

Bible Lesson with Discussion Questions

Message:

The Word of God stands forever.

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.

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

The first book of the Bible is the book of Genesis and it is in the **Old** Testament. The Old Testament is broken down more, in a way that is easy to understand. *(Have the children repeat after you: “Five, twelve, five, five, twelve...five, twelve, five, five, twelve”)*

The Old Testament is divided into 5 parts:

1. **5 books of law** – Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Number, and Deuteronomy. They are called the books of law because they contain the laws of God to His people, the Ten Commandments, etc. They talk about the creation, Noah and the flood, Abraham, Moses and more.
2. **12 books of history** - Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 and 2 Samuel, 1 and 2 Kings, 1 and 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther. They tell the History of Israel from the Promised Land to the return to Jerusalem. They cover Joshua, Caleb, the judges like Sampson, Saul, David, etc.
3. **5 books of poetry** - Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and the Song of Solomon. They are written largely in a poetry form.
4. **5 books of Major Prophets** - Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel.
5. **12 books of Minor Prophets** - Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi.

The difference between major and minor prophets is mostly the length of the books, with the Major Prophets books being longer than most of the Minor Prophet books of the Bible. Remind them that when they think Old Testament – think “5 – 12 – 5 – 5 – 12”.

Bible Lesson with Discussion Questions - Continued

Bible Lesson

PART 1: Review the following verses, using the discussion questions as a guide.

2 Timothy 3:14-17 (NIRV)

“But I want you to continue to follow what you have learned. Do not give up what you are sure of. You know the people you learned it from. You have known the Holy Scriptures ever since you were a little child. They are able to teach you how to be saved by believing in Christ Jesus.

God has breathed life into all of Scripture. It is useful for teaching us what is true. It is useful for correcting our mistakes. It is useful for making our lives whole again. It is useful for training us to do what is right. By using Scripture, a man of God can be completely prepared to do every good thing.”

Psalm 12:6

“The words of the Lord are perfect. They are like silver made pure in a clay furnace. They are like silver made pure seven times over.”

Psalm 119:160

“All your words are true. All your laws are right. They last forever.”

PART 2: Bible Reference Key Instruction

See: www.kidssundayschool.com → Grade School → Lessons → “Spiritual Life” – 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. While discretion according to the ages and skill levels of the children you are teaching is needed, please DO NOT skip this part of the lesson, and use it to further guide the children in navigating the Bible. It is not necessary however to cover everything that is listed on the activity sheet.

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 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.)*
5. How can you grow like Jesus did? How do you grow your mind, your body, and your spirit? *(Discuss together. Make a chart on the easel or on your white board. Children could also make a 3-column chart on paper or have it premade to save time. Be specific. For example, praying to God helps one to grow in spirit. Reading the Bible could help one grow in mind and in spirit. Exercise would help one grow in body. Etc.)*

Application to Real Life

Enjoy a healthy snack together. While you do, look up in your Bibles Matthew 7:26 and read it together:

“But everyone who hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man. He builds his house on sand.”

If possible, bring in a large rock and some sand so the children can see firsthand what the verse means. You will need two (2) pans – one for the rock, and the other for the sand. You will also need 2 cups (plastic or paper will work just fine), and a pitcher of water. In the first pan, place the rock in the center and the cup on top of the rock. In the second pan, place the sand (in a pile) with the second cup on top. Ask the children what they think will happen to the cup when you add water to the pan with a rock in it. Gently pour water into that pan and watch what happens. Do the same thing for the pan with the sand. What do the children think will happen? Gently pour the water and watch the cup fall.

Remind the children of this story of the wise man who built his house on the rock and the foolish man who built his house on the sand and what happened to each of the houses. We want to build our house on the rock. We want to put God’s words into practice in our lives. To do this, we need to read our Bibles and see what God has to tell us. We want to learn from Him. (Remind the children of the message and the memory verse.)

Memory Work Fun

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 Genesis located? In the Old or New Testament? Practice finding it together. Where is the book of Matthew located? In the Old or New Testament? Practice finding it together.
3. Recite the memory verse.
4. Lead the class in a short prayer thanking God for giving us such a special gift so that we can learn about Him, His promises and how He wants us to live.

Activity Ideas

Choose One

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!

All Ages**"Five Steps to Knowing God's Word"**

See: www.kidssundayschool.com → Grade School → Crafts → "Five Steps to Knowing God's Word"

You will need construction paper or card stock, pencils, and glue sticks for this activity. You will also need to print out the Bible reference sheet (see attached) and cut them out for the children to glue on the back of their "bookmarks". When the children are finished, review the five steps and the bible verses that go with each step. Please see the above website for further detailed instructions. Partner older children or volunteers with younger children if they need help tracing and writing.

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.

"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 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.

“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.

Grades K-2**“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!

Grades 3-5**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 Mark 10:14 and read it.
- Which book is in the middle of the Bible?
- Find the book of Acts.
- Find the first book in the New Testament and read the first verse.
- Look up 1 John 4:7.
- Find and read the last verse of the last book of the New Testament.
- Locate each of the books of Law.
- How many chapters are in the book of Revelation?

“Verse Connection”

See: www.kidssundayschool.com → Grade School → Activities → “Verse Connection”

You will need to print or make copies of the handout for each child. Children will look at various Bible verses and decide which verse is best suited for each situation that is presented. Please see the above website for detailed instructions and discussion questions.



“Selling’ the Importance of God’s Word”

See: www.kidssundayschool.com → Grade School → Activities → “Selling God’s Word”

You will need an adult volunteer to assist each group and monitor the time allotted as needed. Use the above website as a guide and modify the parameters, as necessary. Children may present their commercials to the class instead of recording them as it is suggested. Allow time for the discussion questions at the end of the activity.

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

Draw a picture of your favorite Bible that happened before Jesus was born. Why is it your favorite?

Grades 3-5 (Choose One)

Do you think it is important to spend time reading your Bible? Why or why not? What is one thing you would like to learn more about? Write about it.

What is your favorite story from the Bible that happened before Jesus was born? Why is it your favorite? Write about it.

Homework Ideas

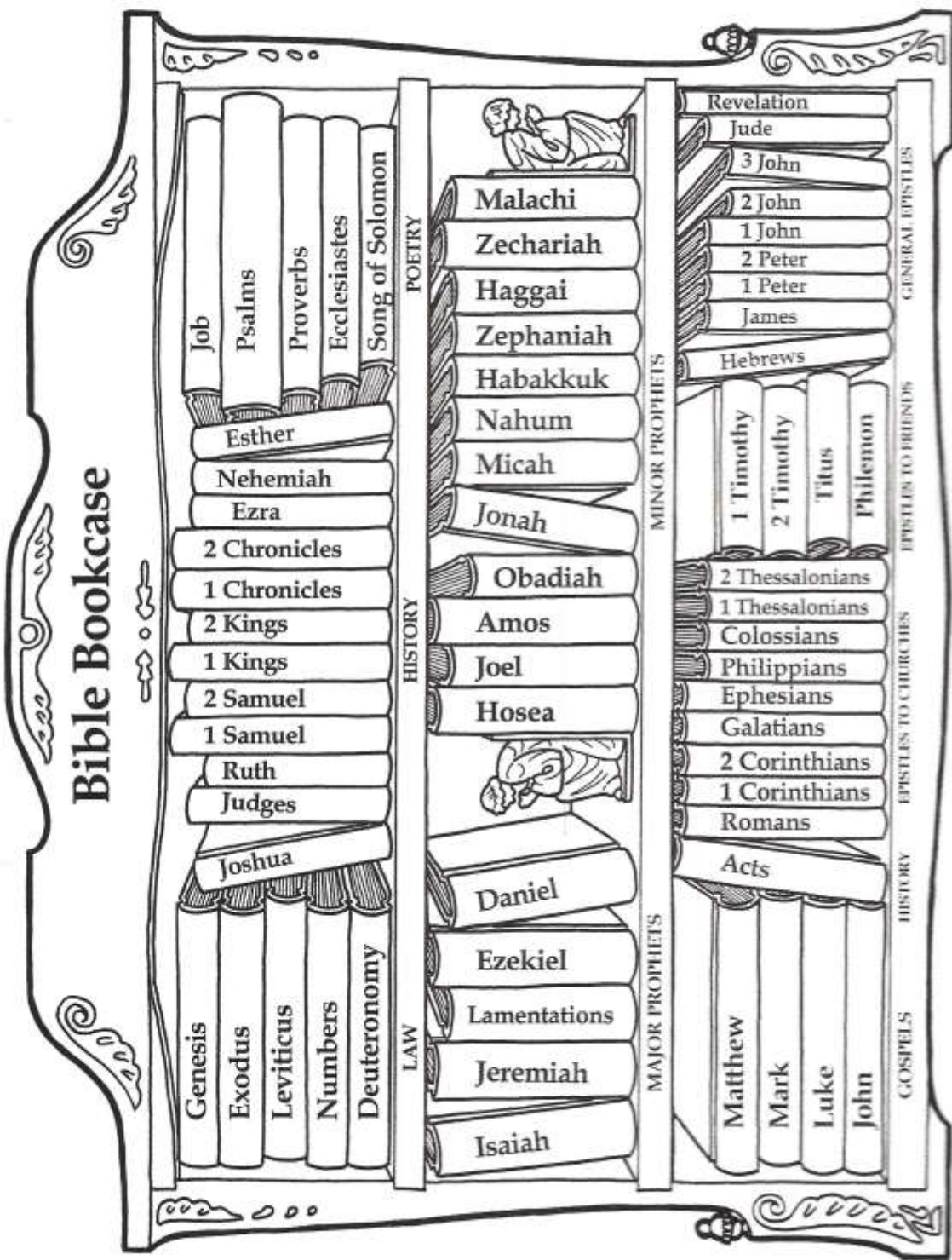
- Read at home with a grown up: **“Hannah and Samuel”** (1 Samuel 1:1 to 2:1).
- Learn the memory verse: *“The Lord has given me what I asked Him for.”*
--1 Samuel 1:27
- Work on memorizing commandment #_____.
- Color the **Hannah and Samuel** coloring sheet as your parents read you the Sunday School Lesson. Return your coloring page for a sticker.
- Have you ever wanted something REALLY bad? What was it? How did it make you feel? Did you ever get it? Draw a picture of it and bring it class to share.

Other Resources

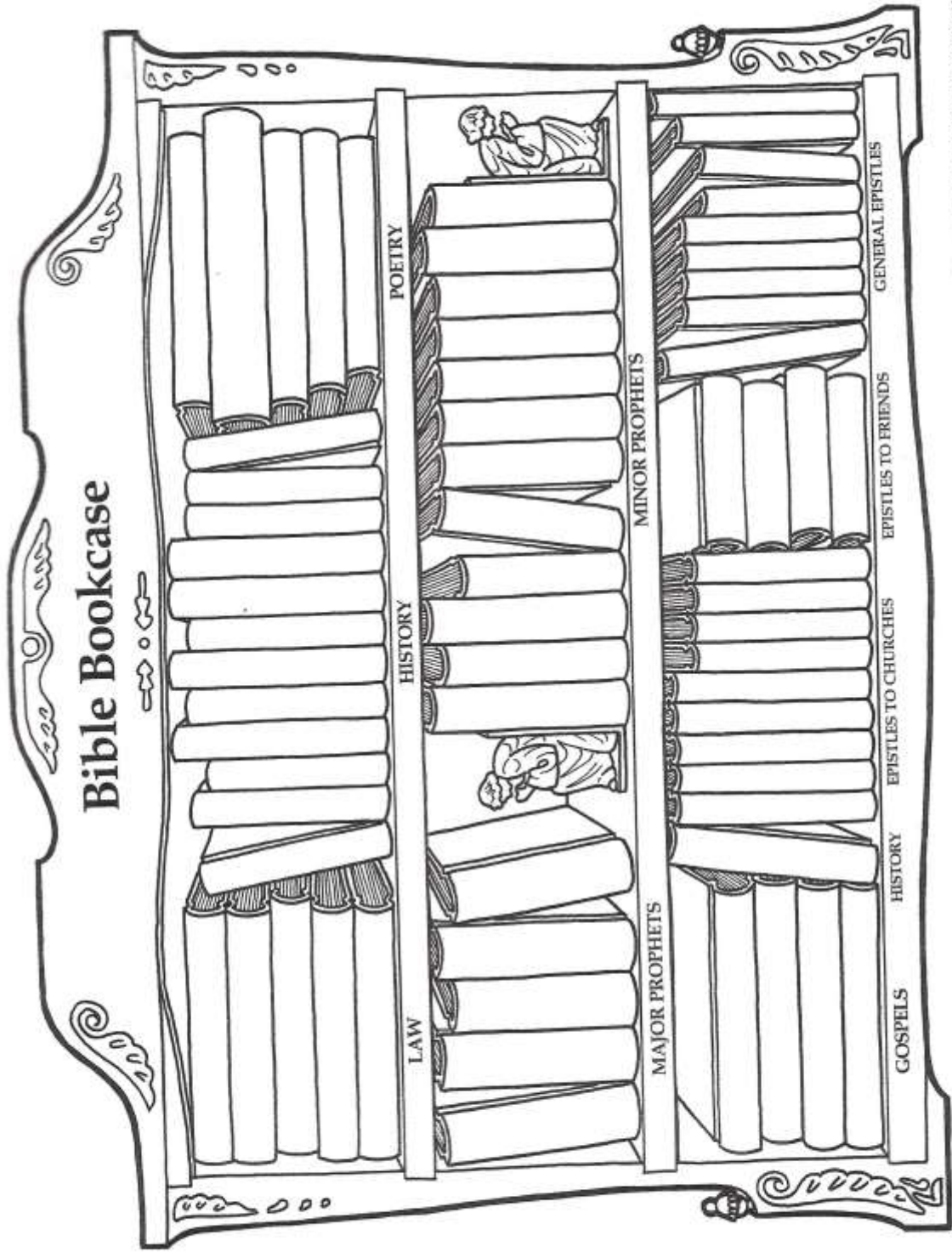
For additional resources on teaching Bible skills through activities and games, see www.christianbook.com for either of the following books:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 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 |
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Bible Bookcase



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Genesis

Exodus

Leviticus

Numbers

Deuteronomy



Activities – “Five Steps to Knowing God’s Word”

Romans 10:17	(Hear)	<i>“So faith comes from hearing the message. And the message that is heard is the message about Christ.”</i>
Revelation 1:3a	(Read)	<i>“Blessed is the one who reads out loud the words of this prophecy.”</i>
Acts 17:11	(Study)	<i>“They studied the Scriptures carefully every day. They wanted to see if what Paul said was true.”</i>
Psalms 119:11,13	(Memorize)	<i>“I have hidden your word in my heart so that I won’t sin against you. With my lips I talk about all the decisions you have made.”</i>
Psalms 119:15	(Meditate)	<i>“I spend time thinking about your rules. I consider how you want me to live.”</i>

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Name: _____

Hannah and Samuel



"The Lord has given me what I asked Him for."

--1 Samuel 1:27



Take Home Page: F1. Bible Skills – Old Testament

Today I learned...

Today your child learned that **the Word of God stands forever**. Children explored the Old Testament of the Bible and talked about how important it is for us to read it and learn from it.

Help me learn my memory verse...

“The grass withers and the flowers fade, but the word of our God stands forever.” --Isaiah 40:8 (NLT)

Ask me...

1. Where does all scripture come from?
2. Does the Bible have any mistakes in it?
3. How can the Bible help us to grow to be more like Jesus?

Live Your Faith...

Play a game of “charades” together, in which you take turns acting out your favorite Bible stories from the Old Testament. After the correct story is guessed, let the person who chose it explain why it is their favorite and what they learned from that story.



Bible Lesson with Discussion Questions

Message:

God wants us to keep our promises.

Samuel Is Born

There once was a man named Elkanah, who came from the city of Ramathaim in the hill country of Ephraim. Elkanah's wife was named Hannah. Hannah did not have any children.

