

E25. Ascension Day

Luke 24:44-53; Mark 16:15-20; Acts 1:9-11

Learning Objectives

1. The children will be able to retell the events surrounding Jesus' Ascension.
2. The children will explore what it means to share the "good news" with others.

Memory Verse: ***"When the Lord Jesus finished speaking to them, He was taken up into heaven. He sat down at the right hand of God."*** **--Mark 16:19 (NIRV)**

Getting Started

Choose One Activity

All Ages

Now you see it – Now you don't

Begin with three cups (not see through) placed upside down on the table. You will be playing "Now you see it – Now you don't" with the students. Lift each cup up and show the students that there is nothing under the cups. Then place a small object (eraser, small ball, etc.) under one of the cups. Tell the students to keep their eyes on the cups as you move them around (you may want to practice this ahead of time!). They will try to tell you when you are done moving them, where the object is at. (NOTE: Somehow, put the object in your lap or pocket so the kids can't see.) Play the cup game again, and when you raise the cup, there will be no object under any cup!

Tell the students that today we will be talking about how Jesus "disappeared" into heaven on Ascension Day.

Balloons Lifting Up to Heaven

Give each child a small index card or small piece of paper. Tell the children that today we are going to send messages to Jesus in Heaven. Let them write or draw anything they like on their cards and help each child to sign his name.

Bring several balloons (one for each child and a few extra) filled with helium. Tie the messages to the strings of the balloons (you may need extra grown-up hands to accomplish this in a timely manner) Take the children outside and on the count of 3, let of their balloons and let them fly up to "Heaven". (Make sure the cards are small and not too heavy, so the balloons can actually "go" up to "Heaven".) Stand there with the children and watch the balloons go up into the sky until you cannot see them anymore.

Once you are back inside say: Today we will hear about Jesus, when he went up to heaven just as we saw our balloons go up into the sky. All His friends watched Him rise into the sky, until He was gone into the clouds. And we will also hear about the promise that He will come back to us and take us with Him to heaven one day.

Bible Lesson with Discussion Questions

Message:

Share the good news!

NOTE: *Remind the children why we can read about Jesus' Ascension in different books of the Bible. Each book may have a different author, and therefore gives his perspective on the events that took place.*

Luke:

Jesus said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you. Everything written about me must happen. Everything written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms must come true."

Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He told them, "This is what is written. The Christ will suffer. He will rise from the dead on the third day. His followers will preach in his name. They will tell others to turn away from their sins and be forgiven. People from every nation will hear it, beginning at Jerusalem. You have seen these things with your own eyes.

"I am going to send you what my Father has promised. But for now, stay in the city. Stay there until you have received power from heaven."

(Jesus Is Taken Up into Heaven)

Jesus led his disciples out to the area near Bethany. Then he lifted his hands up and blessed them. While he was blessing them, he left them. He was taken up into heaven.

Then they worshiped him. With great joy, they returned to Jerusalem. Every day they went to the temple, praising God.

Mark:

In today's story, Jesus is speaking to His disciples:

He said to them, "Go everywhere in the world. Tell the good news to everyone. Anyone who believes and is baptized will be saved. But anyone who does not believe will be judged guilty."

Jesus went on to say that those who believe will be able to do miraculous things, including: Being able to drive out spirits that are not Godly, they will be able to speak many languages that they had not known before and they will be able to heal those who are sick that they will get well.

When the Lord Jesus finished speaking to them, he was taken up into heaven. He sat down at the right hand of God. Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere. The Lord worked with them. And he backed up his word by the signs that went with it.

Acts:

After Jesus said this, he was taken up to heaven. They watched until a cloud hid him from their sight.

While he was going up, they kept on looking at the sky. Suddenly two men dressed in white clothing stood beside them. "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking at the sky? Jesus has been taken away from you into heaven. But he will come back in the same way you saw him go."

Bible Lesson with Discussion Questions - Continued

Discussion Questions:

1. Who did Jesus tell to share the good news? (*The disciples.*)
2. How many disciples were there when the Lord Jesus ascended into heaven? (11 – NOTE: Look up together in the Bible Acts 1:12-13, make a list on the board with all the names, and then have the children count them. Remember to ask the children if we are in the OLD or NEW Testament – Old is before Jesus was alive.)
3. What did Jesus tell the disciples to do? (*Baptize, heal the sick – make them well, tell others the “good news” about God.*)
4. Where did Jesus go? (*Up to heaven to be with God*)
5. Do we know when Jesus will come back for us? (*No, we do not know. Discuss how Jesus could come back at any time and emphasize on how much we look FORWARD to that day. Be sure to explain that this is not something we should be afraid of because Heaven is a beautiful and peaceful place.*)
6. How would you feel if Jesus came back today? (*Discuss together.*)
7. What can we do to prepare ourselves for his return? (*Discuss together.*)

Application to Real Life

Begin by reviewing the Fruit of the Spirit. Try to make a list on your easel from memory. If you need more help, look up Galatians 5:22-23 in your Bibles and complete the list.

There are many times in our lives when we are asked to follow someone or something. Make a list together of people who we have to follow sometimes (ex. Teachers, parents, principal, police officers, etc.). At times, we may need to follow what others are doing, or follow a set of instructions that are given. **We are also expected to follow Jesus.**

Ask the children: **Are you willing to give up everything and follow Jesus, just like His disciples did?**

God is not asking us to leave our families or give back all our toys, but we can still follow Jesus with all our hearts. We need to fill our heart with good things, like love and joy and peace (refer to the fruit of the spirit list) and try to get rid of the things that are not so good in our hearts. This is how we follow Jesus with our whole hearts. By following Jesus in this way, we are sharing the “good news” with others, without saying a word. We are showing others through our example. (Refer to the message statement – “Share the Good News”.)

Memory Work Fun

5 minutes

1. Recite the memory verse.
2. Practice finding the memory verse and/or Bible text in their Bible!
3. Play a game to review the odd numbered Commandment (toss the bean bag/stuffed animal, the person who catches it says the next word...try to go faster and faster).
4. How many fruits of the spirit can you name in one minute? Give it a try.
5. Allow a volunteer (child) to lead the class in an opening/closing prayer.

All Ages**“Be Prepared” Activity**

Have each student (or the whole class) make a list of all the things you may need to go on a trip to the beach. It’s important not to forget anything we may need, isn’t it? We want to be ready or prepared for our vacation. Don’t forget the sunscreen.

Jesus promised to come back to us here on Earth! Imagine how the disciples felt when they first thought Jesus was dead on Good Friday (Discuss – sad, empty, etc.) and how they may have felt when they now saw Him go up into heaven. But Jesus promised that He would return! That promise is one of the foundations of our faith, as we wait for Jesus to return for us again. But what do we have to do to be ready? (Discuss together.) Make a list together on the easel (or on chart paper) of ways we can work to be ready for Jesus’ coming. Remind the children that it’s always important to be prepared!

Grades K-2**“Jesus Ascending to Heaven” – Paper Cup Craft**

See: www.daniellesplace.com → Login to the Resource Room → Click on “Lesson Indexes” in the blue menu bar → Scroll down and click on “New Testament Lessons” → Click on “Luke” → Scroll down under Luke 24:50-53 and click on “Jesus Ascension – Now You See Him, Now You Don’t” → Scroll down to find the activity.

You will need: 16oz. foam or paper cups, blue paper, card stock (heavy paper), cotton balls, string, tape, and colored pencils. Please see the above website for detailed instructions.

Grades 3-5**“Disappearing Bible Verse” Review Game**

Write the memory verse on index cards, one word per card. Show the children the cards, and read each word, then place them in order. Tell the children that you are going to take one of the cards away, and they will need to figure out which word is missing. Mix up the cards. Set one card aside and place the rest of the cards in random order on the table. See who can tell you which card is missing first.

Journal*Optional***Grades K-2**

Draw a picture of what you think it will be like when Jesus comes again for us. Will you be happy to go with Him? Why or why not? Write about it.

Grades 3-5

Do you think it is important to share the good news about Jesus with others? Why or why not? Write about it.

Homework Ideas

- Read the lesson "**Pentecost**" (Acts 2:1-41) and practice looking up the Bible text reference in your Bible.
- Learn the memory verse:
*"But the Father will send the Friend in my name to help you.
The Friend is the Holy Spirit." --John 14:26 (NIRV)*
- Work on memorizing commandment #_____.
- Color the **Pentecost** coloring sheet as your parents read you the Sunday School Lesson. Return your coloring page for a sticker.
- Who is your role model? Maybe you have more than one. Write that person's name down or draw a picture of them. Write about why they are your role model. Bring it class to share.

Other Resources

<http://children.ccm.com/curriculum/> → New Testament → Lesson 284 "support curriculum"



Name: _____

Pentecost



"But the Father will send the Friend in my name to help you.
The Friend is the Holy Spirit." --Acts 2:4 (NIRV)

Take Home Page: E25. Ascension Day

Today I learned...

Today your child learned that God wants us to **share the “good news”** about Jesus with others. Children explored the events that took place when Jesus ascended into heaven. They also talked about what it means to share the “good news” with others.

Help me learn my memory verse...

*“When the Lord Jesus finished speaking to them, He was taken up into heaven.
He sat down at the right hand of God. --Mark 16:19 (NIRV)*

Ask me...

1. What happened on Ascension Day?
2. What does Jesus want us to share with others? Why?
3. Who could you share the good news with this week?

Live Your Faith...

Open your child’s Bible together and look for the story of Jesus’ ascension in Luke 24. Once you find it, encourage him/her to highlight it and write “go and tell” next to the story. Talk about what that phrase means, and how your family can share the love of Jesus with other families, and even tell them about Him. Pray together that God will help your family work together to share Jesus’ love and His story with other families.



E26. Pentecost

Acts 2:1-41

Learning Objectives

1. The children will be able to retell the events that took place on Pentecost.
2. The children will explore how the Holy Spirit works within them.

Memory Verse: *“But the Father will send the Friend in my name to help you. The Friend is the Holy Spirit.”*
--John 14:26 (NIRV)

Getting Started

Choose One Activity

All Ages

Wind and Fire Relay

See: www.daniellesplace.com → Login to the Resource Room → In the “Search” menu bar on the top right, type “Pentecost” → Click on “Pentecost” → Scroll down to find the “Wind and Fire Relay”

You will need orange or red crepe paper for this activity. Please see the above website for detailed instructions.

NOTE: This activity could be done with multi-level classes, since they are all doing a lesson on Pentecost. Make sure you tell the children after they get to class that the blowing air (through the straw) represented the wind, and the colored crepe paper represented the fire from today’s story.

Speak My Language

See: <http://children.ccm.com/curriculum/> → NT Teacher Guide → Page 9 → The Day of Pentecost → Page 5

You will need to make pairs of animal names on slips of paper or index cards before class. The children will each make their animal sound to find their matching “partner” animal. If you have an “open” or clear area in your classroom, you could also have the children close their eyes during this activity. Please see the above website for detailed instructions.

When you finish the activity, explain to the children that the Jewish people from all over the world (to their own surprise) were able to recognize their own language on the day of Pentecost. Continue with the lesson.

Grades K-2

Balloon Object Talk

Begin class with a balloon, not blown up, but just sitting on the table. Ask the students what it is. What can you do with it? (Hopefully, they will tell you that it is not much fun unless it is blown up!) Tell the students, “This balloon is like our lives without the Holy Spirit. We cannot do things on our own, we are lifeless.” Now blow the balloon up. “Now, we have life, we can go out and tell others about God. We are filled up with the Spirit. Today, we are going to be talking about Pentecost, when God filled up his disciples with the Holy Spirit.”

Grades 3-5Bible Activity

See: <https://www.kidssundayschool.com> → Grade School → Lessons → New Testament – The Twelve Apostles – “The Great Commission” Lesson → “As Kids Arrive” activity

For this activity, you will need index cards, Bibles, and pencils. Please see the above website for detailed instructions. The children will look up various Bible verses related to sharing the “good news” of Jesus with others.

Bible Lesson with Discussion Questions***Message:******Let the Holy Spirit guide you.***

The day of Pentecost came. The disciples were all gathered in one place. Suddenly a sound came from heaven. It was like a strong wind blowing. It filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw something that looked like flames of fire. The flames separated and stood over person that was there. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and they began to speak in languages they had not known before. The Spirit gave them the ability to do this.

A crowd of people gathered when they heard the people speaking in different languages. There were some very religious Jewish people staying in Jerusalem who were from every country in the world. When they heard the noise, a crowd came and gathered together. Everyone was surprised, because they heard the disciples speaking in their own languages. They were amazed by this. They asked, "Aren't all these people from Galilee? Why, then, do we each hear them speaking in our own native language? We are from different places: Parthia, Media, Elam, Mesopotamia, Judea, Capadocia, Pontus, Asia, Phrygia, Pamphylia, Egypt, the areas of Libya near Cyrene, Rome, Crete, and Arabia. But we hear these men speaking about God's wonders in our own languages!" The people were amazed!

But others were making fun of them, saying that they had too much wine to drink.

