arm down in an arc.)

This is the day; this is the day.......... (Sign “day” each time you sing “This is the day.”)

This is the day that the Lord has made...... (Sign “day,” and then pound your fists as if making something.)

We will rejoice and be glad in it! ........ (Twist both hands up as if making two lasso motions.)

This is the day that the Lord has made...... (Repeat actions.)

We will rejoice and be glad in it!

(Repeat from beginning.)

This is the day; this is the day.
This is the day; this is the day.
(Repeat twice.)

"This Is the Day" (Psalm 118:24) by Jay Stocker. © 2006, 2007 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

FaithWeaver • KidsOwn Worship
Live in Harmony (Romans 12:16)

(Stand in a circle.)

Live in harmony; . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .
(Pat your neighbors’ backs.)

Love each other like a family. . . . . . . . . . . . . .
(Hug a neighbor.)

You’re my sister, you’re my brother;  . . . . . . . . . . . .
(Shake a neighbor’s hand.)

We are all the same, . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .
(Face one direction and rub a back.)

And we live in harmony.
(Repeat.)

I’m just an ordinary kid . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .
(Join hands and march in a circle.)

With some ordinary friends.

We don’t try to act important.
(March in the opposite direction.)

We just want to have some fun, and
(Live in harmony.)

We live in harmony.
(Repeat.)

The Lord looks at the heart. (1 Samuel 16:7b) by Jay Stocker © 2007 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

When we look at each other—

We can only see the outside.

But the Lord can see past all that—

So much more, as a matter of fact.

The Lord does not look at the outward appearance.

We are all the same.

And we live in harmony.

The Lord looks at the heart.

When we look at each other, we can only see the outside.

But the Lord can see past all that—

So much more, as a matter of fact.

The Lord does not look at the outward appearance.

We are all the same.

And we live in harmony.

The Lord looks at the heart.

When we look at each other, we can only see the outside.

But the Lord can see past all that—

So much more, as a matter of fact.

The Lord does not look at the outward appearance.

We are all the same.

And we live in harmony.

The Lord looks at the heart.

When we look at each other, we can only see the outside.

But the Lord can see past all that—

So much more, as a matter of fact.

The Lord does not look at the outward appearance.

We are all the same.
Real Love (Romans 12:10)

Step out;
It's about time now.
Step up;
Who can you find now?
Everyone around you is looking for real love.
Look out;
Everyone is different.
Look in;
There's so much you can give,
And everyone around you is looking for real love.

(Chorus)
Love each other (love each other)
With genuine affection (genuine affection),
And take delight in honoring each other.

Step out;
It's about time now.
Step up;
Who can you find now?
Everyone around you is looking for real love.
Look out;
Everyone is different.
Look in;
There's so much you can give,
And everyone around you is looking for real love.

(Repeat chorus)

Wherever You Go (Joshua 1:9)

Have I not commanded you?
Be strong and courageous.
Do not be terrified;
Do not be discouraged,
For the Lord your God will be with you
Wherever you go.
Wherever you go.
(Repeat twice.)

Wherever you go.
Wherever you go.
Wherever you go.

*Wherever You Go* (Joshua 1:9) by Jay Stocker. © 2006, 2008 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.
The Strength I Need (Philippians 4:13) by Ben Glover © 2006 Group Publishing Inc. All rights reserved.

Jesus gives me, he gives me all the strength I need.
Oh-oh, oh-oh, oh-oh,
Jesus gives me the strength I need, you see.
Oh-oh, oh-oh, oh-oh,
Jesus gives me all the strength I need.
Oh-oh, oh-oh, oh-oh,
Jesus gives me the strength I need, you see.
Oh-oh, oh-oh, oh-oh,
So we sing.

(Repeat.)

The strength I need.
The strength I need.
Oh-oh, oh-oh,
Who gives me strength,
everything through him I can do everything.

Track 23