Year after year Elkanah went up from his town to Shiloh. He went there to worship and offer sacrifices to the Lord. Every time the day came for Elkanah to offer a sacrifice, he would give a special share of meat to Hannah. He did this because he loved Hannah and because the Lord had kept her from having children.

Hannah often was upset and she would cry and not eat anything. Elkanah would speak to Hannah. He would say, "Hannah, why are you crying? Why don't you eat? Why are you so angry and unhappy? Don't I mean more to you than ten sons?"

One time when they had finished eating their meal in Shiloh, Hannah stood up. The priest Eli was sitting on a chair near the entrance of the Lord's Holy Tent. Hannah was very sad. She cried and cried and she prayed to the Lord. She then made a promise. She said, "Lord, you rule overall. Please see how bad I feel! Remember me! Don't forget about me! Please give me a son! If you do, I'll give him back to you. Then he will serve you all the days of his life."

As Hannah kept on praying to the Lord, Eli watched her lips. She was praying in her heart. Her lips were moving. But she wasn't making a sound. When Eli questioned Hannah she told him that she was just telling the Lord about my troubles. I've been praying here because I'm very sad. My pain is so great."

Eli answered, "Go in peace. May the God of Israel give you what you have asked him for." She said, "May you be pleased with me." Then she left and had something to eat. Her face wasn't sad anymore.

Early the next morning Elkanah and his family got up and worshiped the Lord. Then they went back to their home again. After some time, Hannah became pregnant. She had a baby boy and she named him Samuel.

Hannah Gives Samuel to the Lord

Elkanah went up to Shiloh again to offer the yearly sacrifice to the Lord. He also went there to keep a promise he had made to God. But Hannah didn't go. She said to her husband, "When Samuel is old enough to eat solid food, I'll take him to the Lord's house. Then I will give him to the Lord there. He'll stay there for the rest of his life."

Her husband Elkanah told her, "Do what you think is best. Stay here at home until Samuel is old enough to eat. May the Lord make his promise to you come true."

So Hannah stayed home until Samuel was old enough to eat solid food. Then Hannah took him to the Tent of the Lord in Shiloh. Hannah said to Eli, "Sir, I am the same woman who stood here beside you praying to the Lord. I prayed for this child. The Lord has given me what I asked him for. So now I'm giving him back to the Lord. He will belong to the Lord all of His life." And all of them worshiped the Lord there.

Hannah said: "The Lord has filled my heart with joy."

Bible Lesson with Discussion Questions - continued

Discussion Questions:

1. What was the name of Elkanah's wife? (*Hannah.*)
2. Did Hannah want to have children? (*Yes, she really wanted to have children.*)
3. What was Hannah doing outside of the place where they worshipped the Lord? (*She was praying to God.*)
4. Hannah made a promise to God, what did she promise? (*Hannah promised that she would give her son back to God, if God would allow her to have a baby boy.*)
5. What was the name of the priest who saw Hannah praying, and who blessed her? (*Eli.*)
6. What did Hannah name her baby boy? (*Samuel.*)
7. How do you think Hannah felt when God answered her prayers? (*Answers will vary. Discuss together...refer to the Memory Verse and the fruit of the spirit, JOY!*)
8. Did Hannah keep her promise to God? (*Yes. She brought Samuel to live in the Lord's house with Eli when he was old enough.*)
9. Have you ever prayed to God for something special? (*Discuss together. Be ready to share a personal story.*)

Application to Real Life

For today's snack, bring Rice Krispy treats. As the children eat their snacks, ask them what other foods or snacks make noise when you eat them. (Apples, potato chips, raw carrots, etc.) What foods make hardly any noise? (Jell-O, pudding, cheese, etc.) (Remember to make a list together on the easel.) To some adults, young children's voices may seem tiny and childish, like the silly sounds made by some foods, but to God the words spoken by children, especially in prayer are very important. God hears and answers those prayers the same as He does for older people.

OR

Make a "Promise Chart"

As a class project have the children make a "promise chart" to hang on the bulletin board. Use a large piece of paper (butcher paper is good). Allow the children to decorate the chart and make enough lines for each child in your class. Have the children talk about a promise they made to the Lord. Write down the promise on the chart to help the children to remember to keep their promises. Over the next few weeks review the chart to encourage the children to keep their promises.

Memory Work Fun

1. Recite the memory verse.
2. Practice finding the memory verse and/or Bible text in their Bible!
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. Is "wisdom" a Fruit of the Spirit? See if your class can name all nine.

All Ages**Birth Announcement**

See: <http://children.ccm.com/curriculum/> → OT Teacher Guide → Page 8 → “Samuel is Born” → Pages 6 & 9

Copy and cut apart one birth announcement for each child to color. After coloring the announcement take a sheet of gold or black construction paper and cut a square slightly larger than the birth announcement. Glue the announcement to the construction paper to give the appearance of a frame. As the children are making their announcements explain to them that the Lord answered Hannah’s prayer and then Hannah was faithful and kept her promise to the Lord. The Lord honored that promise and made Samuel to become a great man of God.

Grades K-2**God can Hear Me**

See: www.kidssundayschool.com → Preschool → Object Talks → “God Can Hear Me”

You will need two cans or paper cups, a small nail and hammer, and a long piece of string for this activity.

Telephone Game

See: www.kidssundayschool.com → Preschool → Lessons, Prayer - God Hears My Prayers - *Closing Activity* for details and directions.

Grades 3-5**Role Play: God Answers Hannah’s Prayer**

Before Class: Gather the props (chair, baby doll) for the play. Place the chair at one side of the stage. Print a copy of the play for each character. Please see the Role Play Script at the end of the lesson.

Group Work: Promises in the Bible

Before Class: Print one worksheet for each group. (See worksheet at the end of this lesson.) Print one answer worksheet. Gather one Bible for each group.

Divide the children into small groups. Give each child a worksheet. Tell the groups to find the Bible verse, read it and identify who made the promise to whom. After all the groups have completed their worksheet, briefly discuss the answers to the worksheet.



Grades K-2

Draw a picture of yourself praying in your favorite place to talk to God. Why is it your favorite? Write about it.

Grades 3-5

When was the last time you had a long talk with God when you prayed to Him? Why do you think it is important to talk with God regularly? Write about it.

Have you ever made a promise to God about something? Have you been able to keep your promise to Him? Why do you think it is important to keep your promises to God? Write about it.

Homework Ideas

- Read at home with a grownup the lesson about **"Samuel the Prophet"** (1 Samuel 3).
- Learn the memory verse: *"Speak, for your servant hears."* --1 Samuel 3:10
- Work on memorizing commandment #_____.
- Complete the **Samuel the Prophet** coloring sheet as your parents read you the Sunday School Lesson. Return your coloring page for a sticker.
- Ask you parents what their favorite way to serve God is.

Other Resources

www.daniellesplace.com → Search "Hannah"

<http://children.ccm.com/curriculum/> → OT Support Curriculum → Page 8 → "Samuel is Born"





Role Play: God Answers Hannah's Prayer

Narrator: In Israel, there is a city called Ramathaim Zophim. A man named Elkanah and his wife Hannah lived there. They had no children. Unfortunately, this made Hannah very sad. She cried and would not eat. Every year, Elkanah went with his family to Shiloh to bring a sacrifice to God. Even though they did not have children, Elkanah loved Hannah very much. *(Elkanah and Hannah enter. Hannah is crying.)*

Elkanah: Why are you crying and why will you not eat? Am I not worth more than ten sons to you? *(Elkanah exits.)*

Narrator: When they were in Shiloh, Hannah went to the temple. She was upset and prayed to God. *(Hannah gets on her knees and prays to God. She continues to cry. Eli enters and sits on the chair.)*

Hannah: Lord, if you can see my grief, please do not forget me. Please give me a son. I will give him back to You as Your servant.

Narrator: Eli the high priest was sitting on a chair at the gates of the temple watching Hannah. Hannah was praying silently. Only her lips were moving. *(Eli walks over to Hannah.)*

Eli: What is wrong?

Hannah: I am sad and have poured my heart out to God.

Eli: Go in peace. God will answer your prayer.

Hannah: Thank you. *(Hannah and Eli exit.)*





Role Play: God Answers Hannah's Prayer

Narrator: Hannah returned to the others. She had something to eat and no longer seemed so sad. The next morning they set off and returned to Ramathaim. God did not forget Hannah. In time, she gave birth to a son, whom she called Samuel. *(Hannah and Elkanah enter. Hannah is holding Samuel.)*

Elkanah: Are you coming with me to Shiloh to make our annual sacrifice?

Hannah: When the boy is weaned I will take him to Shiloh and bring him into the Lord's house. He will stay there as I promised God. *(Hannah and Elkanah exit.)*

Narrator: When the time came, Hannah went to Shiloh. She made an offering of three bulls, flour, and wine. The parents took Samuel to Eli. *(Eli enters and sits on the chair. Hannah, Elkanah and Samuel enter and walk towards Eli.)*

Hannah: I am the woman who stood before you and prayed to the Lord. I prayed for this son and God answered my prayer. Now I am returning my son to God. *(Samuel gives both of his parents a hug and stands beside Eli. Hannah and Elkanah exit.)*

Narrator: Samuel grew up with Eli the high priest. Hannah and Elkanah visited him every year when they came to Shiloh to make their sacrifice. Hannah gave him a coat each year. Samuel became a famous prophet.





Group Work: Promises in the Bible

Find the Bible verse in the Bible, read it and identify who made the promise to whom.

Promise	Who was it made by and to whom?
<p>But I will establish My covenant with you; and you shall go into the ark—you, your sons, your wife and your sons' wives with you.</p> <p>Genesis 6:18</p>	<div data-bbox="906 405 1230 464" style="border: 1px solid black; height: 28px; width: 200px; margin-bottom: 10px;"></div> <p style="text-align: center;">made a promise to</p> <div data-bbox="906 569 1230 627" style="border: 1px solid black; height: 28px; width: 200px;"></div>
<p>If God will be with me, and keep me in this way that I am going, and give me bread to eat and clothing to put on so that I come back to my father's house in peace then the Lord shall be my God.</p> <p>Genesis 28:20-21</p>	<div data-bbox="906 697 1230 756" style="border: 1px solid black; height: 28px; width: 200px; margin-bottom: 10px;"></div> <p style="text-align: center;">made a promise to</p> <div data-bbox="906 861 1230 919" style="border: 1px solid black; height: 28px; width: 200px;"></div>
<p>And this is the promise that He had promised us—eternal life.</p> <p>1 John 2:25</p>	<div data-bbox="906 989 1230 1047" style="border: 1px solid black; height: 28px; width: 200px; margin-bottom: 10px;"></div> <p style="text-align: center;">made a promise to</p> <div data-bbox="906 1173 1230 1232" style="border: 1px solid black; height: 28px; width: 200px;"></div>



Name: _____

Samuel the Prophet



"Speak, for your servant hears." --1 Samuel 3:10



Take Home Page: F2. Hannah and Samuel

Today I learned...

Today your child learned that **God wants us to keep our promises.** The children reviewed the story of Hannah and Samuel and talked about what it means to keep a promise, especially to the Lord.

Help me learn my memory verse...

"The Lord has given me what I asked Him for." --1 Samuel 1:27

Ask me...

1. What promise did Hannah make to the Lord?
2. Did Hannah keep her promise? Why?
3. Have you ever made a promise to God? Do you think it is important to keep our promises to Him? Why or why not?

Live Your Faith...

Go on a nature walk together and make a point to notice and name all the things that God created. Remind your child just how amazing and wonderful God is that He made so many beautiful things for us to enjoy. He also made each one of us. Remind your child of how much God loves us and how important it is for us to keep our promises to Him. Say a prayer together and thank God especially for promising to always be with you each day.



F3. Samuel the Prophet

1 Samuel 3

Learning Objectives

1. The children will explore the story of God calling Samuel to be a prophet.
2. The children will recognize that today God calls us, even as children, to help Him serve others.

Memory Verse: *“Speak, for your servant hears.” --1 Samuel 3:10*

Getting Started

Choose One

All Ages

Activity

Before Class: Trace a circle approximately 10 cm in diameter onto the heavier weight paper. Cut out the circle and write the memory verse on it. Hide it in the teaching area. Make sure it is in a place where the children will not find it right away.

Tell the children that a paper circle with a special message is hidden in the room and you would like them to find it. You are going to give them clues as to where they will find the object. They are to follow the clues until they locate the circle. Continue giving clues until one of the children finds the circle. Ask the child who finds the circle to read the message on it. Tell the children that the lesson today is about what a young man did when he finally recognized God was calling him.

Mirror Image

See: <http://children.ccm.com/curriculum/> → OT Support Curriculum → Page 8 → “Samuel is Called” → Page 2

Tell the class that today some of them are going to be mirrors. What this means is that they will do exactly the same thing as their partner. Please see the above website for detailed instructions.

After everyone has had a turn, gather the children together and ask them if it was hard to be the mirror. Let them comment on what it was like playing the game. Then explain that it is hard to be someone that you are not. God has made us exactly the way He wants us. He has a plan for our life just like Samuel. We should not try to be someone else but ask the Lord to show us who He wants us to be. God has a special purpose for our lives.

Bible Lesson with Discussion Questions

Message: *God will bless us when we answer His call to serve Him.*

The LORD Calls Out to Samuel

The boy Samuel served the LORD under the direction of Eli. In those days the LORD didn't give many messages to his people. He didn't give them many visions.

One night Eli was lying down in his usual place. His eyes were becoming so weak he couldn't see very well. Samuel was lying down in the LORD's house. That's where the ark of God was kept. The lamp of God was still burning. The LORD called out to Samuel.

Samuel answered, “Here I am.”⁵ He ran over to Eli and said, “Here I am. You called out to me.”

But Eli said, “I didn't call you. Go back and lie down.” So he went and lay down.

Bible Lesson with Discussion Questions - Continued

Again the LORD called out, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli. He said, "Here I am. You called out to me."

"My son," Eli said, "I didn't call you. Go back and lie down."

Samuel didn't know the LORD yet. That's because the LORD still hadn't given him a message.

The LORD called out for the third time. He said, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli. He said, "Here I am. You called out to me."

Then Eli realized that the LORD was calling the boy. So Eli told Samuel, "Go and lie down. If someone calls out to you again, say, 'Speak, LORD. I'm listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

The LORD came and stood there. He called out, just as he had done the other times. He said, "Samuel! Samuel!"

Then Samuel replied, "Speak. I'm listening."

The LORD said to Samuel, "Pay attention! I am about to do something terrible in Israel. It will make the ears of everyone who hears about it tingle. At that time I will do everything to Eli and his family that I said I would. I will finish what I have started. I told Eli I would punish his family forever. He knew his sons were sinning. He knew they were saying bad things about me. In spite of that, he did not stop them. So I made a promise to the family of Eli. I said, 'The sins of Eli's family will never be paid for by bringing sacrifices or offerings.'" "

Samuel lay down until morning. Then he opened the doors of the LORD's house. He was afraid to tell Eli about the vision he had received. But Eli called out to him. He said, "Samuel, my son."

Samuel answered, "Here I am."

"What did the LORD say to you?" Eli asked. "Don't hide from me anything he told you. If you do, may God punish you greatly." So Samuel told him everything. He didn't hide anything from him. Then Eli said, "He is the LORD. Let him do what he thinks is best."

As Samuel grew up, the LORD was with him. He made everything Samuel said come true. So all the Israelites recognized that Samuel really was a prophet of the LORD. Everyone from Dan all the way to Beersheba knew it. The LORD continued to appear at Shiloh. There he made himself known to Samuel through the messages he gave him.

Discussion Questions:

1. How do you think Samuel may have felt after being called three times only to find out that Eli was not the voice he heard?
2. Describe two things Samuel did. *(They should be able to identify that Samuel obediently did what Eli told him to do and he opened his heart to answer God's call.)*
3. What can you do to serve God? *(Make a list together on the white board/easel).*

Application to Real Life

Enjoy a healthy snack together. At the top of a piece of chart paper or on your easel, write “I hear God’s call...”