Then Peter stood up with the other 11 Apostles and explained to the crowd that they had not been drinking wine and that these things that had happened were just as Joel the prophet wrote about (in the Old Testament). Jesus had walked on the earth, performed miracles, been nailed on the cross, was killed by you, and had risen from the dead. Peter reminded the people that they had all witnessed these things. Jesus was now lifted up to heaven and is at God's right side. God gave the Holy Spirit to Jesus, and Jesus has poured out that Spirit on earth. That is what you are hearing.

When the people heard this, they said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?"

Peter replied, "All of you must turn away from your sins and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then your sins will be forgiven. You will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children. It is also for all who are far away. It is for all whom the Lord our God will choose."

Those who accepted his message were baptized. About 3,000 people joined the believers that day. And they continued to share, to have fellowship, and to pray together.

Bible Lesson with Discussion Questions - Continued

Discussion Questions:

1. What did Jesus tell the disciples would be coming? (*The Holy Spirit.*)
2. What is the name of the day that the disciples received the Holy Spirit? (*Pentecost.*)
3. What did the Holy Spirit look like? (*Like little flames that rested on them - possibly discuss that we cannot see our Holy Spirit, that this was something special that only happened on Pentecost.*)
4. What did the Holy Spirit allow the disciples to do? (*Speak in many languages because of the Holy Spirit.*)
5. The people at first were unsure of the different languages. What convinced them? (*Peter spoke to them about all Jesus had gone through.*)
6. What did Peter tell the people that they needed to do? (*Turn away from sin, be baptized and receive the Holy Spirit.*)
7. As a result, how many became believers in Jesus that day? (*3,000.*)
8. Discuss with the children how God sent the Holy Spirit to the disciples to be their guide in life. (*It helps them decide right from wrong and helps them to become closer to our Heavenly Father.*)
9. Do you think the Holy Spirit can help you too? Why or why not? (*Discuss together.*)
10. How do we ask the Holy Spirit to help us? (*Pray and ask God to let the Holy Spirit guide you and show you what to do. Discuss together.*)

Application to Real Life

Enjoy a healthy snack together as you discuss the following:

Jesus told His Apostles to go and preach the good news about the kingdom of heaven, to heal the sick, to baptize with water and the Holy Spirit, and perform miracles. What a huge task they had before them. The Apostles could not rely on their own power to carry out their mission. But they were given everything they needed, even the power to perform miracles. The Holy Spirit guided them on what to do and where to go and what to say.

Ask the children: ***Do you think that Jesus has a mission for you and your life?*** Discuss this together. Let the children share their thoughts on what they mission might be.

Tell the children that we do have a mission. As followers of Jesus, our mission is:

1. Obey Jesus' teachings and commandments.
2. To go and tell others about Jesus.

Sometimes these things are very hard to do, but we need to remember that Holy Spirit that lives within us is our friend. It will give us the "power" and strength that we need to do these things. The Holy Spirit will also be there to guide us, just like it guided Jesus' Apostles and disciples on the day of Pentecost. After the disciples received the Holy Spirit, they went out into the streets and Peter gave a mighty sermon. He told the people about Christ: how He fulfilled the prophecies in the Old Testament, how He resurrected from the dead, how He ascended into heaven. He explained the gospel to them, he shared the "good news" of Jesus and many who heard him believed.

This is a beautiful display of the gift of **evangelism**. Being able to share with others what you know about Jesus is something that we can all do. But as we can see in the story, the Holy Spirit can help someone, like Peter, to testify with great enthusiasm and lead many people to believe in Christ. Review the message and the memory verse.

Teacher Notes:

The gift of evangelism is the divine enablement to effectively communicate the gospel to unbelievers, so they respond in faith and move towards discipleship in Christ. Individuals with the gift of evangelism contribute testimony.

1. Name the two main parts of the Bible and tell what the difference is. (Old Testament – before Jesus, New Testament – Jesus & After Jesus)
2. Where is the book of Daniel located? In the Old or New Testament? Practice finding it together.
3. Review the odd commandments that the children know so far.
4. Recite the memory verse.

Activity Ideas*Choose One***All Ages****Wind Twirlers Craft Activity**

See: www.daniellesplace.com → Login to the Resource Room → In the “Search” menu bar on the top right, type “Pentecost” → Click on “Pentecost” → Scroll down to find the “Wind Twirlers”

You will need craft foam or card stock in a variety of colors, stickers (foam or regular), markers, yarn, scissors, and a hole punch for this activity. The wind twirlers show us that the wind exists, even though we cannot see it. In the same way, we cannot see the Holy Spirit, but it is with us too. Please see the above website for detailed instructions.

Grades K-2**Apostles Song**

See: <https://www.kidssundayschool.com> (Grade School, Songs, “The Apostles”)

Help the children learn the names of the 12 apostles by singing the song. Please see the above website for the lyrics that are sung to the tune of [Jesus Loves Me](#).

Tongues of Fire Headbands

Make “tongues of fire” headbands and have the children put them on as they are told the story of Pentecost and receiving the Holy Spirit.

Use card stock paper or cardboard to cut out flame shapes. Have the children color them with watercolors or glue red and orange pieces of tissue paper on it to make it look like flames. Use a strip of paper for the headband, fitting it to each child’s head and using a stapler to secure the headband. Attach the flames to the headband using the stapler as well.



Activity Ideas – Continued

Choose One

Grades 3-5

Bible Activity

Discuss who and what the Holy Spirit is. Draw a picture of a triangle and label the points of the triangle with the trinity – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Explain that the Holy Spirit is part of this trinity (look at the word “trinity” and the prefix “tri” – link this to other words the students know with tri, such as “tricycle” or “triangle” to show three of something).

Look up the following verses to learn more about the Holy Spirit. Make a list as a class of what you have learned from each verse about the Holy Spirit:

Matthew 3:16 – the spirit of God descending from heaven

John 14:26 – a friend, a teacher

John 15:26 – spirit of truth, comes from the Father

1 Corinthians 3:16 – the spirit lives in us

Ephesians 1:13 – promised to those who believe in Jesus

Journal

Optional

Grades K-2

Draw a picture of the Holy Spirit coming to the people on Pentecost. Do you think the people were happy? Why or why not? Write about it.

Grades 3-5

Why do you think Jesus referred to the Holy Spirit as a “friend” for us? What does that mean to you? Write about it.

Homework Ideas

- Read the lesson **“David is King”** (2 Samuel 5:1-4 and 2 Samuel 7) and practice looking up the Bible text reference in your Bible.
- Learn the memory verse: *“Seek His will in all you do, and He will show you which path to take.”*
--Proverbs 3:6 (NLT)
- Work on memorizing commandment # ____.
- Color the picture titled **“David is King”**. Bring it to class for a sticker.
- What do you want to be when you “grow up”? Draw a picture or write about it and bring it to class.

Other Resources

<http://children.ccm.com/curriculum/> → NT Support Curriculum → Page 9 “The Day of Pentecost”

www.daniellesplace.com → Login to the Resource Room → click on “Search” from the top menu bar →

Search “Pentecost” → Click on “Pentecost”

Name: _____

David is King



"Seek His will in all you do, and He will show you which path to take."
-Proverbs 3:6 (NLT)



Take Home Page: E26. Pentecost

Today I learned...

Today your child learned that we need to **let the Holy Spirit guide us**. Children explored the events that took place on the first Pentecost. They also talked about how the Holy Spirit is our friend and is there to help us with our mission.

Help me learn my memory verse...

*"But the Father will send the Friend in my name to help you. The Friend is the Holy Spirit."
--John 14:26 (NIRV)*

Ask me...

1. What is your favorite part of the Pentecost story?
2. Why is it your favorite?
3. Do you think the Holy Spirit can help you too? Why or why not?

Live Your Faith...

Talk together as a family and share with each other who your friends are. Do you have one that is the closest to you or one who is your very best friend? Why is that person so special to you? Did anyone mention the "Holy Spirit" as one of their "friends"? The Holy Spirit is always with us, and we can call on God through our prayers to let the Holy Spirit help us and guide us to do and say things that would please Him each day. Pray together and ask God to allow you to recognize the Holy Spirit and how it is helping or guiding you throughout this week.

Bible Lesson with Discussion Questions – *continued*

All of the elders of Israel came to see King David at Hebron. There the king made a covenant with them in the sight of the Lord. They anointed David as king over Israel. David was 30 years old when he became king. He ruled for 40 years.

2 Samuel 7 ~ God Makes a Promise to David

The king settled down in his palace. The Lord had given him peace and rest from all of his enemies who were around him. Then the king spoke to the prophet Nathan. He said, "Here I am, living in a palace that has beautiful cedar walls. But the ark of God remains in a tent."

Nathan replied to the king, "Go ahead and do what you want to. The Lord is with you." That night the word of the Lord came to Nathan. The Lord said, "Go and speak to my servant David. Tell him, 'The Lord says, "Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house from the day I brought the people of Israel up out of Egypt until now. I have been moving from place to place. I have been living in a tent. I have moved from place to place with all of the people of Israel. I commanded their rulers to be shepherds over them. I never asked any of those rulers, 'Why haven't you built me a house that has beautiful cedar walls? So tell my servant David, 'The Lord who rules over all says, "I took you away from the grasslands. That's where you were taking care of your father's sheep and goats. I made you ruler over my people Israel. I have been with you everywhere you have gone. I cut off all of your enemies when you were attacking them. Now I will make you famous. Your name will be just as respected as the names of the most important people on earth. I will provide a place where my people Israel can live. I will plant them in the land. Then they will have a home of their own. They will not be bothered anymore. Evil people will no longer crush them, as they did at first. That is what your enemies have done ever since I appointed leaders over my people Israel. But I will give you peace and rest from all of them. I tell you that I myself will set up a royal house for you. Someday your life will come to an end. You will join the members of your family who have already died. Then I will make one of your own sons the next king after you. And I will make his kingdom secure. He is the one who will build a house where I will put my Name. I will set up the throne of his kingdom. It will last forever. I will be his father. And he will be my son. I took my love away from Saul. I removed him from being king. You were there when I did it. But I will never take my love away from your son. Your royal house and your kingdom will last forever in my sight. Your throne will last forever." ' ' "

Nathan reported to David all of the words that the Lord had spoken to him.

David Prays to the Lord

Then King David went into the holy tent. He sat down in front of the Lord. He said, "Lord and King, who am I? My family isn't important. So why have you brought me this far? I would have thought that you had already done more than enough for me. But now, Lord and King, you have also spoken about what is going to happen to my royal house in days to come. Lord and King, is this your usual way of dealing with people? What more can I say to you? Lord and King, you know all about me. You have done a wonderful thing. You have made it known to me. You have done it because that's what you said you would do. It's exactly what you wanted to do for me. Lord and King, how great you are! There isn't anyone like you. There isn't any God but you. We have heard about it with our own ears. Who is like your people Israel? God, we are the one nation on earth you have saved. You have set us free for yourself. Your name has become famous. You have done great and wonderful things. You have driven out nations and their gods to make room for your people. You saved us when you set us free from Egypt. You made Israel your very own people forever. Lord, you have become our God. And now, Lord God, keep forever the promise you have made to me and my royal house. Do exactly as you promised. Then your name will be honored forever. People will say, 'The Lord rules over all. He is God over Israel.' My royal house will be made secure in your sight. Lord who rules over all, you are the God of Israel. Here's what you have shown me. You told me, 'I will build you a royal house.'

Bible Lesson with Discussion Questions – continued

So I can boldly offer this prayer to you. Lord and King, you are God! Your words can be trusted. You have promised many good things to me. Now please bless my royal house. Then it will continue forever in your sight. Lord and King, you have spoken. Because you have given my royal house your blessing, it will be blessed forever."

Discussion Questions:

1. What happened to King Saul? *(The children may or may not know – King Saul died in a battle.)*
2. Review together some of the events of David's life from past lessons and how God was able to bless him and help him through what he was facing. *(Make a list on your easel.)*
3. What was David's original job? *(He was a small shepherd boy, tending his father's sheep.)*
4. In today's lesson, what was David's new "job"? *(David becomes the King of Israel.)*
5. Whose plan was it all along to make David the King? *(It was God's plan for David.)*
6. Why do you think God wanted David to be the King of His people? *(Discuss together. Answers will vary.)*
7. Do you believe that God has a plan for your life? How will God's plan for our lives become our reality? *(Discuss together. Talk about ways to follow God in our lives and the importance of His blessing.)*

Application to Real Life

Look up together and read in your Bibles Psalm 23 (see below for the NIRV translation to assist you in explaining the meaning of this portion of scripture).

Psalm 23 – A Psalm of David

- ¹ The Lord is my shepherd. He gives me everything I need.
- ² He lets me lie down in fields of green grass. He leads me beside quiet waters.
- ³ He gives me new strength. He guides me in the right paths for the honor of his name.
- ⁴ Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will not be afraid. You are with me. Your shepherd's rod and staff comfort me.
- ⁵ You prepare a feast for me right in front of my enemies. You pour oil on my head. My cup runs over.
- ⁶ I am sure that your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life. And I will live in the house of the Lord forever.