Have the children reflect on the lead-in exercise and briefly discuss whether it was difficult for them to follow the clues to where the circle was hidden. Briefly explain to the children that sometimes we are so distracted by our own thinking that we do not always hear what is said to us.

Prompt the children to reflect again on what Samuel finally did at the end of the story and ask them to share their responses. After they respond, make sure they are able to identify that Samuel obediently did exactly what Eli told him to do, and Samuel opened his heart to answer God’s call. Emphasize that our hearts should also be open so that we recognize when our heavenly Father calls us. Ask the children how, even as children, God may call them today. Write their answers on the chart paper. Explain to them that sometimes God’s call can be when we have a thought or feeling to do something for someone or something within the congregation.

Remind the children that in order for our heavenly Father to be able to prompt us to do a task our hearts should be open like Samuel’s heart was at the end. If we are too busy or push the thought aside and decide not to do it, we miss the opportunity to answer God’s call today. Every time we answer God’s call it serves to our blessing.

Memory Work Fun

5 minutes

1. Recite the memory verse.
2. Practice finding the memory verse and/or Bible text in their Bible!
3. Pick a fruit of the spirit – ask the children to explain what it means and give an example.
4. 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).
5. Allow a volunteer (child) to lead the class in an opening/closing prayer.

Activity Ideas

All Ages

Fingerprint Match Game

See: <http://children.ccm.com/curriculum/> → OT Support Curriculum → Page 8 → “Samuel is Called” → Page 6-7

Before class, make two fingerprints of each finger from one hand onto a sheet of paper. You will have two thumbprints alike, two index fingerprints, etc. Leave enough space in between so that you can enlarge them for the game. Enlarge the prints on a copy machine and make into 10 squares of equal size. Please see the above website for detailed game instructions.

After playing a couple of rounds of match game, allow the children to do their own fingerprints (using washable ink pads or markers) onto their activity sheets. Next, have the children compare fingerprints with the other children. Are any two alike? Fingerprints are so different that we use them to identify who we are. No two are alike. It is the same with us. God has created no two of us exactly the same. He wants to use us for His purposes and plans. He wants us to serve Him.

Activity Ideas - continued

Uniqueness In God's Creation

See: <http://children.ccm.com/curriculum/> → OT Support Curriculum → Page 8 → "Samuel is Called" → Page 8

Gather leaves (a variety) and give children white paper and peeled crayons so they can color with the sides. Place leaves in a pretty basket in center of table. If you have a larger class, you may need two or three baskets for the leaves and make smaller groups of five or six children. Have the children pick out some leaves and place them under the white paper. Next, have them trace over the leaves using the side of the crayons. An image of the leaf will appear onto the paper. Explain that God could have made all leaves the same, why did He not? He could have made us all alike too, but He did not! God has created each one of us uniquely with special abilities and gifts. God wants us to use our unique gifts and talents to serve Him. Review the message statement.

Grades K-2

Puzzle: Who Did God Call to Work?

Before Class: Print a worksheet for each child. (See page at the end of this lesson).

Give a worksheet to each child. Tell them, they must first identify the picture, and write what it in the space provided. Afterwards they should write the first letter of each word on the lines at the bottom of the page. The children can color their worksheet when they are finished. *Note: You may need to do this together as a class, depending on the abilities of your students.*

Group Work: Samuel the Prophet

Before Class: Print and cut out the story line cards (found at the end of this lesson).

Ask the children to sit on the floor in a circle. Choose one of the story line cards. Whisper the story line into the ear of one child This child whispers what they heard into the ear of the person on their left. When the message returns to the first child, they say what they heard out loud. Repeat the process beginning with a new child and a new story card.

Grades 3-5

Role Play Wake Up!

Before Class: Print a copy of the play for each character. (See pages at the end of this lesson).

Journal

Optional

Grades K-2

Draw a picture of you serving God in your congregation. How does it make you feel when you do things for God? Write about it.

Grades 3-5

Finish the following: "When I am older, I would like to serve God by..."

Homework Ideas

- Read at home with a grownup: **"The Capture and Return of the Ark"** (1 Samuel 4:1-7:2).
- Be able to recite the memory verse:
"You who have respect for the Lord, praise Him!...honor Him!...worship Him!"
--Psalm 22:23
- Work on commandment # _____ to memorize.
- Color **The Capture and Return of the Ark** coloring sheet as your parents read you the Sunday School Lesson. Return your coloring page for a sticker.
- Whom or what do you fear? Why do you fear that person or thing? Think about it before coming to class.

Other Resources

www.daniellesplace.com → Resource Room → Search "Samuel Listens to God"

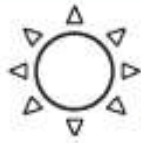
<http://children.ccm.com/curriculum/> → OT Support Curriculum → Page 8 → "Samuel is Called"





Puzzle: Who Did God Call to Work?

Write the name of the picture then write the first letter of each word on the lines below.









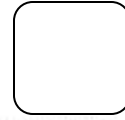








Group Work: Samuel the Prophet



Samuel is sleeping.

Samuel hears his name.

Samuel goes back to sleep.

Samuel does not recognise God's voice.

Samuel says, "Speak Lord your servant hears you."



Role Play: Wake Up!

Narrator: *(Talking to the audience.)* Once upon a time there was a boy who liked sleeping... he liked it SO much *(stressing the word SO)*. Suddenly one night, he woke up when he heard a voice say, "Samuel! Samuel! Wake up! I need you!"

Samuel: *(Wakes up suddenly.)* What? Who is there? *(He gets up and walks to Eli's room.)* What do you need? I am SO tired... *(Says while yawning.)*

Eli: I did not call you. Go and continue sleeping. Tomorrow you have to start work very early.

Narrator: Samuel goes to sleep again. When he gets into the "right" position to fall asleep again, he hears the voice say, "Samuel! Samuel! Wake up! I need you!" Samuel gets up again, and walks back to where Eli is sleeping. He opens his mouth to say something and just before he starts speaking Eli says...

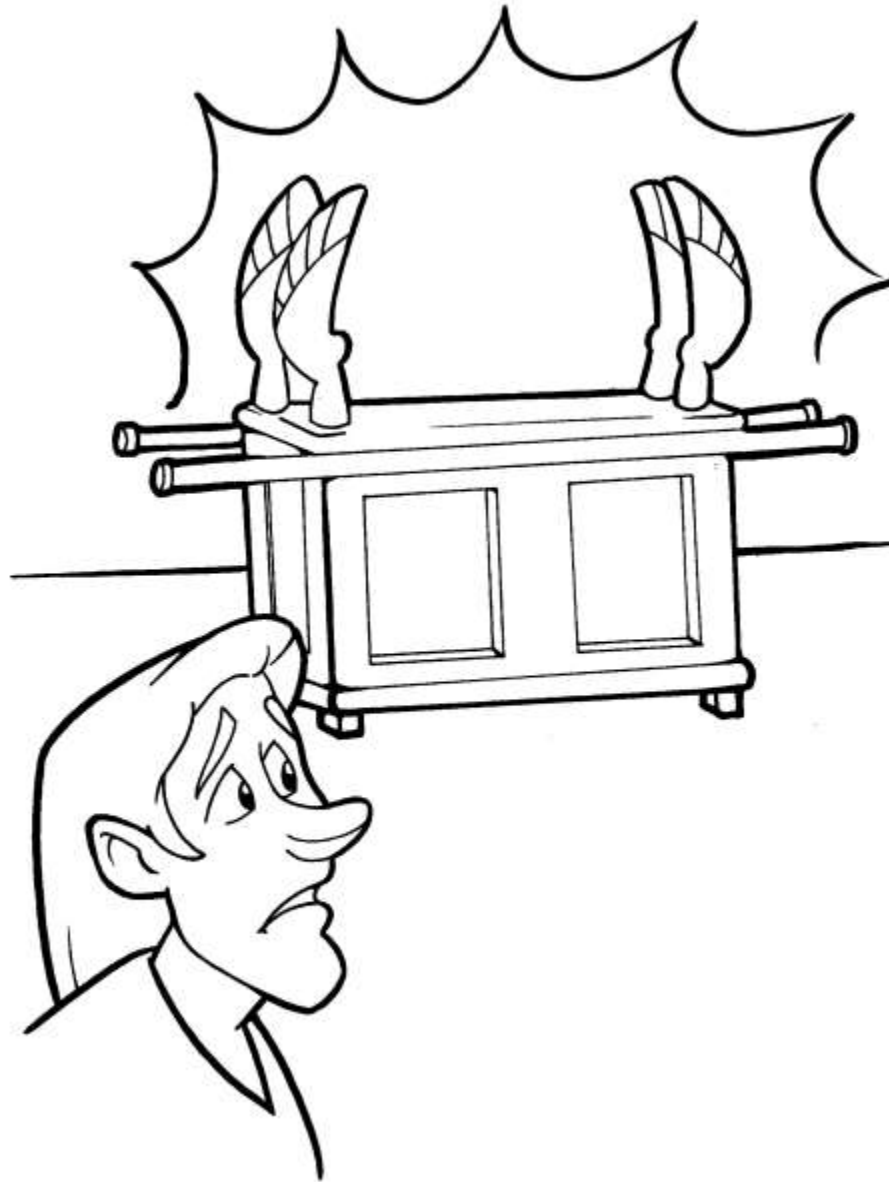
Eli: It was not me. Pay attention. Someone else is calling you.

Narrator: Samuel goes back to his bed and lies there but with his eyes WIDE open. Suddenly, he hears the voice again, "Samuel! Samuel! Wake up! I need you!"

Samuel: Is it You my dear God? I am here. Sorry I did not recognise Your voice before! Please tell me what You want me to do!

Name: _____

The Capture and Return of the Ark



"You who have respect for the Lord,
praise Him!...honor Him!...worship Him!"
--Psalm 22:23



Take Home Page: F3. Samuel the Prophet

Today I learned...

Today your child learned that **God will bless us when we answer the call to serve Him.** The children reviewed the story of how God called Samuel to be a prophet. They also explored how God calls us as well, to help Him by serving others.

Help me learn my memory verse...

"Speak, for your servant hears." --1 Samuel 3:10

Ask me...

1. What happened to Samuel in the story?
2. How would you react if you realized you were hearing the voice of God? Why?
3. What can you do to serve God in the congregation? At home? Discuss together.

Live Your Faith...

Ask your child to help you prepare and serve a meal in your home. As you work together, talk about what a joy it is for you to serve a meal to your family and/or to friends. Remind your child that by serving this meal with love and thankfulness in your heart, you are also serving the Lord because you are actively loving one another. As you eat together, talk about specific ways you and your children can serve our Heavenly Father each day, both at home and in your congregation. Talk about it.



F4. The Capture and Return of the Ark

1 Samuel 4:1-7:2

Learning Objectives

1. The children will explore the story of the capture and return of the Ark of the Covenant.
2. The children will identify what it means to fear the Lord, i.e. to honor and respect Him.

Memory Verse: *“You who have respect for the Lord, praise him!...honor Him!...worship Him!”*
--Psalm 22:23

Getting Started

Choose One

All Ages

“What is Fear?”

See: www.kidssundayschool.com → Grade School → Lessons, Life Applications – Attributes of God – “God is to be Feared” → As Kids Arrive activity

As the children arrive give them a sheet of paper with 4 words on it (prayer, love, fear and God). They will need to write down the first word or words that come to mind when they hear each of the words. (If you have younger primary children, you could do this as a group activity using your easel.)

Tell the children that today we learn about why we should fear God. Talk about their definitions of that word “fear.” Write each child’s response to the word fear on the white board. (Skip this step if you did the activity as a group already.)

Use a dictionary to have the children look up the word “fear”. They will see there are several meanings of that word. In the Bible there are two ways “fear” is used:

1. FEAR – to be startled, scared, etc. (Have the children give examples.)
2. FEAR – to stand in awe, respect, reverence.

“FEAR” in connection with our relationship with God, can be a very deep love for Him, and because we truly love God, we are afraid of disappointing Him.

In today’s lesson, we will learn what happened when the Philistines did not fear God enough to respect the holy ark of the covenant. (Continue with the story.)

Bible Lesson with Discussion Questions

Message: *Love God with ALL your heart, soul, mind and strength.*

Ark of the Covenant - a sacred wooden box covered with gold in which the Ten Commandments were carried.

The Philistines Capture the Ark

The people of Israel went out to battle against the Philistines. The Israelites camped at Ebenezer, while the Philistines camped at Aphek. The Philistines brought their forces together to fight against Israel, but the Israelites lost the battle to the Philistines and many Israelites died. The rest of the Israelite soldiers returned to camp. Then the elders asked them, "Why did the Lord let the Philistines win the battle over us today? Let's bring the ark of the Lord's covenant from Shiloh. Let's take it with us. It will save us from the power of our enemies."

Bible Lesson with Discussion Questions - *continued*

So the people sent men to Shiloh and they brought back the ark of the covenant of the Lord into the camp. Then all of the people of Israel shouted so loudly that the ground shook.

The Philistines heard the noise. They asked, "What's all that shouting about in the Hebrew camp?" Then the Philistines found out that the ark of the Lord had come into the camp. So they were afraid. "A god has come into their camp," they said. "We're in trouble! Nothing like this has ever happened before. How terrible it will be for us! Who will save us from the power of those mighty gods? They struck down the people of Egypt in the desert. They sent all kinds of plagues on them. Philistines, be strong! If you don't, you will come under the control of the Hebrews. You will become their slaves, just as they have been your slaves."

So the Philistines fought another battle with the Israelites and they won again. Even more Israelite men died this time. The ark of God was captured. And Eli's two sons Hophni and Phinehas also died.

Eli Dies

That same day a man from the tribe of Benjamin ran from the front lines of the battle. He went to Shiloh. When he arrived, there was Eli sitting on his chair. He was by the side of the road. He was watching because his heart was really concerned about the ark of God (the Ark of the Covenant). The man entered the town and told everyone what had happened. Then the whole town cried out. Eli heard the people crying out. He asked, "What's the meaning of all of this noise?"

The man hurried over to Eli. Eli was 98 years old. His eyes were so bad he couldn't see. The man told Eli, "I've just come from the front lines of the battle. I ran away from there this very day." Eli asked, "What happened?"

The man who brought the news replied, "Israel ran away from the Philistines. Large numbers of men in the army died or were hurt. Your two sons Hophni and Phinehas have also lost their lives. And the ark of God has been captured."

When the man spoke about the ark of God, Eli fell backward off his chair. He had been sitting by the side of the gate. When he fell, he hurt himself badly and he died. Eli had led Israel for 40 years.

The Ark Is Taken to Ashdod and Ekron

The Philistines had captured the ark of God. They took it from Ebenezer to Ashdod. They carried the ark into the temple of their god Dagon. They set it down beside the statue of Dagon. The people of Ashdod got up early the next day. They saw the statue of Dagon. There it was, lying on the ground! It had fallen on its face in front of the ark of the Lord. So they picked the statue of Dagon up. They put it back in its place. But the following morning when they got up, they saw the statue of Dagon. There it was, lying on the ground again! It had fallen on its face in front of the ark of the Lord. Its head and hands had been broken off. Only the body of the statue was left. Its head and hands were lying in the doorway of the temple.

The Lord's powerful hand punished the people of Ashdod and the settlements that were near it. He destroyed them and he made them suffer. The people of Ashdod saw what was happening. They said, "The ark of the god of Israel must not stay here with us. His powerful hand is punishing us and our god Dagon." So they called all of the rulers of the Philistines together. They asked them, "What should we do with the ark of the god of Israel?" The rulers answered, "Have the ark moved to Gath." So they moved it. But after the people of Ashdod had moved the ark, the Lord's hand punished Gath. That threw its people into a great panic. The Lord made their people suffer too and he made them ill. It happened to young people and old people alike.

Bible Lesson with Discussion Questions - continued

So the ark of God was sent to Ekron. As the ark was entering Ekron, the people of the city cried out. They shouted, "They've brought the ark of the god of Israel to us. They want to hurt us and our people." So they called all of the rulers of the Philistines together. They said, "Send the ark of the god of Israel away. Let it go back to its own place. If you don't, it will kill us and our people." So many people had died that the city was filled with panic. God's powerful hand was punishing the city. Those who didn't die suffered with growths on their skin. The people of Ekron cried out to Heaven for help.

The Philistines Return the Ark to Israel

The ark of the Lord had been in Philistine territory for seven months. The Philistines called for the priests and magicians because they wanted their advice. They said to them, "What should we do with the ark of the Lord? Tell us how we should send it back to its place."

They answered, "If you return the ark of the god of Israel, don't send it away empty. Be sure you send a guilt offering to their God along with it. Then you will be healed. You will find out why his hand hasn't stopped punishing you."

The Philistines asked, "What guilt offering should we send to him?" Their advisers replied, "There are five Philistine rulers. So send five gold models of the growths that are on your skin. Also send five gold models of rats. Do it because the same plague has struck you and your rulers alike. Make models of the growths and of the rats that are destroying the country. Pay honor to Israel's god. Perhaps his hand will stop punishing you. Maybe it will stop punishing your gods and your land.

"Why are you stubborn, as Pharaoh and the people of Egypt were? God was very hard on them. Only then did they send the people of Israel out. Only then did they let them go on their way. Now then, get a new cart ready. Get two cows that have just had calves. Be sure the cows have never pulled a cart before. Tie the cart to them. Then put the ark of the Lord on the cart. Put the gold models in a chest beside the ark. Send them back to the Lord as a guilt offering. Send the cart on its way. But keep an eye on the cart. See if it goes up toward Beth Shemesh to its own territory. If it does, then it's the Lord who has brought this horrible trouble on us. But if it doesn't, then we'll know it wasn't his hand that struck us. We'll know it happened to us by chance."

So that's what they did. They took the two cows and tied the cart to them. They placed the ark of the Lord on the cart. They put the chest there along with it. The chest held the gold models of the rats and of the growths. Then the cows went straight up toward Beth Shemesh. They stayed on the road. They were mooing all the way. They didn't turn to the right or the left. The Philistine rulers followed them all the way to the border of Beth Shemesh. The people of Beth Shemesh were working in the valley. They were gathering their wheat crop. They looked up and saw the ark. When they saw it, they were filled with joy.

The cart came to the field of Joshua of Beth Shemesh. It stopped there beside a large rock. The people chopped up the wood the cart was made out of. They sacrificed the cows as a burnt offering to the Lord. Some Levites had taken the ark of the Lord off the cart. They had also taken off the chest that held the gold models. They placed them on the large rock. On that day the people of Beth Shemesh offered burnt offerings to the Lord. They also made sacrifices to him.

The five Philistine rulers saw everything that happened. On that same day they returned to Ekron. The Philistines sent five gold models of growths as a guilt offering to the Lord, one for each of the towns: Ashdod, Gaza, Ashkelon, Gath and Ekron. They also sent five gold models of rats. There was one for each of the Philistine towns that belonged to the five rulers. Each of those towns had high walls around it. The towns also had country villages around them.

Bible Lesson with Discussion Questions - *continued*

The Levites set the ark of the Lord on a large rock. To this very day the rock gives witness to what happened there. It's in the field of Joshua of Beth Shemesh. But some of the people of Beth Shemesh looked into the ark of the Lord. So he struck them down. He put 70 of them to death. The rest of the people were filled with sorrow. That's because the Lord had let so many of them die.

The people of Beth Shemesh said, "The Lord is a holy God. Who can stand in front of him? Where can the ark go up to from here?" Then messengers were sent to the people of Kiriath Jearim. They said, "The Philistines have returned the ark of the Lord. Come down and take it up to your place."

1 Samuel 7

So the men of Kiriath Jearim came and got the ark of the Lord. They took it up to Abinadab's house on the hill. They set his son Eleazar apart to guard the ark. The ark remained at Kiriath Jearim for a long time. It was there for a full 20 years.

Discussion Questions:

1. Who took the Ark of the Covenant from the Israelites? *(The Philistines.)*
2. Why did the Philistines take the Ark of the Covenant from God's people? *(They were afraid of God because of what had happened with the 10 Plagues, etc. and they knew God was powerful. They did not want to become slaves to the Israelites, as the Israelites were to the Egyptians. Discuss.)*
3. Just before Eli died, what was it that upset him so much? *(He had heard that the Ark of the Covenant had been captured.)*
4. What happened to the statue of Dagon each day when it had the ark placed next to it? *(Discuss together the events of each morning.) Who did those things? (God.)*
5. How many cities did the Philistines move the ark to before deciding to give it back to the Israelites? *(5 cities: Ashdod, Gaza, Ashkelon, Gath and Ekron.)*
6. Do you think God is powerful? Why or why not? *(Discuss. Have the children give you evidence to support their answers.)*
7. What does it mean to have God fear? *(To love God so much that you honor and respect Him in ALL things.)*
8. Did the Philistines fear God in the story? *(Discuss together. They did because they knew the Ark of the Covenant was God's and was holy. But then they took the ark, not realizing the power of God and how that would affect them. At the end they knew they had to give the ark back to God's people, where it belonged.)*
9. How do we show respect and honor to God? *(Discuss together. Follow His commandments, etc.)*

Application to Real Life

In Awe of God:

This is a fun demonstration of how difficult it is to keep up with many tasks at the same time. You will relate this to all the things God is able to keep going at the same time. You will need an easel in order to make a list of all of these things. See the website above for the specific instructions. You will need 10 jacks or 10 spinning tops for this activity, along with your white board or easel. You will also need to ask for a helper.

Application to Real Life - Continued

THEN:

Serve mini donuts for a snack. (Remember to check for food allergy issues.) Point out to your children that the donuts are in the shape of an "O". When they eat donuts, they can remember to obey God and His commandments because we respect Him and fear Him. Love God with ALL your heart, soul, mind and strength. (Refer to message statement.)

Memory Work Fun

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. Allow a volunteer (child) to lead the class in an opening/closing prayer.

Activity Ideas

Choose One

All Ages

What type of fear?

See: www.kidssundayschool.com → Grade School → Object Talks → "What type of Fear"

You will need an inflated balloon and a pin (hidden out of sight) for this activity. You will also need an assistant or helper to pop the balloon shortly after you start the activity. You will also need the definitions of "fear" from the hook activity, as posted on your easel.

NOTE: In this activity, when you ask what fear it was – refer to your definitions on the easel, i.e. the first definition or the second one.

Grades K-2

Palettes Activity

See: <http://children.ccm.com/curriculum/> → OT Teacher Guide → Page 8 → "Capture and Return of the Ark" → Pages 9, 10 and 19

Grades 3-5

Half-Hearted Relay

See: <http://children.ccm.com/curriculum/> → OT Teacher Guide → Page 8 → "Capture and Return of the Ark" → Page 2

This is a demonstration of what it's like when we serve the Lord in a half-hearted way. You will need to bring to class several items to hold up and show to the kids: half of a plastic cup, one shoe, half a pair of sunglasses, half of a dollar, half of a theater ticket, half a phone, a Walkman portable tape player with one battery.

Grades K-2

What do you think is the most amazing thing about God is? Draw a picture and write about it.

Grades 3-5

Isn't it amazing how God made the earth to be in the perfect place in space so that we can live here and grow our food and not be too hot or too cold? How has God amazed you today? What about in the last week/year/month? Write about it.

Homework Ideas

- Read at home with a grown up the story about **Elijah: the Ravens and the Poor Widow** (1 Kings 17:1-24).
- Learn the memory verse: *"My God will meet all your needs."*
--Philippians 4:13 (NIRV)
- Work on memorizing commandment #_____.
- Color the **Elijah: the Ravens and the Poor Widow** coloring sheet as your parents read you the Sunday School Lesson. Return your coloring page for a sticker.
- What do you absolutely need to survive? Make a list or draw pictures. Bring it to class to share.

Other Resources

<http://children.ccm.com/curriculum/> → OT Support Curriculum → Page 8 → "Capture and Return of the Ark"



Name: _____

Elijah: the Ravens and the Poor Widow



"My God will meet all your needs."
--Philippians 4:13 (NIRV)



Take Home Page: F4. The Capture and Return of the Ark

Today I learned...

Today your child learned that we should **love God with all our mind, soul, heart and strength**. The children reviewed the story of the capture and return of the Ark of the Covenant. They also talked about what it means to fear the Lord.

Help me learn my memory verse...

"You who have respect for the Lord, praise him!...honor Him!...worship Him!"

--Psalm 22:23

Ask me...

1. What happened to the Ark of the Covenant?
2. Do you think God is powerful? Why or why not?
3. What do you think it means to fear God? Discuss together.

Live Your Faith...

Play a game together, preferably one that your child knows the rules to. Today, however, play without any rules. See how long you can last before stopping and talking about why it is important to have "rules" when you play the game. Remind your child that God also has rules or "commandments" that He wants us to follow each day of our lives. When we follow them, we have order and peace in our lives, but when we choose not to follow them, we often have complete chaos. God wants us to honor and respect Him, and we show Him that we do by following His commandments.



F5. Elijah: The Ravens and the Poor Widow

1 Kings 17:1-24

Learning Objectives

1. The children will examine the story of Elijah, the ravens and the poor widow.
2. The children will recognize that when they do what God asks of them with obedience, He will watch over them and take care of all of their needs.

Memory Verse: **“My God will meet all your needs.” --Philippians 4:13 (NIRV)**

Getting Started

Choose One

All Ages

“Fill the Flour Bin!” Game

You will need two bowls, two small spoons, two small jars (about the same size) and flour for this game. You will also need enough children or volunteers. You could do this game as a competition with teams, or if you have less children you could play against the clock and see who can get the best time. You will need to set up two tables, one for each team, with a bowl filled with enough flour for one of the jars, one empty jar, and one spoon. When you tell the children to “go”, the first child goes to the table, picks up the spoon and puts one spoonful of flour into the empty jar. They put the spoon down, and then go to the back of the line. The next child then goes to the table and does the same thing. The competition continues until one team has a jar that is filled with flour. (Teacher Note: cover the children’s clothes and the floor, etc. as necessary. Flour can be fun but it is also messy!)

“What Can I Hear”

See www.kidssundayschool.com → Grade school → Activities → “What can I hear?”

You will need paper and pencil for each child, an index card (with “GOD” written on it), and at least six of the following items: a bell, whistle, radio, baby rattle, drum, wind chimes, noisemaker (party favor), CD player, telephone, harmonica, alarm clock, or a timer. The children will be trying to guess what the objects have in common (we can hear all of them). Please see the above website for detailed instructions for this activity. At the end of the activity, tell the children that today they will learn about Elijah and a widow that had to really listen to God’s voice, and because they did just that, God was able to take care of them. Continue with the lesson.

Grades K-2

Elijah and the Ravens Coloring Page

See: www.kidssundayschool.com → Grade school → Activities → “Elijah”

You will need to print one copy for each child and provide crayons (etc.) for them to complete the coloring sheet as they enter class.

Grades 3-5

Puzzle: Crossword

You will need to print enough puzzle pages for the students prior to class. Please see puzzle page at the end of this lesson.

Bible Lesson with Discussion Questions

Message:

Listen for God's voice.

Teacher note: To assist with the story telling, see below for a skit on the first part of the story. Use costumes, props, and/or puppets to make it fun!

See: www.kidssundayschool.com → Grade School → Skits → "God Will Provide"

Elijah Is Fed by Ravens

Elijah was from Tishbe in the land of Gilead. He said to Ahab, "I serve the Lord. He is the God of Israel. You can be sure that He lives. And you can be just as sure that there won't be any dew or rain on the whole land. There won't be any during the next few years. It won't come until I say so."

Then a message from the Lord came to Elijah. It said, "Leave this place. Go east and hide in the Kerith Valley. It is east of the Jordan River. You will drink water from the brook. I have ordered some ravens to feed you there."

So Elijah did what the Lord had told him to do. He went to the Kerith Valley. It was east of the Jordan River. He stayed there. The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning. They also brought him bread and meat in the evening. He drank water from the brook.

Elijah Visits a Widow at Zarephath

Some time later the brook dried up. It hadn't rained in the land for quite a while. A message came to Elijah from the Lord. He said, "Go right away to Zarephath in the territory of Sidon. Stay there. I have commanded a widow in that place to supply you with food."

So Elijah went to Zarephath. He came to the town gate. A widow was there gathering sticks. He called out to her. He asked, "Would you bring me a little water in a jar? I need a drink." She went to get the water.

Then he called out to her, "Please bring me a piece of bread too." "I don't have any bread," she replied. "And that's just as sure as the Lord your God is alive. All I have is a small amount of flour in a jar and a little olive oil in a jug. I'm gathering a few sticks to take home. I'll make one last meal for myself and my son. We'll eat it. After that, we'll die."

Elijah said to her, "Don't be afraid. Go home. Do what you have said. But first make a little bread for me. Make it out of what you have. Bring it to me. Then make some for yourself and your son. The Lord is the God of Israel. He says, 'The jar of flour will not be used up. The jug will always have oil in it. You will have flour and oil until the day the Lord sends rain on the land.'"

She went away and did what Elijah had told her to do. So Elijah had food every day. There was also food for the woman and her family. The jar of flour wasn't used up. The jug always had oil in it. That's what the Lord had said would happen. He had spoken that message through Elijah.

Sometime later the son of the woman who owned the house became sick. He got worse and worse. Finally he stopped breathing. The woman said to Elijah, "You are a man of God. What do you have against me? Did you come to bring my sin out into the open? Did you come to kill my son?"

"Give me your son," Elijah replied. He took him from her arms. He carried him to the upstairs room where he was staying. He put him down on his bed. Then Elijah cried out to the Lord. He said, "Lord my God, I'm staying with this widow. Have you brought pain and sorrow to her? Have you caused her son to die?"

Then he lay down on the boy three times. He cried out to the Lord. He said, "Lord my God, give this boy's life back to him!"

Bible Lesson with Discussion Questions - continued

The Lord answered Elijah's prayer. He gave the boy's life back to him. So the boy lived. Elijah picked up the boy. He carried him down from the upstairs room into the house. He gave him to his mother. He said, "Look! Your son is alive!" Then the woman said to Elijah, "Now I know that you are a man of God. I know that the message you have brought from the Lord is true."

Discussion Questions:

1. What did God tell Elijah to do at the beginning of today's story? *(He told Elijah to go to the Kerith Ravine.)*
2. Why did God tell Elijah to do that? *(There was not going to be rain for a long time, there would probably not be enough food and water.)*
3. How did God feed Elijah when he was at the brook? *(The ravens brought him bread and meat in the mornings and in the evenings.)*
4. When the brook dried up, how did God provide food for Elijah? *(There was a widow there at Zarephath that would help provide food for him.)*
5. How did God reward Elijah and the widow because they listened to and obeyed Him? *(God helped them to survive the famine, and they had food to eat.)*
6. How did God help the widow in her time of need? *(God allowed Elijah to bring her son back to life again.)*
7. Do you think it was easy or difficult for either Elijah or the widow to listen to God and follow His instructions? Why or why not? *(Discuss together.)*
8. What instructions do we have from God to follow? *(The Commandments, also what we here in services.)*
9. Is it always easy to follow God's instructions? *(Discuss together.)*
10. Why do you think we should live our lives as God instructs us to? *(Discuss. Answers will vary. Remind the children of the memory verse.)*

Application to Real Life

"Turning to God" Game

See: www.kidssundayschool.com → Grade school → Games → "Turning to God"

You will need a blind fold for this activity. You may also need some extra volunteers. This activity is a great way for the children to understand the concept of "listening for God's voice." The children (or volunteers) will form a large circle facing each other while one person who has been blindfolded will stand in the center of the circle. Everyone in the circle will say "world" over and over in a normal voice (waiting a few seconds in between each time they say the word). One person in the circle will say "God" over and over, instead of "world". The blindfolded person must listen very carefully in order to hear the person saying "God" and then point to the person. Continue the game with another blindfolded volunteer. See the above website for other word combination suggestions and detailed instructions.