Talk about what this scripture means, taking it one verse at a time. Then remind the children that God took care of David over and over again, but David put his trust in God and followed Him with his whole heart. As a result, David was able to experience the overflow of God's blessings.

When we seek God and follow Him above everything else in our lives, we are able to experience His blessings. When we follow God with our whole heart, just as David did, God is able to show us the plan He has for our life. God has a plan for our lives (message statement). We have to first seek Him and follow Him, and then His plan will become our reality.

1. Name the two main parts of the Bible and tell what the difference is. (Old Testament – before Jesus, New Testament – Jesus & After Jesus)
2. Where is the book of Samuel located? In the Old or New Testament? Practice finding it together.
3. Review the Lord’s Prayer together.
4. Recite the memory verse and find it in the Bible together.
5. Lead the class in a short prayer.

Activity Ideas

Choose One

All Ages**Role Play: A Great King**

You will need to print a copy of the play for each character. Then assign children to various roles in the play. Have a small group perform the skit. Afterwards, discuss and review what happens after this part of the story occurs.

“What’s in your Backpack?” Object Talk

See: www.kidssundayschool.com → Grade School → Object Talks → “What’s in your Backpack?”

You will need a large backpack or duffle bag, a Bible, and pillows, blankets and newspaper for this object talk. Please see the above website for detailed instructions. This activity will over dramatize the fact that when we find ourselves in crisis, the Bible is just one tool we have to help us through while continuing to follow God and His teachings. Brainstorm a list of other tools we have (the Holy Spirit, prayer, divine services, etc.)

“What’s Missing” Object Talk

See: www.kidssundayschool.com → Grade School → Object Talks → “What’s Missing”

For this object talk, you will need a set of Dominos. This activity will help demonstrate the power of God’s blessing in our lives. Please see the website for details about the activity. David experienced God’s blessings over and over again in his life. David continued to follow God with his whole heart, and as a result, God had big plans for David. Remind the children that God also has a plan for their lives. Brainstorm together a list of ways to follow God (reading the Bible, divine services, prayer, listening to the Holy Spirit, etc.) and talk about the blessings that may come from such faith. (Try to have a real-life example from your life to share.) Just like David, God has a plan for our life too. If we follow Him faithfully, His plan for us will become a reality.

Grades 3-5**“Guide Me” Activity**

See: www.kidssundayschool.com → Grade School → Activities → “Guide Me”

You will need an activity drawing sheet (see website), blank sheets of white paper, black markers or pencils and some hard surfaces to draw on (clipboard, book, etc.). Please see the above website for detailed instructions. You will also need to print out the activity sheet, one for each child, before class. This activity will require children to work in pairs (recruit extra volunteers as needed) using verbal instruction given by the “giver” for the “artists” to draw the object being described to them.

Use this activity to help the children understand the importance of allowing God to guide our lives so that we can live out the plan He has for us. Follow the questions listed in the activity, with the exception of the “ALL” questions. Instead, use the following questions for the discussion:

Activity Ideas - continued

“Guide Me” Activity - continued

1. How can we follow God in our lives? (Read the Bible to learn more about Him and His son, pray, listen in the divine services, let the Holy Spirit guide us each day, etc. Discuss together and make a list on your easel.)
2. How does the Holy Spirit guide us? (Discuss together. Be ready to give a specific example from your life.)
3. Do you believe that God has a plan for your life? (Discuss.)

End the discussion by having a “race” to find the following Bible verses and reading them together: Psalm 143:10 and John 14:26. Talk about what these verses mean, and then let the children know that God indeed has a plan for their lives. If we follow Him with our whole heart, He will be able to guide us, and His plan will become a reality for us.

Journal

Optional

Grades K-2

Draw a picture of Saul chasing David. Then answer the following: If I was David and Saul had been chasing me, I would have...

Grades 3-5

Do you trust that God will direct your path according to His plans for you if you follow Him? Why or why not? Write about it.

Why do you think it is hard to put complete trust in God and His plans for our lives? Write about it.

Why do you think David was chosen to be the king?

Homework Ideas

- Read at home with a grownup **Psalm 23** (Psalm 23:1-6).
- Learn the memory verse: *“The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.” --Psalm 23:1*
- Work on memorizing commandment # ____.
- Color the **“Psalm 23”** coloring sheet as your parents read you the Sunday School Lesson. Return your coloring page for a sticker.
- What makes a shepherd “good”? Make a list and bring it to class to share.

Other Resources

<http://children.ccm.com/curriculum/> → OT Support Curriculum → Page 9 → “David is made King of Israel”



Role Play: A Great King

- Narrator:** *(David and his soldiers should be on one side of the stage and Saul and his soldiers on the other.)* David hid from King Saul. Whenever David settled down somewhere, King Saul would find out and search for him. David had to leave time and time again. *(Saul and his soldiers enter.)*
- Saul's Soldier 1:** King Saul, our spies are really good. Look how we have tracked your enemy down.
- Saul's Soldier 2:** Yes, people are saying that David wants to kill you to become king of Israel. We cannot allow that to happen. We will protect you.
- Saul's Soldier 3:** I agree and I am sure that God will deliver David to us.
- Saul:** God has anointed me king of Israel. I know that David is a humble and faithful servant of God but I am sure God would want me to protect myself and my kingdom too. I am the king of this land! *(Speaking to his soldiers.)* When we find David, we will kill him and protect the kingdom. *(David and his soldiers enter.)*
- Narrator:** While Saul was having this conversation at the opening of the cave, David and his men were hiding in the darkness of the cave. They were frightened but excited.
- David's Soldier 1:** *(Whispering.)* David, this is our chance! Our enemy is close. We can harm him now!
- David's Soldier 2:** *(Soldiers quietly drawing their swords.)* Yes, God has blessed us and delivered Saul into our hands.
- David:** Saul is a servant of God. I cannot harm him or kill him because God has anointed him king of Israel. He is still my master. *(Speaking to his soldiers.)* We will not harm Saul. We will let him go.
- David's Soldier 3:** *(Looking confused.)* David, how could you allow this? We will have to keep running from him. This will never end.
- David:** My good men, God will continue to protect us as He has always done in the past.

Name: _____

Psalm 23



"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want." --Psalm 23:1



Take Home Page: E27. David is King

Today I learned...

Today your child learned that **God has a plan for our lives.** The children reviewed the story of when David was anointed King of Israel. They also talked about how if we choose to follow God, His plan for our lives will become reality.

Help me learn my memory verse...

"Seek His will in all you do, and He will show you which path to take." --Proverbs 3:6 (NLT)

Ask me...

1. What was God's plan for David's life?
2. Why do you think God chose David to be the King of Israel?
3. Do you believe that God has a plan for your life too? Why or why not?

Live Your Faith...

Go for a walk outside and look for some birds. Notice the different ones that you are able to see and hear as you walk. Then talk about how God takes care of the birds each day. Remind your child that God also takes care of us each day. Share how God has provided for you in the last week. Pray together and thank God for always watching over you and taking such good care of you.



E28. Psalm 23

Psalm 23:1-6

Learning Objectives

1. The children will explore the 23rd Psalm and its meaning.
2. The children will identify ways they can spend quiet time with God each day and stay focused on Him.
3. The children will identify ways that they can show Jesus that He is their shepherd.
4. The children will examine the concept of God's mercy and how they can extend it to others.

Memory Verse: *"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want." --Psalm 23:1*

Getting Started

Choose One Activity

All Ages

"Perfect Place"

You will need to provide white paper and coloring utensils (crayons, pencils, markers, etc.) for this activity. If possible, play peaceful and calm music softly as the children enter class. Ask the children to use the paper and materials to draw a picture of a place that they consider to be calm and peaceful, a place that reminds them of peace and contentment. As you proceed with the lesson, share how their drawing relates to the verses in today's lesson.

"Brainstorm" Activity

You will need chart paper or a dry erase board for this activity. Draw a vertical line down the middle of the board or paper and write "sheep" over the left column and "people" over the right column. On the left side, have the children brainstorm and write on the board what they would need if they were actual sheep. (food, water, protection, love, a place to sleep, etc.) On the right side of the paper or board, make a list of things that we need as people. Note the similarities between the two columns. Then continue with the lesson.

"Shepherd's Staff"

See www.kidssundayschool.com → Grade School → Crafts → "Shepherd's Staff"

The children will make a shepherd's staff using cardboard (or poster board) and scissors. You will want to make a sample before class. Also, trace the outline of the staff (about 2 feet long) onto the cardboard before class for younger children, or partner them with older children to help with the cutting, OR cut them out before class to save time. Use the template attached at the end of this lesson as a guide. The children will write (or glue) "The Lord is My Shepherd, Psalm 23" on their staff. They can also use markers (etc.) to decorate their staff as time allows.

"Prepare Me a Table" Activity

See www.kidssundayschool.com → Grade School → Crafts → Shepherd's Table

You will need toasted bread, stick pretzels, large marshmallows, round snack crackers, gold fish crackers, marshmallow cream, raisins, grapes and small pieces of fruit for this activity. **Make sure you follow any food allergy guidelines as needed according to the children in your class.** Please see the above website for detailed instructions. You will also need bags for the children to take their tables home in rather than eating them during the snack (application to real life) time.

Bible Lesson with Discussion Questions

Message:

Keep your eyes on Jesus, the good shepherd.

Psalm 23:1-3 (NKJV)

The LORD *is* my shepherd;

I shall not want.

² He makes me to lie down in green pastures;

He leads me beside the still waters.

³ He restores my soul;

He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake.

⁴ Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I will fear no evil;

For You *are* with me;

Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

You anoint my head with oil;

My cup runs over.

⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life;

And I will dwell^a in the house of the LORD Forever.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does a shepherd do? (*takes care of sheep, keeps them safe, helps them find food and water, etc.*)
2. Why do you think David called the Lord his shepherd? (*Discuss together. God provided for David and kept him safe.*)
3. What do you think it means when it says, "I shall not want"? (*Just as the shepherd provides everything the sheep need, God will also give us (just like David), everything we NEED.*)
4. How do you think water restores our souls? (*Explain that Jesus is the living water, and that when we "drink" from what He provides for us, our thirst for God is taken care of.*)
5. What kind of paths should we travel that will bring glory to Jesus? (*Paths of righteousness.*)
6. What do you think righteousness means? (*"In a way that is right according to the ways of God."*)
7. Do you think it is important to spend time with God each day? Why or why not? (*Discuss.*)
8. If the "good shepherd" is with you when you walk through the "valley of the shadow of death", would you feel safe? Why or why not? (*Discuss together.*)
9. Who do we need protection from each day? (*Satan.*)
10. How can a rod and a staff be a comfort to the sheep? (*They can be used to guide the sheep, fight wild animals, or grab a wandering sheep.*)
11. David was not afraid of evil because he knew God was with Him. Do you think God is with you? Why or why not? (*Discuss together. Answers will vary.*)
12. What are some things you can do each day to stay close to God and show Him that Jesus is our shepherd? (*Discuss. Read the Bible, pray, quiet time with God, attend divine services, etc.*)
13. When you eat from a table with a lot of good food and drinks, do you feel full or empty? (*Full.*)
14. Who prepared the table for David? (*God.*) Where was it prepared? (*In the presence of his enemies.*)
15. What kind of blessing might follow you all the days of your life? (*Discuss together and make a list.*)
16. How long can we live in God's house? (*Forever.*)
17. If we only seek things that are of this world, will we feel full too? (*Discuss together.*)

Application to Real Life

Enjoy a healthy snack together. While you do, remind the children that Jesus is our Lord and Shepherd. He gave His own life to save us from the evil one. If we follow Him, then we are considered one of His sheep and we have nothing to be afraid of if we stay close to Him.

Look up Isaiah 41:10 and read it together. Then talk about and make a list of ways that we can let Jesus be our Shepherd. See the list below for ideas should you need to help guide the discussion. When you are finished, review the message statement with the children.

How Can We Let Jesus be Our Shepherd?

Read the Bible

Sing songs of praise

Choose good friends

Be careful what I watch on TV

Pray

Obey my parents

Do good deeds

Help others

Go to church

Etc.

Memory Work Fun

5 minutes

1. Name the two main parts of the Bible and tell what the difference is. (Old Testament – before Jesus, New Testament – Jesus & After Jesus)
2. Where is the book of Exodus located? In the Old or New Testament? Practice finding it together. (Added challenge: find the memory verse together.)
3. Review the first commandment: *I am the Lord your God. You shall have NO other gods before Me.*
4. Recite the memory verse.

Activity Ideas

Choose One

All Ages

“God’s Many Blessings”

See www.kidssundayschool.com → Grade school → Object Talks → “God’s many blessings.”

You will need a water glass, a pitcher of water, a spoon, some cheerios cereal, and 10-20 marbles or large coins for this object talk. Use this activity to show the children that God overflows our cup with goodness and mercy, and many other blessings. Please see the above website for detailed instructions.