When you have completed the exercise, enjoy a healthy snack together and talk about the distractions that we have in our lives. There are so many things that take our minds and our hearts away from God, but when we look for God and really try to hear His voice, He can show us the right way to go in our lives. Listen for God's voice, and He will provide for all of our needs. (Remind the children of the message and memory verse.)

Memory Work Fun

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 Psalms 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

Scrambled Words Story Review

You will need easel paper or a white board for this review activity. Find 15-20 words from today's lesson. List them on a piece of paper, and then next to each word, scramble the letters of each one. In class, on one side of the easel paper, list the scrambled words and on the other side list the actual words in random order. The children will stand in line and take turns seeing if they can guess a scrambled word. If they guess correctly, they can draw a line from the scrambled word to the actual word in the other column. Then they need to tell what the word had to do with today's lesson.

For younger children, you could use simple pictures representing objects or words from the story. On one side of the easel, draw the pictures going down the page in a column format. Then to the right of the pictures from another column with the same pictures in a different order. Then cover each of the pictures with a small piece of paper and tape. The children will play a "memory" game to find the matching pictures. When they find a match, they can tell what that picture has to do with the lesson for today. Have fun! Use your creativity and recruit other talented helpers as needed.

Oil and Flour Play Dough Recipe

You will need 2 cups of flour, 1 cup of salt, 1 cup of water and 2 tablespoons of cooking oil, along with a few bowls and small re-sealable plastic bags. Increase the recipe as needed according to the number of children in your class. Mix the flour and salt first. Then add the water and oil. Next, have the children knead the dough for 10 minutes to make the dough smooth and shiny (you will need to show them how to do this). Use flour on your hands to keep the dough from sticking to your fingers. As you work, remember to keep the conversation going. Talk about the widow and what she may have thought or how she may have felt in today's story. Remind the children that because she chose to listen to God's servant, Elijah, God was able to provide for her and her family. Give the children a little bit of the dough to take home in the re-sealable bags. Remember to write the memory verse on their baggies.

Grades 3-5

Pick a Word Review

Choose about 20+ key words from the lesson (for example, Elijah, widow, flour, ravens, etc.) and write each one on a small piece of paper. Fold the papers up and place them in a bowl. Pass the bowl around the class and allow the children to pick one word. They should then read the word and tell how it is related to today's story. At the end of the activity, remind the children of the message and memory verse.

“Voice of God”

See: www.kidssundayschool.com → Grade School → Games → “Voice of God”

You will need a large sheet or blanket, rope and index cards for this activity. The children will be trying to identify voices of others (recruit extra volunteers as needed) in this activity. See the above website for detailed instructions. In addition to the original discussion questions in this activity, ask the children “How can we possibly hear God’s voice today?” Answers will vary. Talk with the children about reading their Bibles to learn what God or the Lord Jesus has to say about how to live our lives. Also discuss how we can hear God’s voice sometimes through a song or through His Word in our services. Remind the children that we need to pray to God each day and ask Him to help us hear His voice and to have the wisdom to follow Him each day.

Role Play: God Provides

Before Class: Gather the props for the play. Lay the sticks on the stage for the widow to gather. Set up the table at one side of the stage. This will be the widow’s home. Then, place the pot and the jug on the table. Print a copy of the play for each character. (See Play Script at the end of this lesson).

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

Draw a picture of what you think your face would look like if you heard God’s voice talk to you. How would you feel? Write about it.

Grades 3-5

Have you ever heard God’s voice in your life? Write about what happened to you.

Why do you think it is so difficult sometimes to listen to God and live our lives the way HE wants us to? Write about it.

Homework Ideas

- Read at home with a grown up the lesson about **Elijah and the Prophets of Baal** (1 Kings 18:1-39).
- Learn the memory verse: *“No one can serve two masters at the same time.”*
--Matthew 6:24 (NIRV)
- Work on memorizing commandment #_____.
- Color the picture titled **Elijah and the Prophets of Baal**. Bring it to class for a sticker.
- What is important to you? Make a list in order of the things that are most important to you in your life. Bring it to class to share.

Other Resources

www.daniellesplace.com → Resource Room → Search “Elijah and the Birds”

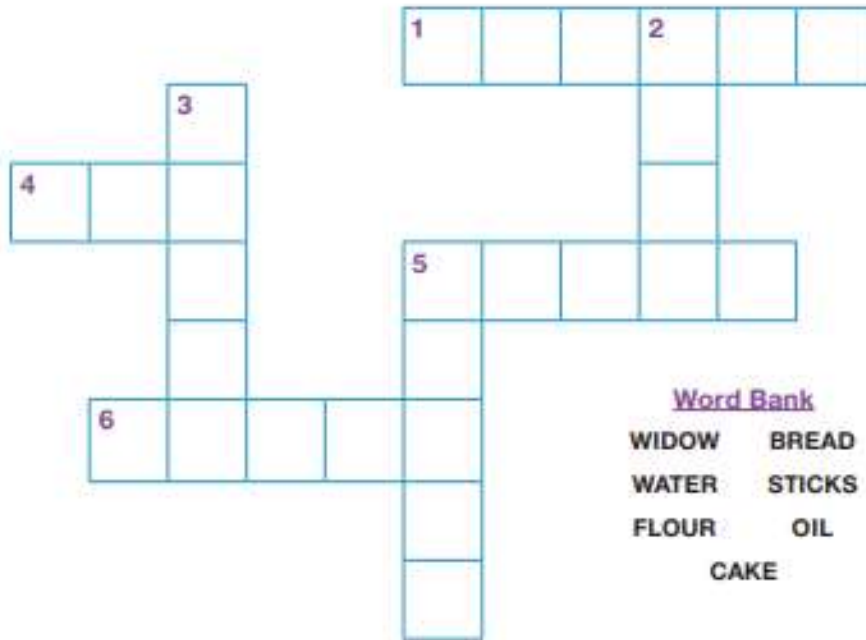
<http://children.ccm.com/curriculum/> → OT Support Curriculum → Page 10 → “The Ravens Bring Food to Elijah” and “Elijah Helps a Poor Widow”





Puzzle: Crossword

Read each sentence then write the missing word in the puzzle.



Word Bank

WIDOW BREAD
 WATER STICKS
 FLOUR OIL
 CAKE

Across

- The widow was gathering _____ when Elijah approached her.
- The jar of _____ will never run dry, until the day the Lord sends rain on the earth.
- Elijah asked the widow for a little cup of _____.
- Elijah asked for a morsel of _____.

Down

- Since the widow only had a small amount of flour and oil left she made a _____ of bread instead.
- The widow said, "I do not have bread, only a handful of _____".
- God told Elijah a _____ would provide for him.

Role Play: God Provides

Narrator: For a very long time, there was no rain which caused a great drought. Food was difficult to find. God instructed Elijah to go to Zarephath. When he arrived there, he saw a woman gathering sticks. *(Widow enters gathering sticks.)*

Elijah: *(Approaching the widow.)* Please bring me a cup of water to drink. I am so thirsty. *(The widow begins to walk away.)* Could I please have a piece of bread too?

Widow: *(The widow turns to Elijah.)* I do not have any bread for you. In fact, I only have a handful of flour and a little bit of oil. I was gathering wood so I could prepare some food for my son and I. This will be the last meal we eat. Then we will die because we have nothing left.

Elijah: Do not be afraid. Go and do as you have said, but first, make something for me. Afterwards, you can make something for you and your son. God promises that the flour in your pot and the oil in your jug will never be empty until the Lord allows it to rain again.

Narrator: *(Elijah and the widow go to her home. She prepares the food for Elijah.)* The widow did as Elijah asked. As long as the drought lasted, there was always flour in her pot and the jug of oil was never empty, just as God had promised.



Name: _____

Elijah and the Prophets of Baal



"No one can serve two masters at the same time."
--Matthew 6:24

Take Home Page: F5. Elijah: the Ravens and the Poor Widow

Today I learned...

Today your child learned that we want to **listen for God's voice** each day. The children reviewed the story of Elijah, the ravens and the poor widow. They also talked about how much God wants to take care of all our needs. He only asks that we obediently follow Him.

Help me learn my memory verse...

"My God will meet all your needs." --Philippians 4:13 (NIRV)

Ask me...

1. What adventures did Elijah have in today's stories?
2. How did God reward Elijah when He obeyed Him?
3. Do you think it is always easy to follow God's instructions? Why or why not?

Live Your Faith...

Play a game together of either follow the leader or Simon says. After you play a few rounds, talk about the importance of listening to and following the footsteps of Jesus. Remind your child that Jesus wants us to follow Him and obey His commandments with our whole heart, not letting anyone or anything get in the way of following Him. Pray this week that your eyes would be opened to anything that is preventing you to follow Jesus with your whole heart.



F6. Elijah and the Prophets of Baal

1 Kings 18:1-39

Learning Objectives

1. The children will explore the story of Elijah and the prophets of Baal.
2. The children will examine what it means to put God first in our lives.

Memory Verse: *“No one can serve two masters at the same time.” --Matthew 6:24*

Getting Started

Choose One

All Ages

Contest Time

Start your class today with some sort of a contest or competition. This could be a race to build something with blocks or even with marshmallows. Be creative. Remember that you can be a part of the competition, if you have only one student especially.

Then ask the children if they have ever participated in a contest. If so, ask what kind of contest it was and how they did. Be ready to share your own example if necessary.

Tell the children that in today's lesson we are going to see a contest that God has with all of the false idols in the land of Israel. Ask the children to predict who the winner of the contest will be. Continue with the lesson.

Grades 3-5

“Fact or Fiction?”

You will need to come up with a list of ten (10) statements about God before class.

Some of the statements should be true and some of them false. Tell the children that you are going to be reading several statements to them about God. The children will get to vote on whether the statement is true or false. You will need to record how many votes for true and how many votes for false on each question.

When you finish the list read through the questions again only this time giving them the right answers. Ask the children if there were any surprises. Then tell them that in today's lesson they will be learning about the one true God and the many false gods that were being worshipped. Continue with the lesson.

Bible Lesson with Discussion Questions

Message:

God wants to be FIRST!

Teacher Note: You may want to use brown paper lunch bags stuffed with newspaper and sealed with tape as stones to build the altar before the children. You could label the bags with the names of the twelve tribes of Israel.

1 Kings 18 ~ Elijah Gives Obadiah a Message for Ahab

It was now three years since it had rained. A message came to Elijah from the Lord. He said, "Go. Speak to Ahab. Then I will send rain on the land." So Elijah went to speak to Ahab.

Bible Lesson with Discussion Questions - continued

There wasn't enough food in Samaria. The people there were very hungry. Ahab had sent for Obadiah. He was in charge of Ahab's palace. Obadiah had great respect for the Lord.

Ahab's wife Jezebel had been doing putting to death the Lord's prophets. So Obadiah had hidden 100 prophets in two caves. He had put 50 in each cave. He had supplied them with food and water.

Ahab had said to Obadiah, "Go through the land. Go to all of the springs of water and to the valleys. Maybe we can find some grass there. It will keep the horses and mules alive. Then we won't have to kill any of our animals." So they decided where each of them would look. Ahab went in one direction. Obadiah went in another.

As Obadiah was walking along, Elijah met him. Obadiah recognized him. He bowed down to the ground. He said, "My master Elijah! Is it really you?"

"Yes," he replied. "Go and tell your master Ahab, 'Elijah is here.'"

"What have I done wrong?" asked Obadiah. "Why are you handing me over to Ahab to die?"

"My master has sent people to look for you everywhere. There isn't a nation or kingdom where he hasn't sent someone to look for you. Suppose a nation or kingdom would claim you weren't there. Then Ahab would make them take an oath and say they couldn't find you. And that's just as sure as the Lord your God is alive. But now you are telling me to go to my master. You want me to say, 'Elijah is here.' But the Spirit of the Lord might carry you away when I leave you. Then I won't know where you are. If I go and tell Ahab and he doesn't find you, he'll kill me.

"But I've worshiped the Lord ever since I was young. My master, haven't you heard what I did? Jezebel was killing the Lord's prophets. But I hid 100 of them in two caves. I put 50 in each cave. I supplied them with food and water. And now you are telling me to go to my master Ahab. You want me to say to him, 'Elijah is here.' He'll kill me too!"

Elijah said, "I serve the Lord who rules over all. You can be sure that he lives. And you can be just as sure that I will speak to Ahab today."

The Lord Answers Elijah's Prayer on Mount Carmel

Obadiah went back to Ahab. He told Ahab that Elijah wanted to see him. So Ahab went to where Elijah was. When he saw Elijah, he said to him, "Is that you? You are always stirring up trouble in Israel."

"I haven't made trouble for Israel," Elijah replied. "But you and your father's family have. You have turned away from the Lord's commands. You have followed the gods that are named after Baal. Now send for people from all over Israel. Tell them to meet me on Mount Carmel. And bring the 450 prophets of the god Baal. Also bring the 400 prophets of the goddess Asherah. All of them eat at Jezebel's table."

So Ahab sent that message all through Israel. He gathered the prophets together on Mount Carmel. Elijah went there and stood in front of the people. He said, "How long will it take you to make up your minds? If the Lord is the one and only God, follow Him. But if Baal is the one and only God, follow him." The people didn't say anything.

Then Elijah said to them, "I'm the only one of the Lord's prophets left. But Baal has 450 prophets. Get two bulls for us. Let Baal's prophets choose one for themselves. Let them cut it into pieces. Then let them put it on the wood. But don't let them set fire to it. I'll prepare the other bull. I'll put it on the wood. But I won't set fire to it. Then you pray to your god. And I'll pray to the Lord. The god who answers by sending fire down is the one and only God." Then all of the people said, "What you are saying is good."

Elijah spoke to the prophets of Baal. He said, "Choose one of the bulls. There are many of you. So prepare your bull first. Pray to your god. But don't light the fire."

Bible Lesson with Discussion Questions - continued

So they prepared the bull they had been given. They prayed to Baal from morning until noon. "Baal! Answer us!" they shouted. But there wasn't any reply. No one answered. Then they danced around the altar they had made.

At noon Elijah began to tease them. "Shout louder!" he said. "I'm sure Baal is a god! Perhaps he has too much to think about. Or maybe he has gone to the restroom. Or perhaps he's away on a trip. Maybe he's sleeping. You might have to wake him up."

So they shouted louder. Things were beginning to look hopeless. It was now past noon. The prophets of Baal continued to prophesy with all their might. They did it until the time came to offer the evening sacrifice. But there wasn't any reply. No one answered. No one paid any attention.

Then Elijah said to all of the people, "Come here to me." So they went to him. He rebuilt the altar of the Lord. It had been destroyed. Elijah got 12 stones. There was one for each tribe in the family line of Jacob. The Lord's message had come to Jacob. It had said, "Your name will be Israel." Elijah used the stones to build an altar in honor of the Lord. He dug a ditch around it. The ditch was large enough to hold 13 quarts of seeds. He arranged the wood for the fire. He cut the bull into pieces. He placed the pieces on the wood. Then he said to some of the people, "Fill four large jars with water. Pour it on the offering and the wood." So they did.

"Do it again," he said. So they did it again. "Do it a third time," he ordered. And they did it the third time. The water ran down around the altar. It even filled the ditch.

When it was time to offer the evening sacrifice, the prophet Elijah stepped forward. He prayed, "Lord, you are the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel. Today let everyone know that you are God in Israel. Let them know I'm your servant. Let them know I've done all of these things because you commanded me to. Answer me. Lord, answer me. Then these people will know that you are the one and only God. They'll know that you are turning their hearts back to you again."

The fire of the Lord came down. It burned up the sacrifice. It burned up the wood and the stones and the soil. It even licked up the water in the ditch.

All of the people saw it. Then they fell down flat with their faces toward the ground. They cried out, "The Lord is the one and only God! The Lord is the one and only God!"

Discussion Questions:

1. What were the people in today's lesson doing wrong? *(They were worshipping the god Baal.)*
2. How many prophets did Baal have? *(450.)*
3. What did Elijah tell the people to do? *(He told them to get 2 bulls, putting one on their altar on top of wood, and one on his altar. They would pray to their god, and Elijah would pray to his God and the one true God would set his altar on fire in order to burn the sacrifice.)*
4. Why did Elijah tell the people to do all these things? *(He wanted to prove whose god was the one true God.)*
5. How do think the people felt when Baal did not answer their prayers? *(Frustrated, upset, angry, etc.)*
6. What extra step did Elijah do to his altar? *(He had water poured over the altar so it was really wet and even more of a challenge to set on fire, knowing that it would not be a match for his God.)*
7. How do you think the people felt when they saw what happened to Elijah's altar? *(Discuss together. Answers will vary.)*
8. Why do you think it is important to put God first in our lives? *(Discuss together. Answers will vary.)*

Application to Real Life

Time for God

See www.kidssundayschool.com → Grade school → Activities → Time for God

You will need to print out the activity chart handout and provide pencils for the children. Help the children to read the directions and fill out their activity charts. Then use your Bibles to look up Matthew 6:21 and 24. Discuss these verses together as you enjoy a healthy snack. See the above website for further discussion questions and details.

Matthew 6:21 ~ “Your heart will be where your riches are.” (NIRV)

Matthew 6:24 ~ “No one can serve two masters at the same time. He will hate one of them and love the other. Or he will be faithful to one and dislike the other. You can’t serve God and money at the same time.” (NIRV)

At the end of the activity, remind the children of the message and memory verse. Then recite the first commandment together.

Memory Work Fun

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 Matthew located? In the Old or New Testament? Practice finding it together.
3. Review the Lord’s Prayer together.
4. Recite the memory verse.

Activity Ideas

Choose One

All Ages

“Stuff” Skit

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

You will need a backpack filled with unbreakable (soft) items for this skit, and a few volunteer actors. This skit teaches that “things” are not what make us happy in life. The one person that will give us the most joy is Jesus (and of course God). It warns the children that we have to be careful not to let our “stuff” get in the way of our relationship with God. See the above website for the script and further details.

Edible Altars

For this activity, you will use edible materials to make an altar. You can either use mini-marshmallows and pretzel sticks OR use crackers and pretzel sticks, along with red/orange/yellow crayons for drawing the fire. Be as creative as you like. You may want to use card stock or a heavier paper for this activity, and you will use glue to attach the materials to the paper. The children may wish to draw Elijah or even the water around the bottom of their altar creation. Be sure to have a few extra edibles for munching as you work. Remember to keep the conversation going and review the story while you work.

Grades 3-5**“Who is on the Throne”**

See www.kidssundayschool.com → Grade School → Object Talks → “Who is on the Throne?”

You will need several empty boxes with lids for this activity, along with a fancy chair (if possible – otherwise a regular chair will do). You will place the empty chair in front of the class. The children will name some of their favorite things which you will pretend to put into the boxes. As you fill each box it will go on the chair to symbolize how sometimes we crowd Jesus and/or God out of our life. Please see the above website for detailed instructions.

Role Play – Only One God!

Before Class: Place the building blocks and wood on the side of the stage where Mount Carmel will be. Place the two jugs beside one of the altars. Print a copy of the play for each character. (See the Script at the end of this lesson.) Gather the props: a crown for King Ahab, building blocks or cardboard boxes, wood, and 2 jugs.

Puzzle: Elijah on Mount Carmel

You will need to print enough copies of the puzzle for your students before class. Please see the puzzle sheet following this lesson.

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

Draw a picture of what you think it means to put God first in your life. Why do you think this is important? Write about it.

Grades 3-5

What things in your life “challenge” God for taking first place? Write about them.

How do you put God first in your life? What does that mean to you? Write about it.

Homework Ideas

- Read at home with a grownup the story about the **Elijah is Taken to Heaven** (1 Kings 19:19-21; 2 Kings 2:1-11).
- Learn the memory verse: *“But anyone who is joined to the Lord becomes one with Him in spirit.”*
--1 Corinthians 6:17(NIRV)
- Work on memorizing commandment #_____.
- Color the **Elijah is Taken to Heaven** coloring sheet as your parents read you the Sunday School Lesson. Return your coloring page for a sticker.
- If you could go anywhere, where would you go? Think about it. Then write it down or draw a picture and bring it to class to share.

Other Resources

www.daniellesplace.com → Resource Room → Search “Elijah – God Sends Rain”

<http://children.ccm.com/curriculum/> → OT Support Curriculum → Page 10 → “Elijah Defeats the Prophets of Baal”



Role Play: Only One God!

Narrator: It had not rained in three years. People could not find food. All the grass and rivers had dried up. *(Elijah enters.)* God gave Elijah very special instructions.

God's Voice: Elijah, it is time for you to go to King Ahab and tell him I will send rain. *(King Ahab enters. Elijah walks towards him.)*

King Ahab: Elijah! It has not rained in three years! This is your fault!

Elijah: I am not the one who caused this. It is you and your wife. You disobeyed God. You are praying to idols for rain instead of to God. Gather your people and the prophets of Baal and meet me at the top of Mount Carmel. *(Elijah pretends to walk up Mount Carmel.)*

Narrator: Quickly King Ahab gathered his people and the prophets of Baal. Together they went up Mount Carmel to meet Elijah. *(King Ahab, the prophets of Baal and his people go up Mount Carmel.)*

Elijah: *(Speaking to King Ahab.)* How long will you worship Baal? You must make a choice. Your prophets and I will each build an altar and place a sacrifice on top. Then you call on Baal to burn the sacrifice. I will call on the Lord. We will see who the living God is. Ahab can go first.

Narrator: The prophets of Baal started picking up rocks and piling them up to build an altar. *(The prophets of Baal start building their altar.)* When they were all done their altar, they put some firewood in the centre. *(Prophets of Baal begin dancing around their altar.)*

Baal Prophets: Oh Baal, answer us! Oh Baal, answer us! Oh Baal, answer us!

Role Play: Only One God!

Narrator: The prophets of Baal did this all morning.

Elijah: Shout louder!

Narrator: The prophets kept shouting and dancing all day. By evening, there was still no fire. *(The prophets make the boxes tumble to the ground.)* Finally, they were too tired to continue and fell to the ground. It was now Elijah's turn. *(Elijah starts rebuilding the altar.)*

Elijah: I need some water to pour over the altar. *(Two of King Ahab's people take the jugs and pretend to pour it on Elijah's altar.)*

Elijah: I still need more water. *(The two people go back, pretend to refill their jugs and pretend to pour the water on Elijah's altar.)*

Narrator: The altar was soaked and the trench around it was filled with water. Then Elijah stood in front of the altar and prayed.

Elijah: Oh Lord, answer me so these people will know that You are the One, true God.

Narrator: Then the fire of the Lord came down and burned up the sacrifice, the wood, the stones and the soil around the altar. When the prophets saw this, they fell down on the ground and cried. *(The Baal prophets fall to their knees.)*

Baal Prophets: The Lord, He is the true God! The Lord, He is the true God!

Puzzle: Elijah on Mount Carmel

Look at the symbol and number then find the letter match in the table. Write the letter in the box to discover the hidden message.

	1	2	3	4	5
!	W	S	O	L	J
%	A	T	R	I	K
&	N	E	H	U	P
*	D	V	C	G	B

!1 &2 !2 &3 !3 &4 !4 *1 &3 %1 *2 &2

%2 &3 &2 *3 !3 &4 %3 %1 *4 &2 !2 !3

%1 *3 %5 &1 !3 !1 !4 &2 *1 *4 &2 *4 !3 *1

*1 &2 !2 &5 %4 %2 &2 !1 &3 %1 %2

!3 %2 &3 &2 %3 !2 *5 &2 !4 %4 &2 *2 &2

Name: _____

Elijah is Taken to Heaven



"But anyone who is joined to the Lord becomes one with Him in spirit."
--1 Corinthians 6:17 (NIRV)



Take Home Page: F6. Elijah and the Prophets of Baal

Today I learned...

Today your child learned that **God wants to be first** in our lives. The children reviewed the story of Elijah and the prophets of Baal. They also talked about what it means to put God first in our lives.

Help me learn my memory verse...

"No one can serve two masters at the same time." --Matthew 6:24

Ask me...

1. What was happening with the people in today's story?
2. How did Elijah show them who the one true God is?
3. Why do you think it is important to put God first in our lives?

Live Your Faith...

Make a list together of all the things your child and you have to do in one day. When your list is complete, take a look again. Did you make any time for God? Does your list reflect a life that is putting Him first? Talk about that together, and then make some adjustments to your list in a way that would reflect putting God first in your life and in your day.



F7. Elijah is Taken to Heaven

1 Kings 19:19-21, 2 Kings 2:1-11

Learning Objectives

1. The children will explore the story of Elijah and Elisha, and the events surrounding Elijah's ascension to heaven.
2. The children will be able to identify what things they can do each day to draw closer to God.

Memory Verse: *"But anyone who is joined to the Lord becomes one with Him in spirit."
--1 Corinthians 6:17 (NIRV)*

Getting Started

Choose One

All Ages

"Right Environment"

See: www.kidssundayschool.com → Grade School → Object Talks → "Right Environment"

You will need a small potted plant, a few seeds and a small pot filled with dirt for this object talk. This activity teaches the children that it takes the right environment to grow a beautiful flower, and it also takes the right environment for us to grow spiritually. Please see the above website for detailed instructions. As part of your conclusion, the children will need to understand that a "good environment" for us to grow spiritually involves reading our Bibles, praying to God, worshipping God, learning about God (in Sunday school and services), and finding good friends that help us to grow in our faith and grow closer to God. Elisha and Elijah had such a friendship in today's story. (Continue with the lesson.)

Bible Lesson with Discussion Questions:

Message: ***Stay close to Him.***

The Lord Chooses Elisha

Elijah left Mount Horeb. He saw Elisha, the son of Shaphat. Elisha was plowing in a field. He was driving the last of 12 pairs of oxen. Elijah went up to him. He threw his coat around him. Then Elisha left his oxen. He ran after Elijah. "Let me kiss my father and mother good-bye," he said. Then I'll come with you."

"Go back," Elijah replied. "What have I done to you?"

So Elisha left him and went back. He got his two oxen and killed them. He burned the plow to cook the meat. He gave it to the people, and they ate it. Then he started to follow Elijah. He became Elijah's assistant.

2 Kings 2 ~ Elijah Is Taken Up to Heaven

Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. The Lord was going to use a strong wind to take Elijah up to heaven. Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here. The Lord has sent me to Bethel."

But Elisha said, "I won't leave you. And that's just as sure as the Lord and you are alive." So they went down to Bethel. There was a company of prophets at Bethel. They came out to where Elisha was. They asked him, "Do you know what the Lord is going to do? He's going to take your master away from you today."

"Yes, I know," Elisha replied. "But don't talk about it." Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here, Elisha. The Lord has sent me to Jericho."

Bible Lesson with Discussion Questions - *continued*

Elisha replied, "I won't leave you. And that's just as sure as the Lord and you are alive." So they went to Jericho. There was a company of prophets at Jericho. They went up to where Elisha was. They asked him, "Do you know what the Lord is going to do? He's going to take your master away from you today."

"Yes, I know," Elisha replied. "But don't talk about it." Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here. The Lord has sent me to the Jordan River."

Elisha replied, "I won't leave you. And that's just as sure as the Lord and you are alive." So the two of them walked on. Fifty men from the company of the prophets followed them. The men stopped and stood not far away from them. They faced the place where Elijah and Elisha had stopped at the Jordan River. Elijah rolled his coat up. Then he struck the water with it. The water parted to the right and to the left. The two of them went across the river on dry ground.

After they had gone across, Elijah spoke to Elisha. He said, "Tell me. What can I do for you before I'm taken away from you?"

"Please give me a double share of your spirit," Elisha replied. "You have asked me for something I can't give you," Elijah said. "Only the Lord can give it. But suppose you see me when I'm taken away from you. Then you will receive what you have asked for. If you don't see me, you won't receive it."

They kept walking along and talking together. Suddenly a chariot and horses appeared. Fire was all around them. The chariot and horses came between the two men. Then Elijah went up to heaven in a strong wind.

Discussion Questions:

1. Describe Elisha's relationship with Elijah. *(Discuss. Answers will vary. They appeared to have a very close relationship because Elisha remained with Elijah and wanted very much to learn from Him.)*
2. What miracle did Elijah perform in today's story? *(He struck the waters of the Jordan River with his coat and the water split so that Elijah and Elisha could cross the river.)*
3. What was the one thing that Elisha wanted from Elijah before he was going to be taken to heaven? *(Elisha wanted to have a "double share of Elijah's spirit.")*
4. What did Elisha mean? *(He wanted to inherit a double portion of Elijah's spirit, and become Elijah's successor, a "holy man" just like him.)*
5. How was Elijah taken to heaven? *(A strong wind came and a chariot and horses appeared with fire all around them, and it took Elijah up to heaven.)*
6. What do you think Elisha was feeling or thinking when he saw all of those things take place? *(Discuss. Answers will vary.)*
7. Do you think Elisha wanted to go to heaven too? Why or why not? *(Discuss together.)*
8. Do you want to go to heaven? Would you go right now if God wanted to take you? Why or why not? *(Discuss together.)*

“Being Close to God”

See: www.kidssundayschool.com → Grade school → Activities → “Being Close to God”

For this activity you will need popcorn. Have enough to enjoy as a snack when you are finished with the activity. You may also need to recruit some additional participants for this activity. The children will each need a partner and they will be tossing popcorn pieces back and forth, starting about 10 feet apart and then moving closer to each other. Please see the above website for detailed instructions.

Once you finish the activity, you will compare it to our relationship with God. The farther the children are away from each other, the harder it is to catch the popcorn. Likewise, the farther we are from God the harder it is to have a relationship with Him. We can become closer to God by reading the Bible, praying to Him, and finding time to worship Him each day. No matter what, we want to stay close to Him. (Remind the children of the message and memory verse.)

Memory Work Fun

1. Recite the memory verse.
2. Practice finding the memory verse and/or Bible text in their Bible!
3. Where is the book of James located? In the Old or New Testament? Practice finding it together.
4. Is “thankfulness” a fruit of the spirit?
5. Lead the class in a short prayer and thank God for protecting us and loving us each day. Praise Him for His amazing goodness.

Activity Ideas*Choose One****All Ages*****Craft: Fiery Chariot Picture**

Before Class: Gather the materials (Chariot template, Paint (blue, red, yellow, and orange), Water, Paintbrushes (several for each color), Newspaper, Old t-shirts, Bowls, White paper, Scissors, Markers or colored pencils). Place some blue paint in a bowl. Slowly add water until the consistency of the paint is very watery. Test the mixture on a piece of scrap paper to make sure the color appears. If not, add a little more paint. Repeat these steps with each of the other colors. Cover the area where the children will work with the newspaper. Print one chariot template for each child. Make a sample craft.

Divide the children into two groups. One group will paint while the other group draws, colors and cuts out Elijah with the chariot.

Paint group – Give each child a piece of white paper. Have them paint the edges of the paper and approximately a third of the paper using the blue paint. Use the red, orange and yellow paint to create an explosion looking shape in the center of the paper that overlaps the blue paint.

Drawing group – Give each child a chariot template. Have them to draw Elijah on the chariot. They should use red-, orange- and yellow-colored pencils to color around the outside of the chariot. Then cut out the image. The children do not need to cut out the image on the lines.