“Psalm 23” Book

See: www.kidssundayschool.com → Grade School → Activities → “The Lord is My Shepherd (Psalm 23)”

You will need paper (your choice of what kind), a stapler, scissors, glue sticks, and writing utensils for this activity. Make a sample before class so the children will know what they are working on. Each book will need 18 pages. If you choose to add to this book in the other Psalm 23 lessons, you can add those pages at that time. You will also need to print “Picture Card 1” from the above website and have one copy for each child.

The children will make a book with pictures 1-18 from “Picture card 1”. One picture will be glued on each page of the book. Then have the children write the corresponding portion of Psalm 23 that is illustrated in the picture on the corresponding page as follows (you may want to have the writing done before class for younger children):

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| Picture #1 | “The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want”. |
| Picture #2 | “He makes me to lie down in green pastures” |
| Picture #3 | “He leads me beside the still waters.” |
| Picture #4 | “He restores my soul.” |
| Picture #5 | “He leads me in the paths of righteousness...” |
| Picture #6 | “For His name’s sake.” |
| Picture #7 | “Yea, though I walk through the valley...”. |
| Picture #8 | “...of the shadow of death,” |
| Picture #9 | “I will fear no evil;” |
| Picture #10 | “For You are with me;” |
| Picture #11 | “Your rod and Your staff,” |
| Picture #12 | “they comfort me.” |
| Picture #13 | “You prepare a table before me...”. |
| Picture #14 | “...in the presence of my enemies;” |
| Picture #15 | “You anoint my head with oil;” |
| Picture #16 | “My cup runs over.” |
| Picture #17 | “Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life;” |
| Picture #18 | “and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.” |

Note: If the words are pre-written on the pages, or written first, the children can always finish the pictures later at home or after church.

“Shepherd’s Staff” – Continued

Use the “Names of Jesus” list (see attached at the end of the lesson). Provide copies of the “Names of Jesus” sheet for the children, along with scissors and glue sticks for this activity. Read through the names and allow children to select which ones to add to their staff. They can either cut and paste the names onto their staff (the one they made in the “getting started” activity) or they can write them with a black marker (or something that would stand out). Pair older children with younger children and modify the activity as necessary.

After the children complete their staff (give them a set amount of time and set a timer if needed), go back to the list you made of things that we are afraid of from the “Getting Started” activity section. Use items from the list and then find a “Name of Jesus” from the staff that would bring comfort and calm. For example, I’m afraid of ____, BUT because Jesus is my friend and a comforter, etc. I KNOW He is always with me, so I never have to be afraid. And if I do feel afraid, I can call out to Him and He will help me. Use the list and the “Names of Jesus” to guide the discussion. Reinforce that God is always with me. (Message Statement).

Grades K-2**“Calm, Peaceful Environment”**

See www.kidssundayschool.com → Preschool → Activities → “Calm, Peaceful Environment”

You will need a small bell and two pencils for this activity. The children will sit quietly with their eyes closed while the teacher makes soft noises. This will facilitate a discussion about why it is important to have quiet time with the Lord each day.

“Sheep Cup Craft”

See www.daniellesplace.com → Enter the Resource Room → Old Testament Lessons → Psalms → Scroll down to Psalm 23:2 → Scroll down to #4 “He maketh me lie down in green pastures”.

You will need 9oz white party cups, pink pompoms, cotton balls, green paper (optional), white colored pencils, glue, card stock and tape for this craft activity. Please see the above website for detailed instructions. Keep the conversation going while you work, and talk about what you are doing and why, referring to Psalm 23.

“Know Your Sheep”

See: www.kidssundayschool.com → Grade School → Games → “Know Your Sheep”

This is a listening game that will help children learn about how well shepherds know their sheep. You will need a bandana or fabric to use as a blindfold. Please see the above website for detailed instructions. After playing the game, remind the children that Jesus knows us too because we are His sheep. If we stay close to Him, we have nothing to fear. Review the message statement.

Grades 3-5**“Listening for God”**

See: www.kidssundayschool.com → Grade school → Object Talks → “Listening for God”

You will need 4 radios (or items that produce sound), a power cord (to plug everything in), and a copy of the jokes and riddles from the above website. You will also need some volunteers to help with this activity. This activity will reinforce how difficult it is for us to hear God’s voice when we have so many things and “noise” going on around us. Talk about also finding quiet time each day with God, and the importance of spending time with Him in prayer.

Psalm 23 Review

See: www.kidssundayschool.com → Grade School → Puzzles → “Psalm 23”

This is a crossword puzzle with Bible verse references, so children can also practice their Bible skills to find the correct answers. Please print out one puzzle for each child, and provide pencils to complete the activity. Children can work individually or with a partner.

Journal*Optional***Grades K-2**

Draw a picture of Jesus as your good shepherd, watching over you. How does that make you feel? Write about it.

Grades 3-5

How can you show goodness and mercy to others? Be specific and write about it.

Homework Ideas

- Read at home with a grownup the lesson titled: **Solomon's Wisdom** (1 Kings 1:28-40; 3:3-28; 4:29-34).
- Learn the memory verse: *"...Because that is what you have asked for...I will give you a wise and understanding heart.... --1 Kings 3:11-12 (NIRV)*
- Work on memorizing commandment #_____.
- Color the "**Solomon's Wisdom**" coloring sheet as your parents read you the Sunday School Lesson. Return your coloring page for a sticker.
- If you could ask God for anything in the world, what would you ask for? Think about it. Write it down or draw a picture of it. Bring it to class and be ready to share.

Other Resources

www.daniellesplace.com → Resource Room → Search "Psalm 23"

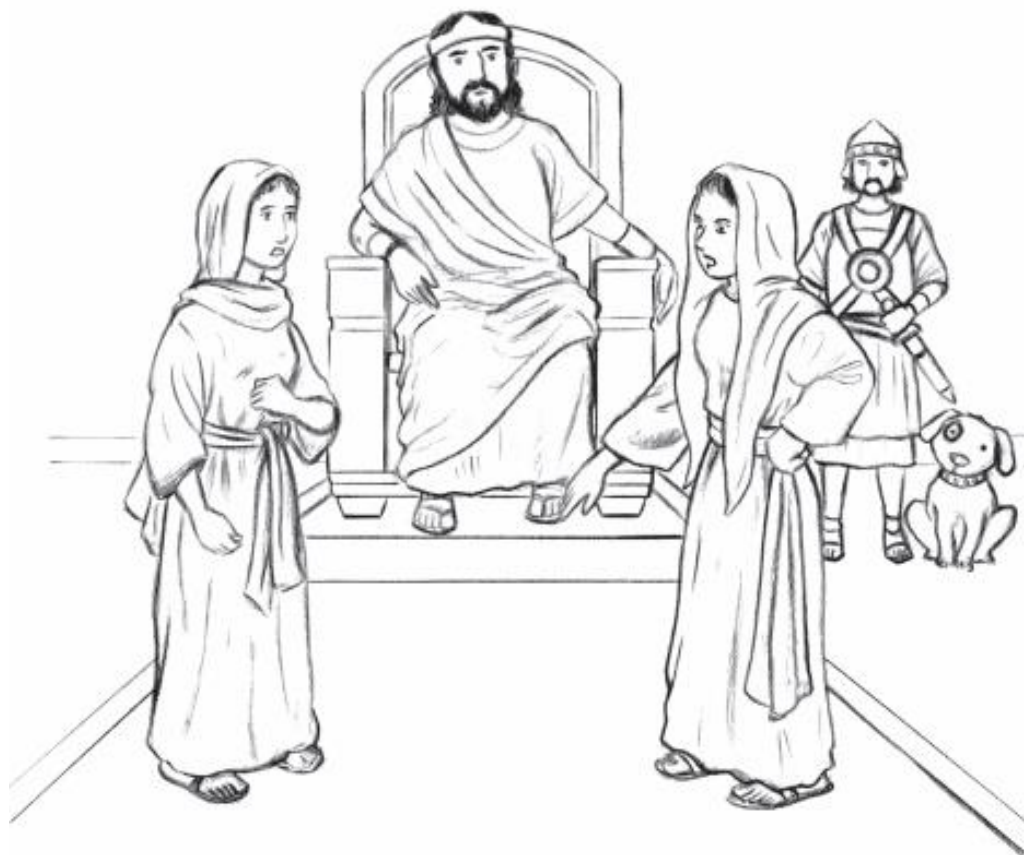
<http://children.ccm.com/curriculum/> → OT Support Curriculum → Page 15 → "A Shepherd's Psalm"

www.kidssundayschool.com → Old Testament → Psalm 23 lessons



Name: _____

Solomon's Wisdom



"...Because that is what you have asked for...
...I will give you a wise and understanding heart..."
-1 Kings 3:11-12 (NIRV)

Take Home Page: E28. Psalm 23

Today I learned...

Today your child learned that God wants us to **keep our eyes on Jesus, the good shepherd**. Children explored the 23rd Psalm in the Bible. They also talked about ways they can spend quiet time with God each day and stay focused on Him during the week.

Help me learn my memory verse...

"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want." --Psalm 23:1

Ask me...

1. Why did David call the Lord his Shepherd?
2. Do you think it is important to spend time with God each day? Why or why not?
3. How will you spend time with God this week?

Live Your Faith...

Play a game of "which cup is it?" together. You will need three plastic cups and a small object (button for example). Place the object underneath one of the three cups (the cups should be upside down with the "open" side directly on the table). Encourage your child to watch closely as you mix up the order of the cups. Then have him guess which one has the object under it. Take turns being the "mixer" and have some fun together. When you are finished, talk about what it means to keep your eyes on Jesus, and why that is so important for us each day. Decide how your family will work on doing that this week.



E29. Solomon's Wisdom

1 Kings 1:28-40; 3:3-28; 4:29-34

Learning Objectives

1. The children will be able to retell the story of Solomon and his wisdom.
2. The children will explore the meaning of wisdom and how we can ask God for it.

Memory Verse: *"...Because that is what you have asked for...I will give you a wise and understanding heart.... --1 Kings 3:11-12 (NIRV)*

Getting Started

Choose One Activity

Grades K-2

Keys to Godly Wisdom

See: www.kidssundayschool.com → Preschool → Activities → "Keys to Godly Wisdom"

You will need the activity page, sticker page, pencils/crayons, tape/glue for this activity. Print out a copy of the activity page for each child in class. Also, print out a sticker page for every three children. (You can print the sticker page on a full sheet sticker paper or print the images on card stock paper and have the children tape or glue the graphics on the activity page. Note: Cut out the stickers/images before class.)

Start the activity by explaining to the class that God tells us that wisdom is more valuable than rubies, silver and even gold. Read Proverbs 8:11, Proverbs 16:16, and Proverbs 3:13 from your Bible. Talk with the children about how valuable godly wisdom is. Please see the above website for detailed instructions and a guide to the discussion along with follow up questions.

Grades 3-5

"Wise Sayings" Activity

See: www.kidssundayschool.com → Grade School → Activities → "Wise Sayings"

You will need to print out one copy of the activity worksheet for each child. Please see the above website for detailed instructions. The activity allows you to go through a list of wise sayings and decide whether or not it is from the Bible. This can be a fun activity. If you have younger children in your class, do the activity together. Older children would be able to do the worksheet independently before going over it together in class.

Then tell the children that today they will learn about the wisdom of the young King Solomon. Continue with the lesson.

Bible Lesson with Discussion Questions

Message: *God will give us wisdom when we ask for it.*

1 Kings 1:28-53 ~ David Makes Solomon King

King David said, "Tell Bathsheba to come in." So she came and stood in front of the king. Then the king took an oath and made a promise. He said, "The Lord has saved me from all of my troubles. You can be sure that he lives. And you can be just as sure that I will do today what I promised in the name of the Lord. He is the God of Israel. I promised you that your son Solomon would be king after me. He will sit on my throne in my place."

Then Bathsheba bowed low with her face toward the ground. She got down on her knees in front of the king. She said, "King David, you are my master. May you live forever!"

King David said, "Tell the priest Zadok and the prophet Nathan to come in. Also tell Benaiah, the son of Jehoiada, to come." So they came to the king. He said to them, "Take my officials with you. Put my son Solomon on my own mule. Take him down to the Gihon spring. Have the priest Zadok and the prophet Nathan anoint him as king over Israel there. Blow a trumpet. Shout, 'May King Solomon live a long time!' ³⁵ Then come back up to the city with him. Have him sit on my throne. He will rule in my place. I've appointed him ruler over Israel and Judah."

Benaiah, the son of Jehoiada, answered the king. "Amen!" he said. "May the Lord your God make it come true. You are my king and master. The Lord has been with you. May he also be with Solomon. King David, may the Lord make Solomon's kingdom even greater than yours!"

So the priest Zadok and the prophet Nathan left the palace. Benaiah, the son of Jehoiada, went with them. So did the Kerethites and Pelethites. They put Solomon on King David's mule. And they brought him down to the Gihon spring. The priest Zadok had gotten an animal horn that was filled with olive oil. He had taken it from the sacred tent. He anointed Solomon with the oil. The trumpet was blown. All of the people shouted, "May King Solomon live a long time!"