When a child has completed the task in one group they can switch to the other station. When the children have completed both tasks, they are to glue the chariot in the center of the sky scene so that it is pointing upwards.

Game: The Voice

Before Class: Print one maze template for each child. (See page at the end of the lesson.) Print one maze answer template for each team. Designate two areas, one for each team to work in.

Divide the children into two teams. Within each team, choose one person to be The Voice. Ask teams to get behind the rope in a single line. The person who is The Voice should be at a table across the room. Give the person at the front of the line the blindfold to put on. After you say the teams can begin, the child who is blindfolded walks to the person who is designated as The Voice. When they reach the table, they sit down and the person who is The Voice gives them the marker and helps them find the starting point of the maze. The Voice then tells them how to safely get through the maze. When they reach the end of the maze, they take their blindfold off, run to the next person and help them put it on. The process begins all over again until all the children have an opportunity to complete the maze.

After the game is complete, discuss with the children how it felt to be blindfolded. For example, ask them if it was difficult to follow the instructions of the person who was The Voice. Explain to the children that sometimes it can be difficult to follow God's instructions. Even though we go through challenging experiences, it is always important to put our trust in God that He will guide us through it.

"Stay Connected" Game

See: www.kidssundayschool.com → Grade School → Games → "Stay Connected"

You will need a stopwatch and at least 5 players for this game (recruit extra volunteers as needed). This is a cooperation game that will demonstrate to the children about the concept of "staying connected". You will use this demonstration to help the children understand why "staying connected" (or staying close) to God is important in our lives. You will also discuss things in our lives that pull us away and do not allow us to stay connected to God. Please see the above website for detailed instructions.

Craft: Can you Hear?

Before class: Cut one piece of string approximately 2m long for each child. With the scissors, poke a small hole in the bottom of the cups. Thread the end of the string through the hole in one cup, tie a large knot so that it does not fall through the cup and tape the knot in the string to the inside of the cup. Repeat the steps with the other end of the string and the second cup. Make one for each child.

Give each child two plastic cups that are attached by a piece of string. Allow the children to decorate their cups with markers and stickers. After all the children have finished decorating their cups, divide the children into groups of two. Tell each child within the groups to hold a cup. The string between the two cups should be pulled tight, but not too tight. Have one child speak into a cup while the other child places the cup to their ear. The children should be able to hear the talking because of the vibration of the sound waves over the string.

Briefly explain to them that it is important for us to listen to the Lord's voice. Emphasize that we can sometimes hear God directing our lives through the people around us. Other times we may be so distracted by all the noise around us that we find it difficult to hear what He would like us to do.

Grades K-2**“Follow in my Footsteps”**

You will need white construction paper (one for each child) and markers for this activity. Before class begins, you will need to trace your foot onto each sheet of paper. Then the children put their foot into your (hopefully) larger footprint and trace their own foot (help as needed). Talk with the children, asking them whose footprint is larger or smaller. Then have the children write on their papers: “Stay close to Him.” Let them color the footprints if time allows. Remind the children that Elisha followed Elijah’s (who was God’s prophet) footsteps and he wanted to stay close to Him. He wanted to learn everything he could from Elijah, and by doing so he was able to not only stay close to Elijah, but he stayed close to God. God wants us to be “connected” and close to Him. Many things try to pull us away, including the friends we choose to surround ourselves with.

Grades 3-5**Role Play: I Will Not Leave You**

Before Class: Gather the props for the play (cloak for Elijah). Print the fire image. Print a copy of the play for each character. Please see the pages following this lesson.

“Perfect Mix” Object Talk

See www.kidssundayschool.com → Grade School → Object Talks → “Perfect Mix”

You will need four packages of unsweetened Kool-Aid (same flavor), four pitchers, cups or glasses, sugar, salt and a bucket for this object talk. Please see the above website for detailed instructions.

You will make four different mixtures using the ingredients, and then compare them to four classifications of Christians: “pretenders”, “putter-offers”, “pleasure seekers” and “pure Christians”. The children will consider what kind of a person they are in their faith life and in their relationship with God, as well as what kinds of friends they have in their lives.

Encourage the children to strive to be like the “pure Christians” as they are described in this exercise, full of faith, love, concern and kindness, reaching out to others and maintaining a close and developing relationship with God. This is how we want to be, and these are the people we need in our lives to help us to stay close to God.

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

Who is your favorite person to talk to about God or Bible stories? Draw a picture of that person. Why are they your favorite? Write about it.

Grades 3-5

Do you have a mentor, or someone who is older than you who can help you grow closer to God? What makes him/her so special? How has that person helped you to grow? Write about it.

What do you think all the qualities of a good friend are? Make a list. Write about it.

Homework Ideas

- Read at home with a grownup the story about the **Elisha and the Miracles** (2 Kings 4:1-36).
- Learn the memory verse: *"You will experience all these blessings if you obey the Lord your God."* --Deuteronomy 28:2 (NLT)
- Work on memorizing commandment #_____.
- Color the **Elisha and the Miracles** coloring sheet as your parents read you the Sunday School Lesson. Return your coloring page for a sticker.
- Look up the word "blessing" in the dictionary. Write down the definition and bring it to class to share.

Other Resources

www.daniellesplace.com → Resource Room → Search "Elijah – God Gives Us Teachers"

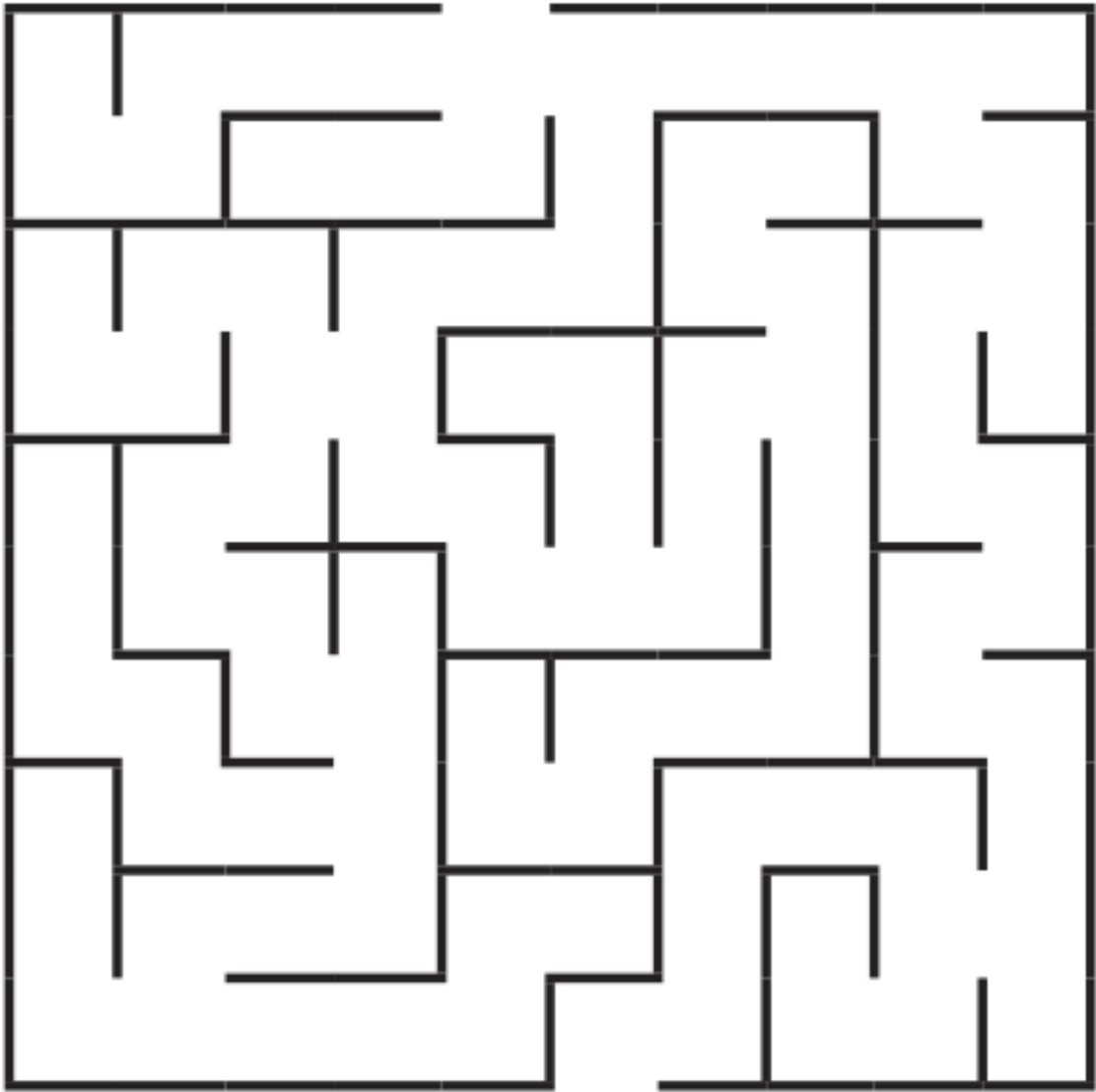
<http://children.ccm.com/curriculum/> → OT Support Curriculum → Page 11 → "Elijah is Taken to Heaven"



 **Craft: Fiery Chariot Picture**



 **Game: The Voice**



Role Play: I Will Not Leave You

Elijah: Elisha, I want you to stay here. The Lord wants me to go to Bethel.

Elisha: I swear by my faithfulness to the living Lord and to you, I will not leave you.

Elijah: Elisha, stay here. The Lord wants me to go to Jericho.

Elisha: I swear by my loyalty to the living Lord and to you that I will not leave you.
(Elijah and Elisha pretend to walk to Jericho.)

Prophets: *(Second group of prophets walk up to Elisha.)* Elisha, did you know the Lord is going to take Elijah away from you today?

Elisha: Yes, I know. Please do not talk about it to me.

Elijah: Stay here Elisha. The Lord wants me to go to Jordan.

Elisha: I swear by my faithfulness to the living Lord and to you that I will not leave you. *(Both pretend to walk to the Jordan.)*

Narrator: When they arrived, fifty of Elijah's prophets were watching them on the river bank. Elijah took off his cloak, rolled it up and struck the water. The waters divided and they were able to cross on dry land. *(While the narrator talks, Elijah strikes the water with his cloak. Put the cloak on the edge of the stage. The two pretend to walk to the other side of the river.)*

Elijah: Ask what I should do for you before I am taken away.

Elisha: Please give me a double portion of your spirit.

Elijah: You have asked for something difficult. If you can see me as I am taken away, then your request will be fulfilled.

Narrator: Then a flaming chariot with fiery horses appeared and a whirlwind took Elijah up to heaven. Elisha took his cloak off and ripped it in two pieces. Then he picked up Elijah's cloak and struck the water as Elijah had done.

Role Play: I Will Not Leave You

Elisha: Where is the Lord, the God of Elijah?

Narrator: Then the water divided and Elisha walked back to the other side.

Prophets: Elijah's spirit is now with Elisha.

Narrator: The people knew Elisha was the new prophet. For three days, fifty men searched for Elijah but they could not find him.



Name: _____

Elisha and the Miracles



"You will experience all these blessings if you obey the Lord your God."
--Deuteronomy 28:2 (NLT)



Take Home Page: F7. Elijah is Taken to Heaven

Today I learned...

Today your child learned that God's wants us to **stay close to Him!** The children reviewed the story of Elijah and Elisha, and what happened when Elijah ascended to heaven. They also talked about things they can do each day to draw closer to God.

Help me learn my memory verse...

"But anyone who is joined to the Lord becomes one with Him in spirit."

--1 Corinthians 6:17 (NIRV)

Ask me...

1. What kind of relationship did Elijah and Elisha have?
2. What happened to Elijah?
3. Do you want to go to heaven too some day? Why or why not?

Live Your Faith...

Make a simple treat with your child, but the first time you attempt making it, make it incorrectly. (i.e., use salt instead of sugar.) Let your child taste the result and see what reaction you get. Then try to make the treat again, this time following a written down "recipe". As you work, talk about how important it is to follow the recipe as much as possible so that the end result is what it should be. God also wants us to be obedient to Him and His commandments, but He also wants us to stay close to Him. Talk about specific ways you can do that each day.



Bible Lesson with Discussion Questions - Continued

Elisha replied to her, "How can I help you? Tell me. What do you have in your house?"

"I don't have anything there at all," she said. "All I have is a little olive oil."

Elisha said, "Go around to all of your neighbors. Ask them for empty jars. Get as many as you can. Then go inside your house. Shut the door behind you and your sons. Pour oil into all of the jars. As each jar is filled, put it over to one side."

The woman left him. After that, she shut the door behind her and her sons. They brought the jars to her. And she kept pouring. When all of the jars were full, she spoke to one of her sons. She said, "Bring me another jar." But he replied, "There aren't any more left." Then the oil stopped flowing.

She went and told the man of God about it. He said, "Go and sell the oil. Pay what you owe. You and your sons can live on what is left."

The Son of a Woman From Shunem Is Brought Back to Life

One day Elisha went to the town of Shunem. A rich woman lived there. She begged him to stay and have a meal. So every time he came by, he stopped there to eat.

The woman said to her husband, "That man often comes by here. I know that he is a holy man of God. Let's make a small room for him on the roof. We'll put a bed and a table in it. We'll also put a chair and a lamp in it. Then he can stay there when he comes to visit us."

One day Elisha came. He went up to his room. He lay down there. He said to his servant Gehazi, "Go and get the Shunammite woman." So he did. She stood in front of Elisha.

He said to Gehazi, "Tell her, 'You have gone to a lot of trouble for us. Now what can we do for you? Can we speak to the king for you? Or can we speak to the commander of the army for you?'"

She replied, "I live among my own people. I have everything I need here."

After she left, Elisha asked Gehazi, "What can we do for her?" Gehazi said, "Well, she doesn't have a son. And her husband is old."

Then Elisha said, "Bring her here again." So he did. She stood in the doorway. "You will hold a son in your arms," Elisha said. "It will be about this time next year."

"No, my master!" she objected. "You are a man of God. So don't lie to me!" But the woman became pregnant. She had a baby boy. It happened the next year about that same time. That's exactly what Elisha had told her would happen. The child grew. One day he went out to get his father. His father was with those who were gathering the crops. The boy said to his father, "My head hurts! It really hurts!"

His father told a servant, "Carry him to his mother." The servant lifted the boy up. He carried him to his mother. The boy sat on her lap until noon. Then he died. She went up to the room on the roof. There she laid him on the bed of the man of God. Then she shut the door and went out. She sent for her husband. She said, "Please send me one of the servants and a donkey. Then I can go quickly to the man of God and return."

"Why do you want to go to him today?" he asked. "It isn't the time for the New Moon Feast. It isn't the Sabbath day."

"Don't let that bother you," she said. She put a saddle on her donkey. She said to her servant, "Let's go. Don't slow down for me unless I tell you to." So she started out. She came to Mount Carmel. That's where the man of God was. When she was still a long way off, he saw her coming. He said to his servant Gehazi, "Look! There's the woman from Shunem! Run out there to meet her. Ask her, 'Are you all right? Is your husband all right? Is your child all right?'"

"Everything is all right," she said. She came to the man of God at the mountain. Then she took hold of his feet. Gehazi came over to push her away. But the man of God said, "Leave her alone! She is suffering terribly. But the Lord hasn't told me the reason for it. He has hidden it from me."

Bible Lesson with Discussion Questions – Continued

"My master, did I ask you for a son?" she said. "Didn't I tell you, 'Don't get my hopes up'?"

Elisha said to Gehazi, "Tuck your coat into your belt. Take my wooden staff and run to Shunem. Don't say hello to anyone you see. If anyone says hello to you, don't answer. Lay my staff on the boy's face."

But the child's mother said, "I won't leave you. And that's just as sure as the Lord and you are alive." So Elisha got up and followed her.

Gehazi went on ahead. He laid Elisha's wooden staff on the boy's face. But there wasn't any sound. The boy didn't move at all. So Gehazi went back to Elisha. He told him, "The boy hasn't awakened."