Then they went up toward the city. Solomon was leading the way. The people were playing flutes. They were filled with great joy. The ground shook because of all of the noise.

1 Kings 3:3-28

Solomon showed his love for the Lord. He did it by obeying the laws his father David had taught him. But Solomon offered sacrifices at the high places. He also burned incense there.

King Solomon went to the city of Gibeon to offer sacrifices. That's where the most important high place was. He offered 1,000 burnt offerings on the altar that was there. The Lord appeared to Solomon at Gibeon. He spoke to him in a dream during the night. God said, "Ask for anything you want me to give you."

Solomon answered, "You have been very kind to my father David, your servant. That's because he was faithful to you. He did what was right. His heart was honest. And you have continued to be very kind to him. You have given him a son to sit on his throne this very day. Lord my God, you have now made me king. You have put me in the place of my father David. But I'm only a little child. I don't know how to carry out my duties. I'm here among the people you have chosen. They are a great nation. They are more than anyone can count. So give me a heart that understands. Then I can rule over your people. I can tell the difference between what is right and what is wrong. Who can possibly rule over this great nation of yours?"

The Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for that. So God said to him, "You have not asked to live for a long time. You have not asked to be wealthy. You have not even asked to have your enemies killed. Instead, you have asked for understanding. You want to do what is right and fair when you judge people. Because that is what you have asked for, I will give it to you. I will give you a wise and understanding heart."

Bible Lesson with Discussion Questions – *continued*

So here is what will be true of you. There has never been anyone like you. And there never will be. And that is not all. I will give you what you have not asked for. I will give you riches and honor. As long as you live, no other king will be as great as you are. Live the way I want you to. Obey my laws and commands, just as your father David did. Then I will let you live for a long time."

Solomon woke up. He realized he had been dreaming. He returned to Jerusalem. He stood in front of the ark of the Lord's covenant. He sacrificed burnt offerings and friendship offerings. Then he gave a big dinner for all of his officials.

Solomon Judges Wisely

Two women came to the king. They stood in front of him. One of them said, "My master, this woman and I live in the same house. I had a baby while she was there with me. ¹⁸ Three days after my child was born, this woman also had a baby. We were alone. There wasn't anyone in the house but the two of us. During the night this woman's baby died. It happened because she was lying on top of him. So she got up in the middle of the night. She took my son from my side while I was asleep. She put him with her. Then she put her dead son with me. The next morning, I got up to feed my son, but he was dead! I looked at him closely in the morning light. And I saw that it wasn't my baby."

The other woman said, "No! The living baby is my son. The dead one belongs to you." But the first woman said, "No! The dead baby is yours. The living one belongs to me." So they argued in front of the king.

The king said, "One of you says, 'My son is alive. Your son is dead.' The other one says, 'No! Your son is dead. Mine is alive.'" He continued, "Bring me a sword." So a sword was brought to him. Then he gave an order. He said, "Cut the living child in two. Give half to one woman and half to the other."

The woman whose son was alive was filled with deep concern for her son. She said to the king, "My master, please give her the living baby! Don't kill him!" But the other woman said, "Neither one of us will have him. Cut him in two!"

Then the king made his decision. He said, "Give the living baby to the first woman. Don't kill him. She's his mother."

All of the people of Israel heard about the decision the king had given. That gave them great respect for him. They saw that God had given him wisdom. They knew that Solomon would do what was right and fair when he judged people.

God Makes Solomon Very Wise

God made Solomon very wise. His understanding couldn't even be measured. It was like the sand on the seashore. People can't measure that either. Solomon's wisdom was greater than the wisdom of all of the people of the east. It was greater than all of the wisdom of Egypt. Solomon was wiser than any other man. He spoke 3,000 proverbs. He wrote 1,005 songs. He explained all about plants. He knew everything about them, from the cedar trees in Lebanon to the hyssop plants that grow out of walls. He taught about animals and birds. He also taught about reptiles and fish.

The kings of all of the world's nations heard about how wise Solomon was. So they sent their people to listen to him.

Bible Lesson with Discussion Questions - *continued*

Discussion Questions:

1. What did God say to Solomon? (*Ask whatever you want, and I will give it to you.*)
2. What did Solomon ask for? (*A wise and understanding heart...wisdom.*)
3. If God asked you the same question, what would you ask for? (*Discuss together and share homework. Answers will vary.*)
4. Was Solomon more concerned for himself or for others? How do we know? (*He was more concerned for others because he asked God for wisdom and knowledge so that he would be a better king to the people.*)
5. What did God do then? (*He gave Solomon what he asked for, along with wealth and riches and a long life.*)
6. Where do you think true wisdom comes from? (*God.*)

Application to Real Life

Enjoy a healthy snack together. While you do, look up James 3:13-18 together in your Bibles.

James 3:13-18 (NIRV) ~ Two Kinds of Wisdom

¹³ Are any of you wise and understanding? You should show it by living a good life. Wise people aren't proud when they do good works.

¹⁴ But suppose your hearts are jealous and bitter. Suppose you are concerned only about getting ahead. Don't brag about it. Don't say no to the truth. ¹⁵ Wisdom like that doesn't come down from heaven. It belongs to the earth. It doesn't come from the Holy Spirit. It comes from the devil.

¹⁶ Are you jealous? Are you concerned only about getting ahead? Then your life will be a mess. You will be doing all kinds of evil things.

¹⁷ But the wisdom that comes from heaven is pure. That's the most important thing about it. And that's not all. It also loves peace. It thinks about others. It obeys. It is full of mercy and good fruit. It is fair. It doesn't pretend to be what it is not.

¹⁸ Those who make peace should plant peace like a seed. If they do, it will produce a crop of right living.

Possible Discussion Questions:

1. What is that "H" word that means we are not proud or boastful? (*Verse 13: Humility or humbleness.*)
2. Why do you think wisdom is associated with humility? (*Answers will vary...because you have to be humble in order to admit that God's Word is right... and we might be wrong.*)
3. How does James tell us we can know if someone is wise? (*See Verse 13: They are to show it by their good life and the humble things they do.*)
4. James describes a different kind of wisdom- an earthly wisdom. What are signs of this earthly wisdom? (*See Verses 14,15: Being envious or jealous and having selfish ambitions.*)
5. What are selfish ambitions? (*When you do things and think only of yourself, rivalry, etc.*)
6. James describes what wisdom from Heaven looks like, describe it. (*Verse 17: Pure, peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.*)
7. How can we get this wisdom? (*Hint: See James 1:5. We should ask God for it.*)
⁵ If any of you need wisdom, ask God for it. He will give it to you. God gives freely to everyone. He doesn't find fault.

Review the message and memory verse together. Remind the children that God will give us wisdom if we ask for it.

1. Recite the memory verse.
2. Practice finding the memory verse and/or Bible text in their Bible!
3. Where is the book of 1 Kings located? In the Old or New Testament? Practice finding it together.
4. Is “loyalty” a fruit of the spirit? Can you name all nine of them? (See *Galatians 5:22-23*)
5. Ask for a volunteer to lead the class in a short prayer.

Activity Ideas

Choose One

All Ages**Puzzle: The Common Factor**

You will need to print and cut out the word cards (see the page at the end of the lesson) before class. Keep the word cards for each message together.

Divide the children into two groups. Give one child from each group the word cards for one of the messages. Ask that child to give a word card to each of the other children in their group. Tell the children they have to work together to put the word cards in the correct order. When the children think they have the message in the correct order, tell them to glue the word cards on a sheet of paper in that order.

After both groups finish the task, ask all the children what two words are similar in both messages. They should easily identify that God blesses and God blessed is present in both sentences. Briefly discuss what the children think the messages mean.

“Wise Ending” Skit Activity

www.kidssundayschool.com → Grade School → Skits → “Wise Ending”

Please see the above website for the skit and detailed instructions. The children will witness (recruit volunteer actors as needed) the skit and then be given the opportunity to re-write the ending so that the participants in the role play make a wiser choice to resolve their conflicts. The “actors” will then re-do the skit with the “wise ending.”

Grades K-2**King Solomon’s Crown**

Make crowns out of poster board (or use pre-bought crowns, though they may need covering with foil or spray paint). Be as fancy as you like, allowing the children to decorate with fake jewels, etc. Then either glue or write the message statement onto the crown. Remember to keep the conversation going as you work. For other craft ideas for younger children, see “other resources” below.



Grades 3-5**Bible Time – “Wisdom”**

Look up the following verses in your Bibles. Allow the children to attempt this on their own first before assisting them as needed with clues. Discuss together what each verse says about “wisdom”.

Proverbs 3:13 Proverbs 4:6 Proverbs 8:11 Proverbs 28:26

Another option: Look up the verses before class and write one or two words from the verse on each index card. Make sure one index card has the verse reference information. Mix the cards up. Then have the children try to put the cards in order, allowing them to use their Bibles for help by looking it up. If you have enough children, make two sets of each verse, and have a race. You may also recruit other adult volunteers to join the class competition.

“Wise or Not-So-Wise” Activity

See: www.kidssundayschool.com → Grade School → Games → “Wise or Not-so-Wise”

In this activity, the children will look up James 3:17 in their Bibles in order to discover what words are in that verse to describe “wisdom”. Make a list together of those words on your easel or white board. You will also need to make two signs with poster board or a similar material and post them on opposite sides of your class area. One will say “wise” and the other will say “not-so-wise”. You will then read a series of scenarios (choose the ones most appropriate for your children) and the children will decide together if the person in the scenario was “wise” or “not-so-wise”. They will base their decisions on the list of words you created from James 3:17. Please see the above website for the scenarios and a detailed description.

Journal*Optional***Grades K-2**

Draw a picture of a situation when you made a wise decision.

Grades 3-5

Why do you think it is important to have wisdom? Be specific. Write about it.

Have you ever faced a problem in your life when you did not know what to do? Did you ask God for help? Do you think having wisdom would have made a difference in your decision? Write about it.

Why do you think King Solomon wanted wisdom?



 **Puzzle: The Common Factor**

God	blessed	Solomon
because	of	his
heart's	disposition.	

God	blesses	those
who	are	humble
and	God-fearing.	



Name: _____

Solomon's Builds the Temple

Draw a picture of what you think the temple that Solomon built for God might have looked like in the space below:

"Work at everything you do with all your heart..."
-Colossians 3:23 (NIRV)



Take Home Page: E29. Solomon's Wisdom

Today I learned...

Today your child learned that **God will give us wisdom if we ask for it.** The children explored the story of Solomon and his wisdom. They also talked about what wisdom is and how we can ask God for it.

Help me learn my memory verse...

"...Because that is what you have asked for...I will give you a wise and understanding heart...

--1 Kings 3:11-12 (NIRV)

Ask me...

1. Why do you think Solomon wanted wisdom?
2. What do you want to ask God for? Why?
3. Why do you think wisdom is valuable?

Live Your Faith...

Solomon asked for wisdom, and God granted it to him. If you could ask God for anything, what would you ask Him for? Why? Talk about this with your child. What do you need in your heart that would help you to be more like Jesus? Pray together and ask God to help you grow in those qualities.



Bible Lesson with Discussion Questions

Message: *In whatever you do, do your BEST for God!*

Solomon Builds the Temple

Solomon began to build the temple of the Lord. It was 480 years after the people of Israel had come out of Egypt. It was in the fourth year of Solomon's rule over Israel. He started in the second month.

The temple King Solomon built for the Lord was 90 feet long. It was 30 feet wide. And it was 45 feet high. The temple had a porch in front of the main hall. The porch was as wide as the temple itself. It was 30 feet wide. It came out 15 feet from the front of the temple. Solomon made narrow windows high up in the temple walls. He built side rooms around the temple. They were built against the walls of the main hall and the Most Holy Room.

On the first floor the side rooms were seven and a half feet wide. On the second floor they were nine feet wide. And on the third floor they were ten and a half feet wide. Solomon made the walls of the temple thinner as they went up floor by floor. The result was ledges along the walls. So the floor beams of the side rooms rested on the ledges. The beams didn't go into the temple walls.

All of the stones that were used for building the temple were shaped where they were cut. So hammers, chisels and other iron tools couldn't be heard where the temple was being built.

The entrance to the first floor was on the south side of the temple. A stairway led up to the second floor. From there it went on up to the third floor.

So Solomon built the temple and finished it. He made its roof out of beams and cedar boards. He built side rooms all along the temple. Each room was seven and a half feet high. They were joined to the temple by cedar beams.

A message came to Solomon from the Lord. The Lord said, "You are now building this temple. Follow my orders. Keep my rules. Obey all of my commands. Then I will make the promise I gave your father David come true. I will do it through you. I will live among my people Israel. I will not desert them."

So Solomon built the temple and finished it. He put cedar boards on its inside walls. He covered them from floor to ceiling. He covered the temple floor with pine boards. He put up a wall 30 feet from the back of the temple. He made it with cedar boards from floor to ceiling. That formed a room inside the temple. It was the Most Holy Room. The main hall in front of the room was 60 feet long. The inside of the temple was covered with cedar wood. Gourds and open flowers were carved on the wood. Everything was cedar. There wasn't any stone showing anywhere.

Solomon prepared the Most Holy Room inside the temple. That's where the ark of the covenant of the Lord would be placed. The Most Holy Room was 30 feet long. It was 30 feet wide. And it was 30 feet high. Solomon covered the inside of it with pure gold. He prepared the cedar altar for burning incense. He covered it with gold. Solomon covered the inside of the main hall with pure gold. He placed gold chains across the front of the Most Holy Room. That room was covered with gold. So Solomon covered the inside of the whole temple with gold. He also covered the altar for burning incense with gold. It was right in front of the Most Holy Room.

For the Most Holy Room Solomon made a pair of cherubim. He made them out of olive wood. Each cherub was 15 feet high. One wing of the first cherub was seven and a half feet long. The other wing was also seven and a half feet long. So the wings measured 15 feet from tip to tip. The second cherub's wings also measured 15 feet from tip to tip. The two cherubim had the same size and shape. Each cherub was 15 feet high.

Solomon placed the cherubim inside the Most Holy Room in the temple. Their wings were spread out. The wing tip of one cherub touched one wall. The wing tip of the other touched the other wall. The tips of their wings touched each other in the middle of the room. Solomon covered the cherubim with gold.

Bible Lesson with Discussion Questions - *continued*

On the walls that were all around the temple he carved cherubim, palm trees and open flowers. He carved them on the walls of the Most Holy Room and the main hall. He also covered the floors of those two rooms with gold.

For the entrance to the Most Holy Room he made two doors out of olive wood. Each doorpost had five sides. On the two olive wood doors he carved cherubim, palm trees and open flowers. He covered the cherubim and palm trees with hammered gold.

In the same way he made olive wood doorposts for the entrance to the main hall. Each doorpost had four sides. He also made two pine doors. Each door had two parts. They turned in bases that were shaped like cups. He carved cherubim, palm trees and open flowers on the doors. He covered the doors with gold. He hammered the gold evenly over the carvings. He used blocks of stone to build a wall around the inside courtyard. The first three layers of the wall were made out of stone. The top layer was made out of beautiful cedar wood.

The foundation of the Lord's temple was laid in Solomon's fourth year, during the second month of the year. The temple was finished in his 11th year. That was the eighth month. Everything was finished just as the plans required. Solomon had spent seven years building the temple.

Discussion Questions:

1. Who built the temple in today's lesson? (*King Solomon.*)
2. How long did it take to build? (*Seven Years.*)
3. Do you think that Solomon was talented? In what way? (*Discuss together, answers will vary. He probably was very talented because he built a temple that was very detailed and very beautiful for God.*)
4. Name some of the details from the temple that you remember. (*Teachers – make a list on the easel or white board. Challenge the children to remember as many details as they can. Then allow them to look in their Bibles for more.*)
5. Do you think God was pleased with the Temple that was built? Why or why not? (*Answers will vary. Discuss together.*)

Application to Real Life

Enjoy a fun snack together and allow the children to make a “cracker temple”. You will need graham crackers or saltine crackers, ready-made frosting (peanut butter or cream cheese would be less sugary and work the same), craft sticks and paper plates. The children will each need two full graham crackers (or 8 saltine crackers). Break the crackers into eight (8) quarter pieces. Dip one edge of the cracker into the frosting (or whatever you are using). Then stick the edge of the second cracker to the frosted edge of the first cracker so that they can start to build their temple. Let the children use their imaginations as they build their very own temple.

As the children are working, keep the conversation going:

When Solomon built the Temple of the Lord, he used the best material and best laborers. It took seven years to build, and Solomon didn't skimp on anything, because he knew God deserved the very best. The end result was an incredibly beautiful and unique Temple that God was pleased to fill with His presence.

Ask the children: “Do you try to do your best in everything you do?” Then tell them that doing your best takes effort. It means giving all you've got—and then doing more! When you feel like giving up or doing work that is not your best, remember, your efforts will show. Take pride in what you do and do everything as if you are doing it for the Lord. The results will be worth it. Refer to the message statement and/or memory verse.

1. Recite the memory verse. Practice finding it in the Bible!
2. Name the three Holy Sacraments.
3. Play a game to review a Commandment (toss the bean bag/stuffed animal, the person who catches it says the next word...try to go faster and faster).
4. Allow a volunteer (child) to lead the class in an opening/closing prayer.

Activity Ideas

Choose One

All Ages**“What’s My Talent?” Activity**See: www.kidssundayschool.com → Grade School → Games → “what’s my talent”

Before you begin this activity, the children will need to brainstorm a list of talents that people might have. Write down the list on your easel or white board. Examples may include singing, acting, dancing, musician, etc. Try to come up with at least 10 talents. You will choose a volunteer to be the “special guest” and they will be playing the part of one of the talents on the list. The class will be allowed to only ask yes/no questions in order to narrow down the person’s talent. See the above website for complete ideas and instructions.

At the end of the activity, remind the children that we all have different talents because God made each one of us to be unique. Whatever we do, we always want to do our BEST for God. (Refer to the message statement.)

Grades K-2**“Temple Builders” Puzzle Activity**See: www.kidssundayschool.com → Preschool → Activities → “Temple Builders”

You will need to print out a puzzle page sheet and a puzzle piece sheet for each child. You will also need scissors and glue sticks. Please see the above website for detailed instructions.

Grades 3-5**“With All Your Heart” Activity**

Fold a paper length wise in ½ and then open it up again. There should be two columns. In the first column, have the children make a list of all the things they LOVE to do. It could be anything and as many things as they like. After they have finished, in the second column have the children list all of the things that they really do NOT like to do. When everyone has finished, allow the children time to share their lists, if they like. You (the teacher) can do a list as well.

Discussion: When you have a task you don’t want to do, how do we typically respond? Do you complain or work halfheartedly just trying to get it done? We all face many tasks in this life that we don’t want to do. That’s part of living. When the people in the church of Colossae struggled with tasks they didn’t enjoy, God gave them instructions through Paul about how to handle it.

Look up together in your Bibles: **Colossians 3:23** and read what it says. These instructions apply to us today. God wants us to do the best we can in ALL our work, not just in the work we like to do. So when we are facing things we really don’t want to do, like our homework or a particular chore that we despise, if we think about doing it for God instead of for our teacher or our parents, it may help us to put our whole heart into doing our best, no matter what. We want to do our best! Whatever we do, we always want to do our BEST for God.

Grades K-2

Draw a picture of yourself using your talents for God.

Grades 3-5

Do you try your best in everything you do? Why or why not? Write about it.

What talents do you have? Make a list. Then write about how you can use one (or more) of them for God? Write about it.

Homework Ideas

- Read at home with a grown up the story about **Solomon Turns from the Lord** (1 Kings 11:1-13; 41-43).
- Learn the memory verse: *"I am the Lord your God...Do not put any other gods in place of me."*
--Deuteronomy 5:6-7 (NIRV)
- Work on memorizing commandment # ____.
- Color the **Solomon Turns from the Lord** coloring sheet as your parents read you the Sunday School Lesson. Return your coloring page for a sticker.
- Who are your friends? Make a list of their names and bring it to class.

Other Resources

<http://children.ccm.com/curriculum/> → OT Support Curriculum → Page 10 → "Solomon Builds the Temple"

Name: _____

Solomon Turns from the Lord



"I am the Lord your God...Do not put any other gods in place of me."
-Deuteronomy 5:6-7 (NIRV)



Take Home Page: E30. Solomon Builds the Temple

Today I learned...

Today your child learned that **in whatever we do, we should do our BEST for God.** The children explored how Solomon built God's temple. They also talked about how God expects us to always do our BEST to work and live for Him every day.

Help me learn my memory verse...

"Work at everything you do with all your heart..." --Colossians 3:23 (NIRV)

Ask me...

1. What do you know about Solomon building the temple for God?
2. Do you think that Solomon was a talented person? How?
3. How can you use your talents for God? Explain.

Live Your Faith...

Gather some craft materials or go outside and gather rocks and sticks, etc. Then work together to use the materials to build or make something with them (a house, for example). As you work together, remind your child that no matter what we do, God wants us to do our very best, as if we were doing it for Him. When you are finished with your masterpiece, pray together, and ask God to help you to always have a desire to do your very best in everything that you do.



E31. Solomon Turns from the Lord

1 Kings 11:1-13; 41-43

Learning Objectives

1. The children will explore what happened when Solomon put other gods before the one true God.
2. The children will examine and recognize the influence that friends can have on our lives, both good and bad.

Memory Verse: *"I am the Lord your God...Do not put any other gods in place of me."
--Deuteronomy 5:6-7 (NIRV)*

Getting Started

Choose One Activity

Grades K-2

"What Comes First?" Activity Sheet

See: www.kidssundayschool.com → Preschool → Activities → "What Comes First"

You will need to print out one activity sheet for each child. The children will decide which picture comes first in each of four scenarios. After you have finished the activity, tell the children in today's lesson we will learn more about Solomon and how made some choices that did not make God so happy.

Grades 3-5

My Friends" Activity Sheet

See: www.kidssundayschool.com → Grade School → Lessons → Wisdom from Proverbs → "Friends to Keep" (As Kids Arrive)

You will need to print out one sheet for each child or make your own. The children will list their friends and then choose from a list of words good qualities about their friend. When everyone is finished, collect the papers to use later in the lesson.

Bible Lesson with Discussion Questions

Message: *Choose your friends wisely.*

Solomon's Wives Turn Him Away From the Lord

King Solomon had many wives that he loved, many who were from other nations. The Lord had warned Israel about women from other nations. He had said, "You must not get married to them. If you do, you can be sure they will turn your hearts toward their gods."

But Solomon continued to love them anyway. He wouldn't give them up. He had many many wives who came from royal families. His wives led him down the wrong path.

As Solomon grew older, his wives turned his heart toward other gods. He didn't follow the Lord his God with all his heart. So he wasn't like his father David. Solomon worshiped Ashtoreth. Ashtoreth was the goddess of the people of Sidon. He also worshiped Molech. Molech was the god of the people of Ammon. The Lord hated that god.

Bible Lesson with Discussion Questions - *continued*

Solomon did what was evil in the sight of the Lord. He didn't follow the Lord completely. He didn't do what his father David had done.

There is a hill east of Jerusalem. Solomon built a high place for worshiping Chemosh there. He built a high place for worshiping Molech there too. Chemosh was the god of Moab. Molech was the god of Ammon. The Lord hated both of those gods.

Solomon also built high places so that all of his wives from other nations could worship their gods. Those women burned incense and offered sacrifices to their gods.

The Lord became angry with Solomon. That's because his heart had turned away from the Lord. He is the God of Israel. He had appeared to Solomon twice. He had commanded Solomon not to follow other gods. But Solomon didn't obey him. So the Lord said to Solomon, "You have chosen not to keep my covenant. You have decided not to obey my rules. I commanded you to do what I told you. But you did not do it. So you can be absolutely sure I will tear the kingdom away from you. I will give it to one of your officials. But I will not do that while you are still living. Because of your father David I will wait. I will tear the kingdom out of your son's hand. But I will not tear the whole kingdom away from him. I will give him one of the tribes because of my servant David. I will also do it because of Jerusalem. That is the city I have chosen."

1 Kings 11:41-43 ~ Solomon Dies

The other events of Solomon's rule are written down. Everything he did and the wisdom he showed are written down. They are written in the official records of Solomon. Solomon ruled in Jerusalem over the whole nation of Israel for 40 years. Then he joined the members of his family who had already died. His body was buried in the city of his father David. Solomon's son Rehoboam became the next king after him.

Discussion Questions:

1. When King Solomon grew old, how did his wives get him into trouble with God? *(They turned his heart to worship other Gods.)*
2. What did King Solomon do wrong in the eyes of God? *(He put other gods before the one true God.)*
3. Did King Solomon keep God's commandment? *(No. He chose to please the people instead of God.)*
4. What commandment did Solomon 'break'? Recite it. *(The first commandment. I am the Lord your God. You shall have NO other gods before Me.)*
5. What do you think this commandment means? *(Discuss together. Make a list of things that we might put before God in our lives.)*
6. What was the consequence for Solomon since he chose to disobey God? *(God told King Solomon that He would take away the kingdom and give it to someone else.)*
7. How do you think God feels when we do not follow His commandment? *(Discuss together. Answers will vary.)*

Application to Real Life

Use the following verses from Proverbs to discover what the Bible tells us about friends. You can all take a different verse (if so, write the verse the child is looking for on an index card) or you may race to find the verses together.

1. Proverbs 12:26 – What should we do when we are trying to find a friend?
2. Proverbs 13:20 – What happens to us when someone is not a good influence on us?
3. Proverbs 14:22 – What do you get when a person does good things?
4. Proverbs 18:24 – How can you tell if you have a real friend?
5. Proverbs 15:3 – Why do you have to be careful of your behavior as a friend to others?

Remind the children that we all have friends from all different places. The big questions for us to consider are: 1. Who are my friends? AND 2. What kind of influence do we have on each other? We want our friends to be a good role model in our lives, because if they are not, we may be led down a path that is not pleasing to God, just as Solomon was led by his “friends”. Choose your friends wisely. (Remind the children of the message statement and memory verse.)

If you have students in grades 4-5, you may also choose to look up the following verses to see what behaviors we can find in friends that are not a good influence on our lives: Proverbs 12:2; 12:20; 16:28; 22:24-25

Memory Work Fun

5 minutes

1. Recite the memory verse. Then explain what it means in your own words.
2. Retell the story of David and Goliath.
3. What is the name of the Holy Sacrament we participate in during every divine service?
4. Ask a volunteer to say a short closing prayer, thanking God for being with us.

Activity Ideas

Choose One

All Ages

“Friend or Foe” Activity

See: www.kidssundayschool.com → Grade School → Activities → “Friend or Foe”

You will need two chairs, rope, several volunteers, and several flashlights for this activity. You will also need your Bibles to look up Matthew 7:13-14. Please see the website above for detailed instructions. The demonstration will show the children that friends can have a large influence on our lives, and they often help determine the path we choose. Good friends will help us to stay close to God.

Grades K-2

“First Things First” Object Talk

See: www.kidssundayschool.com → Preschool → Object Talks → “First Things First”

You will need to print out the picture of Jesus before class. You will also need various items such as toys, music, sports equipment, dolls, etc. to use for this object talk. You will use the picture of Jesus and instruct the children to keep their eyes on it while you continue to distract them with the other items from your hidden box, which will become more and more difficult. Please refer to the website above for detailed instructions.

Activity Ideas - continued

Choose One

“Friends Rub Off” Activity

See: www.kidssundayschool.com → Preschool → Activities → “Friends Rub Off”

You will need to print out the activity sheet and cut out one “Friends Rub Off” card for each child. The children will use a pencil and a cotton ball to demonstrate how our friends can have a big impact on the way we act – either good or bad. Please see the above website for detailed instructions.

Grades 3-5

“Friends” Skit

See: www.kidssundayschool.com → Grade School → Skits → “Friends”

This skit will need to be performed by volunteers. Then as a group, you will analyze what happened between the friends. This activity is more appropriate for the older primary students.

Journal

Optional

Grades K-2

Draw a picture of you with a friend. What do you love about your friend? Write about it.

Grades 3-5

Who are your closest friends? What kind of influence do they have on you? Is it good or not? Write about it.

Why do you think we have to be so careful when we choose our friends? Write about it.

Homework Ideas

- Read at home with a grown-up **Review**.
- Learn the memory verse: *“All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true.”*
--2 Timothy 3:16 (NLT)
- Work on memorizing commandment #_____.
- Color the **Review** coloring sheet as your parents read you the Sunday School Lesson. Return your coloring page for a sticker.
- What is your favorite Bible story? What book of the Bible is it found in? Write it down and bring it to class to share.

Other Resources

<http://children.ccm.com/curriculum/> → OT Support Curriculum → Page 10 → “Solomon Turns from the Lord”

Name: _____

Review



What is your favorite Bible story?

Write it down or draw a picture in the space below:

"All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true."
--2 Timothy 3:16 (NLT)



Take Home Page: E31. Solomon Turns from the Lord

Today I learned...

Today your child learned that we should **choose our friends wisely**. The children explored what happened when Solomon chose to put other gods before the one true God. They also talked about the influence that friends can have on our lives, both good and bad.

Help me learn my memory verse...

"I am the Lord your God...Do not put any other gods in place of me." --Deuteronomy 5:6-7 (NIRV)

Ask me...

1. What did Solomon do that started to get him in "trouble?"
2. Which commandment did Solomon not follow? Can you recite it?
3. How do you think God feels when we choose not to follow his commandments?

Live Your Faith...

Make a list together of all your favorite things, or the things (or people) that you love. Your child could also draw pictures instead of writing the words. When you finish the list, write "GOD" on the top of the paper, above all the other things. Remind your child of the first commandment: "I am the Lord your God...You shall have no other Gods before more." Talk about how God wants to be first on our list and in our hearts. Pray together and ask God to help you to follow this important commandment and keep Him first.



E32. Review

This lesson does not have a Bible text since the purpose is to review and build Bible skills.

Learning Objectives

1. The children will review how to use the Bible and put their skills into practice.

Memory Verse: *“All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true.” --2 Timothy 3:16 (NLT)*

Getting Started

All Ages

“Fill in the Books”

You will need to print one copy of the empty bookcase and one copy of the completed “books of the Bible” bookcase for each child before class (see attached). Set a timer for 10 minutes and encourage the children to see how much they can complete before the timer rings. Consider playing soft music in the background while the children work and help the children as needed.

Grades K-2

As the children arrive, have them color each section of books of the Bible a different color. (Make sure you have a sample one for them to follow.) Explain to them as they work that the colors help us to understand a little bit more about how the Bible is organized.

Grades 3-5

As the children arrive, have them use a pencil and the completed chart to fill in the empty chart. Give them a set amount of time to work on this. (Note – it can be finished later.)

Bible Lesson with Discussion Questions

Message:

The Bible is there to help you...use it!

TEACHER NOTE: *The following “general background” information regarding the structure of the Bible should be taught with discretion and special consideration should be given to the ages of the children you are teaching.*

General Background Information for Teachers

The Bible (also known as the “Holy Scripture”) is a collection of writings about God’s activity, promises, and commandments. The Holy Scripture describes encounters with God. It is not a complete or exhaustive account of all of God’s deeds. God made sure that what is important for the salvation of mankind has been preserved in the Bible. The biblical writings were collected over a span of about 1000 years.

Bible Lesson with Discussion Questions - Continued

God prompted people to author the scriptures and He guided them to write what should be written. Each biblical book is written in a style that reflects their respective author as well as the worldview and experiences of their time. God saw to it that the main contents of the biblical books have remained complete and untouched over the centuries.

Holy Scripture is divided into two main parts, namely the Old Testament—which deals with the time before the birth of Christ—and the New Testament, which begins at the time of Christ’s birth.

The Old Testament

There are **seventeen historical books** in the Old Testament explaining the history of the people of the old covenant.

Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy (i.e. the five books or Moses) include narratives from the creation of the world, the Flood, the Tower of Babel, the important patriarchs of the Israelite people (Abraham, Joseph and Isaac), as well as the Exodus from Egypt.

The book of Joshua shows how the Israelites conquered Canaan.

The book of Judges contains narratives of the early Israelite leaders in the land of Canaan, who are called judges.

The book of Ruth was placed after the book of Judges. The events in these books took place at the same time.

1 Samuel, 2 Samuel, 1 Kings and 2 Kings describe the history of the Israelites from the period of King Saul, David and Solomon, to the last kings of Judah and the Babylonian captivity (from 1050 – 550 BC).

A parallel report of history of the Israelite people is provided by the books of 1 Chronicles and 2 Chronicles.

Ezra and Nehemiah, originally one book, report the things that happened in Jerusalem and Judah under the Persian kingdom (after the return from Exile in Babylon). They are followed by the book of Esther which apparently took place in the same time period.

The Old Testament also contains **five doctrinal books**. They are also seen as belonging to the wisdom tradition. First in this section is the book of Job. Songs of praise to God are contained in the Psalms. Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and Song of Songs name King Solomon as author.

There are also **seventeen prophetic books** in the Old Testament. The prophetic books contain warnings and promises to God’s people. This section includes the major Prophets (Isaiah, Jeremiah and Lamentations, Ezekiel and Daniel in chronological order) and the minor Prophets, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi in their assumed chronological order.

The New Testament

There are **five historical books** in the New Testament. The Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John) report on the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The book of Acts reports the events which happened from Ascension Day to Pentecost and the activities of the first Apostles, and the missionary journeys of Paul.

The historical books are followed by **21 doctrinal books**. The doctrinal books are mainly letters of the Apostles written to various congregations or people. It starts with the letters from Paul to congregations, Romans, to the Corinthians (1 Corinthians and 2 Corinthians), Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 Thessalonians and 2 Thessalonians, and then to individual persons, 1 Timothy and 2 Timothy, Titus and Philemon. Then there is the letter to Hebrews, and the letters of James, 1 Peter, 2 Peter, 1 John, 2 John, 3 John, and Jude.

There is **one prophetic book**. This is the last book in the New Testament, Revelation. This book describes the return of Jesus Christ and other events of the future.

Bible Lesson with Discussion Questions - Continued

Teaching Children to Look Up Bible Text References:

See: www.kidssundayschool.com → Grade School → Lessons → “Life Applications” – the Bible – “Our Guide” → scroll down to “class exercise” and click on “Bible Keys”

This worksheet is a guide for you, the teacher, to teach the children some basic information when it comes to looking up verses in the Bible. It will guide you so that you may teach the children some key skills that they need in order to use their Bibles properly. Please DO NOT skip this part of the lesson. In addition, not everything on the activity sheet needs to be covered. Please use discretion according to the ages and skill levels of the children you are teaching.

Discussion Questions:

1. Where does all Scripture come from? *(It comes from God.)*
2. What is Scripture, or the Bible, good for? *(It is good for teaching, for correcting us, for training us, and equipping us to do good things.)*
3. Do you think that God will ever need to come up with new rules or new laws for us to follow? *(No. His laws last forever. So, what we read about in the Bible will always be a good teaching for us.)*
4. Will knowing what is in the Bible help you to do good works? Why or why not? *(Discuss together. Answers will vary.)*

Additional Questions:

Before beginning this section, tell the children that you will be asking lots of questions. Every person has acquired a different level of “Bible skills”, and that is okay. By the end of this lesson, everyone will have stronger Bible skills, and that is the point. Point out where the Table of Contents is in their Bibles and help them to find the answer to their questions.

1. How many books are in the Bible? *(66)*
2. Can you recite them in order? *(If they can, let them try – or see how far they can get. Encourage them to learn the Books of the Bible in order, one chunk at a time, to help them know how to find verses more easily.)*
3. How many testaments are there in the Bible, or main parts? *(2)*
4. What are those testaments called? *(Old and New)*
5. How many books are in the Old Testament? *(39 – Use the table of contents to count.)*
6. How many books then are in the New Testament? *(27 – Hint – 66 total books take away 39 in the Old Testament, write the math on the easel.)*

Application to Real Life

For this lesson, the children receive real life application through the hands-on games and activities.

Memory Work Fun

5 minutes

1. Recite the memory verse.
2. Practice finding the memory verse and/or Bible text in their Bible!
3. Allow a volunteer (child) to lead the class in an opening/closing prayer.
4. How far can you get naming the books of the Bible in order? Give it a try!

TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS:

Choose from any of the following games or activities. You will want to plan for more than one, just in case you need it. For selecting activities to reinforce this lesson, focus on the skill levels (not necessarily the ages) of your children and work on further developing their Bible skills.

These activity choices also provide an opportunity for all ages to work together. Consider pairing up the children where appropriate, older or those children who have acquired stronger Bible skills with younger less skilled children. If you have more boys in your class, consider choosing an activity that is more active and/or competitive in nature.

Enjoy the activities that you choose and remember that you can participate and learn too!

Make a “Bible Template”:

Make a sample of this template before class, so that children can see the finished product. Please see the last page of this lesson for the actual templates. You will need to print one template for each child. You will also need 2 pieces of paper for each child’s book, along with scissors, glue sticks and markers.

Help the children to fold their paper (stacked together) to make a book. They will need to write “Bible” on the front of their book. Then ask them to cut out the cards for the Old Testament. The children should open their paper book and glue the Old Testament card on the first set of pages that are open, using both sides. Then they should turn the page and glue the New Testament template cards on the second set of pages.

“Bible Walk”:

The purpose of this activity is to help the children learn the books of the Bible in order, in a very active way. Depending on the ages and skills of the children you are teaching, consider starting with 5 or 10 books of either the Old or New Testament, and increase the number as needed to challenge different students. If the number you chose is too much or too hard, decrease the number so as not to frustrate the child. Remember to celebrate the small successes of each child’s learning. The goal is to help the children to be able to recite whatever number of books of the Bible in order and from memory. This will help them know in time where to find that book more quickly during Sunday school and Bible study time. It is recommended that you keep this game to be played numerous times throughout the year. It can also be used as a reference tool when learning various Bible stories, allowing the children to actively find where a book of the Bible is located that contains the story you are learning about that day.

For this activity, you will need to print and cut out either the Old Testament cards or the New Testament cards from the “Bible Walk” Template at the end of this lesson. You will also need to print and cut out the star template. If you are choosing to focus on the books of the Old Testament, you will need to trace and cut out 36 stars. The New Testament books will require 21 stars. (Teacher Note: Star templates can also be found inexpensively at teacher stores, dollar stores, etc.) Glue one Old Testament card in the middle of each star. (You can also choose to just write the name of a book of the Bible on each star. Also, number the stars in order on the back, so you can easily put them back in order in case they get mixed up.) If you printed and cut out the New Testament cards, trace and cut out 27 stars, and follow the same procedures using the New Testament books.

Create a winding path with the stars in order on the floor. Make sure there is a space large enough for the child to step between each star. The children should step just in front of the star, so they can see it. One child can go at a time, while the other children can say the book of the Bible with the child who is taking the “Bible Walk”. Celebrate the successes of each child’s learning. Encourage partners (if you chose to partner up your children) to help one another.

Activity Ideas – Continued

“Where does the *BOOK* belong?”

For this activity, you will need 2 pieces of chart paper (one for each group, 2 rolls of tape, and 2 bags (paper or plastic will do). Divide each paper into 2 columns before class. The column on the left should be labeled “Old Testament”, and the column on the right should be labeled “New Testament”. Use the template pages (at the end of this lesson) from the “Bible Walk”, print and cut out one set of Old and New Testament cards for each group. (You can also use index cards or just write the names on small pieces of paper.) Mix up the cards and place them in a bag.

During class, you will divide the children into 2 groups. Give each group a bag of cards. When you give the signal, each group will take the cards out of the bag (one at a time) and decide where in the Bible it can be found. After deciding, they will tape it under either the Old or New Testament column. When both groups have all the cards taped onto their chart paper, check their work. Take off any cards that are not in the correct column. The group who has the most cards placed correctly wins.

“Bible Detective”

See: www.kidssundayschool.com → Grade School → Activities → “Bible Detective”

This activity will require some preparation work but will last for many months as your children investigate the Bible every week. You will need to print out “Bible Detective” cards and the “Bible Bucks” onto card stock. You may want to consider laminating the Bible Bucks so that they will last. There will be two sides to the Bible bucks to make it more fun and enticing for children. Each week the children will receive one Bible Detective card with the current week’s question. They will get to work on the questions at home and when they return a Bible Detective card with the correct answer, they receive one Bible Buck. After the children have accumulated at least 4-5 Bible bucks, you can allow opportunities (even at the end of the session) to cash in their bucks for treats or small prizes. Make it a fun learning experience. Please see the above website for detailed instructions and for printing templates.

“I’m Going on a Trip” Game

Have the children form a circle (either by standing or with their chairs). The first child begins by holding a ball or another object and says, “I’m going on a trip and I’m going to take Genesis.” The child then passes the ball to the next child. The second child continues, “I’m going on a trip and I’m going to take Genesis and Exodus.” Continue the game through all the books of the Bible of the desired Testament or set a goal and try to meet it. Have fun!

“Bible Book Pin Up” Game

Print the names of Old and New Testament books on individual clothespins, making two complete sets. Hang a clothesline from chairs at two designated locations. Divide each clothesline into two sections (Old and New Testament). Place one set of the clothespins at each location. Explain that the object of the game is to group the books into the Old and New Testament divisions. At the signal, the first child will run to the clothesline, select a clothespin, decide if it is located in the Old or New Testament and place it on the clothesline on the proper side. The first team to correctly separate all their clothespins wins. As an additional challenge, instruct the children to place the clothespins in the correct order.

Activity Ideas – Continued

“Christian Quest” Activity

See: www.kidssundayschool.com → Grade school → Games → “Christian Quest – The Books (Part One)”

You will need Bibles and a plastic sword (or a homemade one made from cardboard). This activity will work best with two teams. Please see the above website for detailed instructions. The purpose of the activity is to help the children review their books of the Bible knowledge.

Build it and they will Learn

Print each of the following Scripture references on a separate index cards:

Exodus 14:6	1 Samuel 17:5
Exodus 31:18	2 Kings 4:10
Numbers 11:7-8	2 Kings 4:38
Deuteronomy 17:18	Esther 1:11
Judges 16:25-26	Jeremiah 24:2

Provide modeling clay and a Bible for each child. Guide the children to select a card, look up the Scripture references, and use the clay to make a model of the object(s) mentioned in the Bible verse.

Look it Up!

Write the following statements on individual cards (or make up your own). Mix the cards and place them in a small bag. Allow each child to select a card and use his Bible to complete the assignment. Add additional statements as needed:

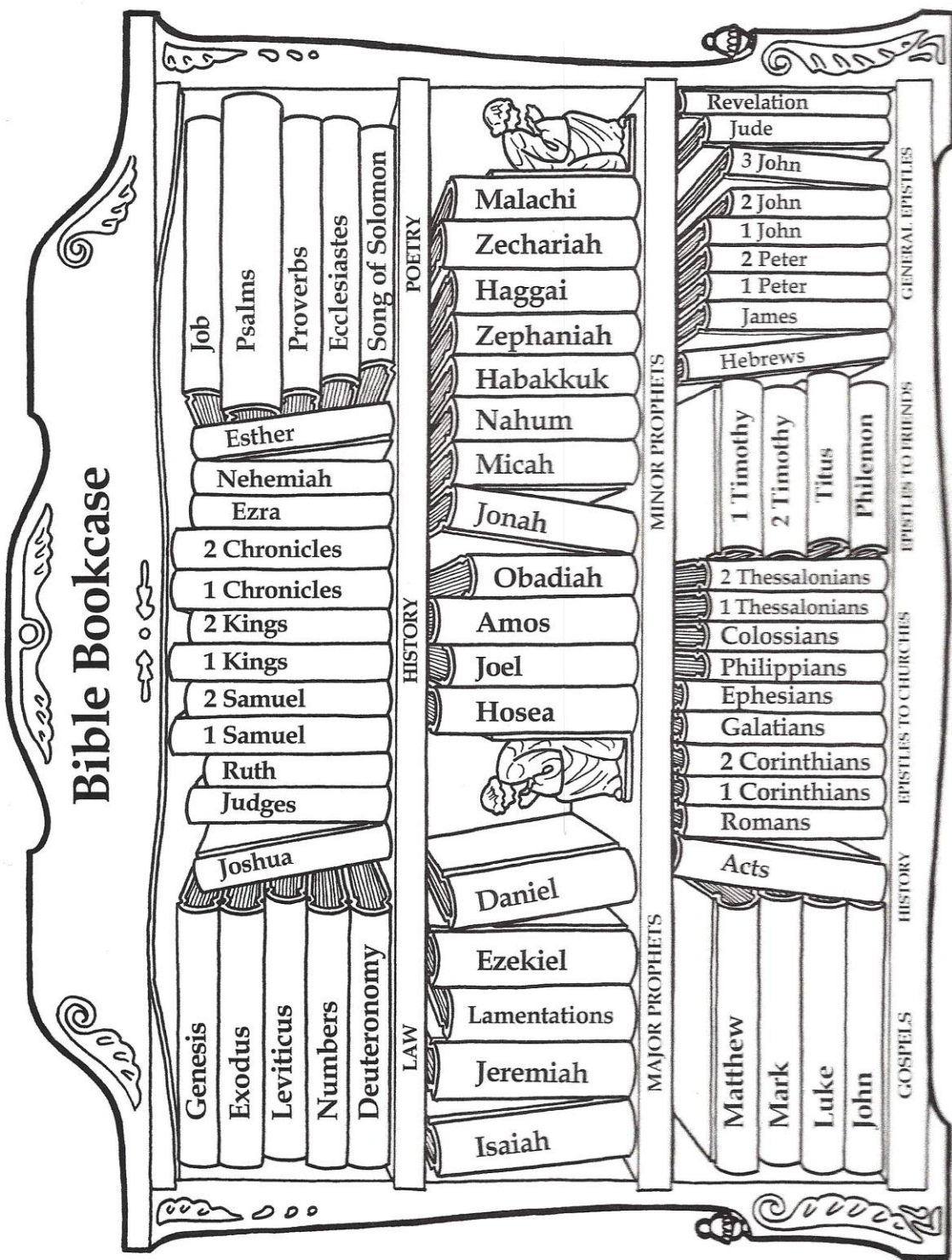
- How many chapters are in Luke?
- Locate John 13:35.
- Which book is in the middle of the Bible?
- Find a book of Law.
- Find the first book in the Bible and read the first verse.
- Look up Psalm 23.
- Find and read the last verse of the last book in the Bible.
- Locate each of the four Gospels.
- How many chapters are in the book of 2 Samuel?

Other Resources

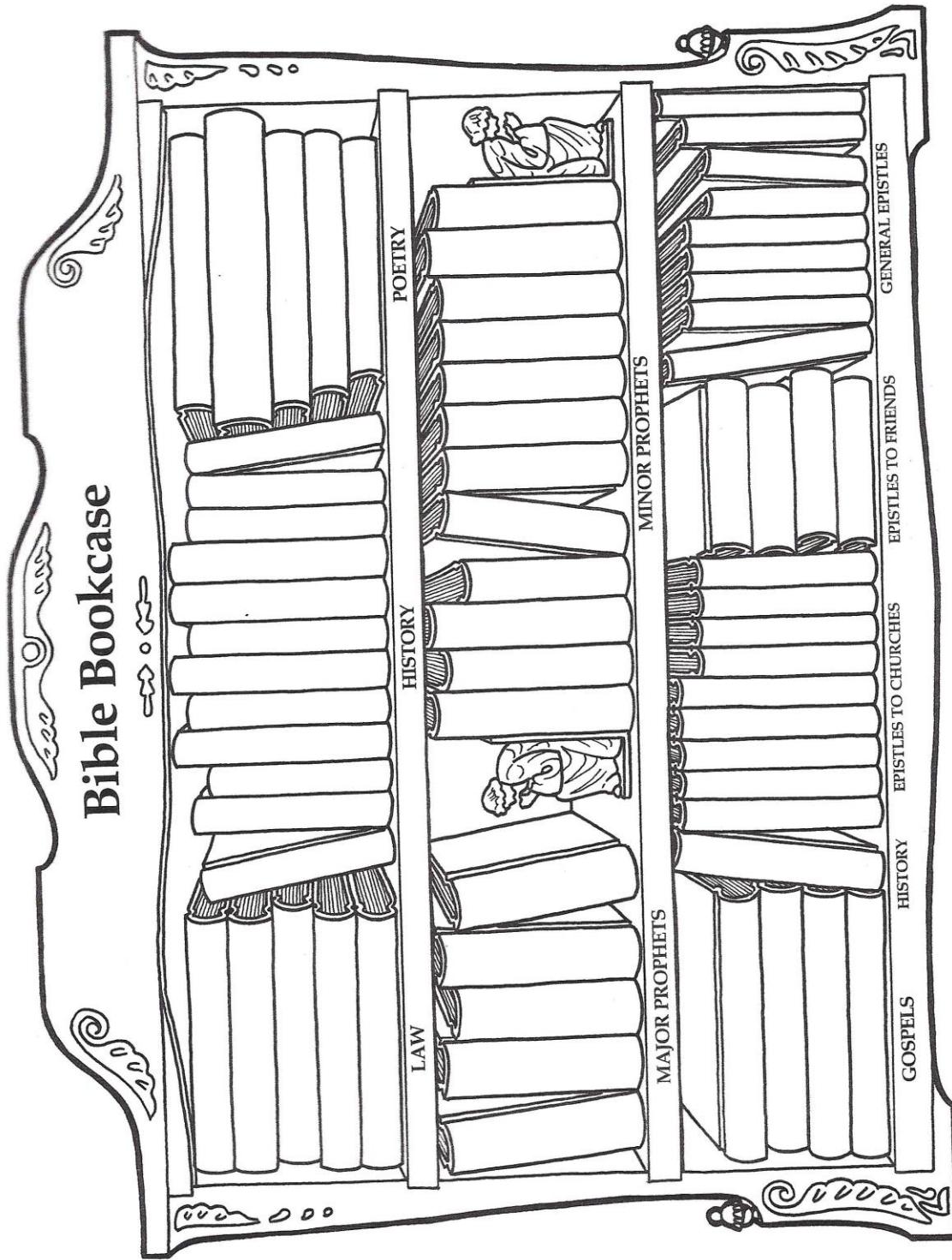
For additional resources on teaching Bible skills through activities and games, see www.christianbook.com for either of the following books:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. <u>The Big Book of Bible Skills</u>
ISBN: 0-8307-2346-3
Publisher: Gospel Light | 2. <u>The Big Book of Bible Games</u>
ISBN: 0-8307-1821-4
Publisher: Gospel Light |
|--|---|

Bible Bookcase



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Take Home Page: E32. Review

Today I learned...

Today your child learned that **the Bible is there to help us, so we should learn from it!** The children reviewed the basic structure of the Bible, how to use it, and then practiced some of their Bible skills.

Help me learn my memory verse...

"All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true."

--2 Timothy 3:16 (NLT)

Ask me...

4. What is your favorite Bible story?
5. What is the difference between the Old Testament and the New Testament?
6. Why do you think the Bible is such an important book?

Live Your Faith...

Open your child's Bible together and look for their favorite Bible story. Once you find it, encourage him/her to highlight it and put the date next to the story. Talk about why it is their favorite, and what we can learn from it. When you are finished, thank God together for teaching us through His Word.