Elisha arrived at the house. The boy was dead. He was lying on Elisha's bed. Elisha went into the room. He shut the door. He was alone with the boy. He prayed to the Lord. Then he got on the bed. He lay down on the boy. His mouth touched the boy's mouth. His eyes touched the boy's eyes. And his hands touched the boy's hands. As Elisha lay on the boy, the boy's body grew warm.

Elisha turned away. He walked back and forth in the room. Then he got on the bed again. He lay down on the boy once more. The boy sneezed seven times. After that, he opened his eyes.

Elisha sent for Gehazi. He said to him, "Go and get the Shunammite woman." So he did. When she came, Elisha said, "Take your son."

She came in. She fell at Elisha's feet. She bowed down with her face toward the ground. Then she took her son and went out.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why did the widow need Elisha's help? *(Her husband had died and left her owing money. She was afraid her debtors were going to take her two sons and keep them as slaves.)*
2. How did Elisha help her? *(He told her to gather as many empty jars as possible, go into her house, close the doors and fill all of the jars. Then go and sell the oil and use the money to pay off the debt she owed.)*
3. Did Elisha's "plan" work? *(Yes it did.)*
4. How do you think the widow felt in her heart after Elisha was able to help her? *(Discuss together. She was likely grateful for the blessing that she experienced in her life.)*
5. What was so special about the Shunammite woman in today's story? *(She went out of her way to take care of Elisha every time he visited her town. She was able to be a blessing to Elisha.)*
6. What kinds of things did she do for Elisha? *(She fed him, and even made a room for him in her house where he could stay.)*
7. How did Elisha help her? What happened? *(Elisha told the woman she would have a son, and she did a year later.)*
8. How did the woman feel when her son died? Then what did she do? *(Discuss together. She was beside herself with grief and she went after Elisha for help.)*
9. Was Elisha able to be a blessing to the woman? How? *(Elisha was able to bring the boy back to life once again.)*
10. In what ways can you be a blessing to others? *(Discuss together. Answers will vary. Make a list on your easel or white board.)*

Application to Real Life

Enjoy a healthy snack together. As you do, open your Bibles to Deuteronomy 28:1-13 and read the passage together. Then discuss the questions below.

Deuteronomy 28 ~ Blessings for Obeying the Lord

¹ Make sure you obey the Lord your God completely. Be careful to follow all of his commands. I'm giving them to you today. If you do those things, the Lord will honor you more than all of the other nations on earth. ² If you obey the Lord your God, here are the blessings that will come to you and remain with you.

³ You will be blessed in the cities. You will be blessed out in the country.

⁴ Your children will be blessed. Your crops will be blessed. The young animals among your livestock will be blessed. That includes your calves and lambs.

⁵ Your baskets and bread pans will be blessed.

⁶ You will be blessed no matter where you go.

⁷ Enemies will rise up against you. But the Lord will help you win the battle over them. They will come at you from one direction. But they'll run away from you in seven directions.

⁸ The Lord your God will bless your barns with plenty of grain and other food. He will bless everything you do. He'll bless you in the land he's giving you.

⁹ The Lord your God will make you his holy people. He will set you apart for himself. He took an oath and promised to do that. He promised to do it if you would keep his commands and live exactly as he wants you to live.

¹⁰ All of the nations on earth will see that you belong to the Lord. And they will be afraid of you.

¹¹ The Lord will give you more than you need. You will have many children. Your livestock will have many little ones. Your crops will do very well. All of that will happen in the land he promised with an oath to your fathers to give you.

¹² The Lord will open up the heavens. That's where he stores his riches. He will send rain on your land at just the right time. He'll bless everything you do. You will lend money to many nations. But you won't have to borrow from any of them. ¹³ The Lord your God will make you leaders, not followers. Pay attention to his commands that I'm giving you today. Be careful to follow them. Then you will always be on top. You will never be on the bottom.

1. How many times do you see the word blessing, blessed, or bless in these verses?
2. What do we have to do in order to be blessed by God? (*See Verse 1*)
3. What are some of the examples of blessings listed in these verses? (*Go back through the verses as necessary in order to list some of the blessings.*)
4. Why do we have so many blessings? (*Because Heaven is full of them and God wants to give His blessings to us.*)

Remind the children that we can all experience God's blessings if we obey Him and His commandments (see memory verse). God also expects us to look for ways to be a blessing to others (see message). We can pray and ask Him to show us how to do that each day.

Memory Work Fun

1. Recite the memory verse.
2. Practice finding the memory verse and/or Bible text in their Bible!
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

“God’s Many Blessings” Object Talk

See: www.kidssundayschool.com → Grade school → Object Talks → “God’s Many Blessings”

You will need a water class, a pitcher of water, a spoon, some cheerios, and 10-20 marbles or large coins for this object talk. You will demonstrate how God overflows us with blessings, and examples of what those blessing may be in our lives. Please see the above website for detailed instructions.

At the end of the demonstration, remind the children that not only are we fortunate to receive God’s many blessings in our lives, but we can also be a blessing to others. We can pray to God each day and ask Him to help us to become a blessing to others in our life.

Grades K-2

“Helping Hands” Craft

You will need construction paper (light colors), and pencils for this activity. You may also need extra “hands” to help the children. First, have the children trace their own hands (help them as needed). They will then cut out the hands and glue them onto a different color of construction paper. On the left hand, the children will write down ways that Elisha was able to bless others with kindness in today’s lesson. On the right hand, the children will write down ways that they can be a blessing to others with kindness. You will need to help with the writing for younger children. They could also decorate their papers with markers, etc. Be creative. Remember to keep the conversation going as you work. Write the message on the bottom of the paper (or provide strips of paper with the message already written on it – they can glue it to their papers).

Grades 3-5

“Count Your Blessings”

Show the children the song “Count Your Blessings” in the church hymnal. Read the words together (you could choose to sing it too, if you like). Then have a class discussion about what blessings they have in their lives. Make a list together on the easel or white board. Provide the children with lined paper. Allow them time to make their own lists. They may choose items from the class list but encourage them to think of more on their own. When they are finished, have the children cut out their lists (by cutting around the list) and glue it to a piece of card stock or colored construction paper. Have them write “Count Your Blessings” at the top of their paper and write (or glue a pre-typed slip of paper) the memory verse onto the bottom of their papers. The children may further decorate the papers by using the numbers 1, 2, 3, etc. or using number stickers (check your local dollar store).

Activity Ideas - Continued

“Bursting with Blessings”

See: www.kidssundayschool.com → Grade School → Activities → “Bursting With Blessings”

You will need balloons and slips of paper with Bible verses written on them for this activity. Please see the above website for detailed instructions. You will need to write the reference verses on the small pieces of paper and insert them into empty balloons. Then you will need to blow up the balloons and tie each one. Choose verses that are best for your children. The children will be popping their balloons to discover the verses and use their Bibles to look them up and learn more about “blessings.” Give the children an opportunity to “share” what they find. If you have less children, they can pop more than one balloon. Remind the children of the memory verse, that we can all experience God’s blessings if we obey Him and His commandments.

Journal

Optional

Grades K-2

What do you think it means to bless someone? Draw a picture of what you think that looks like.

Grades 3-5 (Choose One)

Why do you think God wants to bless us? Do you think you deserve His blessings? Why or why not? Write about it.

How can you be a blessing to someone else? Be specific with your examples. Write about it.

Homework Ideas

- Read at home with a grownup the lesson about **Thanksgiving** (Matthew 6:25-34; 1 Timothy 6:17; 1 Thessalonians 5:18).
- Learn the memory verse: “*Give thanks no matter what happens.*” --1 Thessalonians 5:18 (NIRV)
- Work on memorizing commandment # ____.
- Color the **Thanksgiving** coloring sheet as your parents read you the Sunday School Lesson. Return your coloring page for a sticker.
- What are you thankful for? Make a list or draw a collage of all the things you are thankful to God for in your heart. Try to think of 20 things, and not just all big things either.

Other Resources

<http://children.ccm.com/curriculum/> → OT Support Curriculum → Page 11 → See various Elisha Lessons

Name: _____

Thanksgiving



"Give thanks no matter what happens."
--1 Thessalonians 5:18 (NIRV)



Take Home Page: F8. Elisha and the Miracles

Today I learned...

Today your child learned that God's wants us to **be a blessing to others**. The children reviewed the stories of Elisha and the miracles with the widow, the Shunammite woman, and the boy he brought back to life. They also talked about if we obey God and His commandments then we will be able to experience God's blessing in our lives.

Help me learn my memory verse...

"You will experience all these blessings if you obey the Lord your God."

--Deuteronomy 28:2 (NLT)

Ask me...

1. How did the widow help Elisha?
2. How was Elisha able to help the widow?
3. Do you think you can be a blessing to others too? Why or why not?

Live Your Faith...

Try to think of a way that you can bless another family this week. Maybe you can make cookies or a sweet treat to share with them in your home? Possibly even a meal? Or perhaps there is a widow in your congregation who you can show love and kindness to in a special way. Talk about it together and come up with a plan on how you will be a blessing to someone this week.



F9. Thanksgiving

Matthew 6:25-34, 1 Timothy 6:17, and 1 Thessalonians 5:18

Learning Objectives

1. The children will explore things that God has done for them in their lives.
2. The children will recognize the importance of thanking our Heavenly Father no matter what happens.

Memory Verse: *“Give thanks no matter what happens.” --1 Thessalonians 5:18 (NIRV)*

Getting Started

Choose One

All Ages

A Thankful Celebration

See: www.kidssundayschool.com → Grade school → Activities → “A Thankful Celebration”

This activity will allow the children to participate in a group celebration. You will need to print the activity handout before class. You will also need scissors, pencils, streamers, tape, balloons, cookies or small cupcakes, napkins or small plates, and any additional party decorations for this activity. The children will be able to recognize that choosing thankfulness helps to increase our love for God and others. Please see the above website for detailed instructions and the application discussion.

Grades K-2

“Be Grateful for what God gives you” Object Talk

See: www.kidssundayschool.com → Preschool → Object Talks → “Be Grateful for What God Gives You”

You will need to have the following for this activity: a box, a bag, and little objects (house, toy car, bed, food, clothes, CD, cross, little people for parents, siblings, grandparents, friends, etc.). Please see the above website for detailed instructions. This activity will lead the children in an exercise about being thankful to God each day. Continue with the lesson.

Grades 3-5

“Do Not Worry” Puzzle:

See: www.kidssundayschool.com → grade school → puzzles → “Do not worry”

Word Search is based on Matthew 6:25-34. You will need to print one copy of the worksheet for each child.

“Be Grateful” Object Talk:

See: www.kidssundayschool.com → grade school → object talks → “Be Grateful”

You will need a pair of socks and a toy for this object talk. Please see the above website for detailed instructions and guidance for the discussion.

Bible Lesson with Discussion Questions

Message: *In all things give thanks!*

Introduction: (Tell the children the following.)

"I want you to pretend that you were living in the United States about 350 years ago. You may have been living with a group of people known as the Pilgrims. It is getting cold outside. Your family is worried because winter is coming, and food during the winter is hard to find. Your mom cannot just go to the grocery store. And you cannot just open the refrigerator door, because, well, there are no refrigerators. They have not been invented yet.

But you and your family have faith in God. That night, you decide to open your Bible to see what God says about how He will help you during this difficult time."

Read Matthew 6:25-34 ~ Do Not Worry

"I tell you, do not worry. Don't worry about your life and what you will eat or drink. And don't worry about what you will wear. Isn't there more to life than eating? Aren't there more important things than clothes?"

"Look at the birds of the air. They don't plant or gather crops. They don't put away crops in storerooms. But your Father who is in heaven feeds them. Aren't you worth much more than they are?"

"Can you add even one hour to your life by worrying? And why do you worry about clothes? See how the wildflowers grow. They don't work or make clothing. But here is what I tell you. Not even Solomon in all of his glory was dressed like one of those flowers.

"If that is how God dresses the wild grass, won't He dress you even better? After all, the grass is here only today. Tomorrow it is thrown into the fire. Your faith is so small!"

"So don't worry. Don't say, 'What will we eat?' Or, 'What will we drink?' Or, 'What will we wear?' People who are ungodly run after all of those things. Your Father who is in heaven knows that you need them.

"But put God's kingdom first. Do what He wants you to do. Then all of those things will also be given to you. "So don't worry about tomorrow. Tomorrow will worry about itself."

1. What things does the Bible tell us not to worry about? (*Having something to eat, drink, clothes to wear, etc.*)
2. What does Jesus say that we should worry about? (*Putting God's kingdom first. This means that the most important thing in our life includes trying to become more like Jesus, loving our neighbor, and reading and following God's Word.*)
3. How can we be sure God will provide what we need to live? (*Because we are valuable to Him, and He says He will take care of us. We need to have faith in our prayers and in His word.*)

Read 1 Timothy 6:17 (NIRV)

"Command the people who are rich in this world not to be proud. Tell them not to put their hope in riches. Wealth is so uncertain. Command those who are rich to put their hope in God. He richly provides us with everything to enjoy."

1. What is wrong with putting your hope in wealth or money? (*It is uncertain, or temporary. Only God can give us everything we need.*)
2. Is there anything wrong with having wealth or money? (*There is nothing wrong with having wealth or money. It is only NOT good if it becomes more important to us than our relationship with God, and therefore it becomes an idol in our lives.*)
3. Why do you think God wants to give us the things we need? (*Answers will vary...Discuss together.*)

Bible Lesson with Discussion Questions – Continued

Read 1 Thessalonians 5: 18 (NIRV)

“Give thanks no matter what happens. God wants you to thank Him because you believe in Christ Jesus.”

1. What kinds of things can you be thankful for? (*Discuss – allow the children to either make their own list or make one together. Encourage the children to also focus on non-material things on their list too, such as health, family, etc.*)
2. What kind of circumstances may make it difficult to be thankful? (*Think about the Pilgrims, and all they had to endure, for example.*)
3. If you didn't have enough food to eat or clean clothes to wear or a new backpack for school or shoes that didn't have holes in them, do you think you would still be thankful in your heart for what you had? Why or why not? (*Discuss this together. Help the children understand that there are a lot of children in our cities and in the world that are just like what was described, and yet many of them are still thankful and have joy.*)
4. What does this verse tell us about when we should be thankful? (*We should always be thankful to God, in any circumstance or situation because it is God's will for us.*)
5. Is it easy to be thankful to God when things are going well for us? What about when things are hard and not going so well? (*Discuss together. Help the children understand that we are thankful to God for everything, even difficulties, because they help us to grow and become more like Jesus.*)
6. What could YOU do to help those children who do not have enough food or clothes or shoes? (*Discuss together. If possible, make a list on your white board/easel so that the children can see how they can make a difference, including praying for those children and that God would show them how they can help in their community.*)

Application to Real Life

All Ages

Show the children the picture of the pilgrims (see attached at the end of the lesson) and discuss together what happened to them after you read the following:

A long time ago the pilgrims set aside a day to remember what God had done for them, and to thank Him. When one reads about the pilgrims it does not seem like they had much to be thankful for that first year. More than half of them died of starvation before the first spring. They had to leave their friends and family, everything they knew, and most of the things they owned behind to travel to a place that they did not know much about.

But the pilgrims trusted God and thanked Him for the things He had done for them and did not focus on the bad things. The pilgrim's thanked God for making it possible for them to come to the new world where they could worship him freely. They thanked God for providing an Indian named Squanto who could speak English to teach them how to plant their crops and how to cook them. Squanto showed them how to find food in the forest, and how to catch fish in their new land.

The Pilgrims thanked God for keeping them alive during the long, cold winter, and providing for all their needs. They thanked God for helping them to find their new home and protecting them from the Indians who did not like them. But most of all they were thankful that they could worship God the way they wanted to.

Application to Real Life – Continued

(Continue with the discussion)

The pilgrims must have been so thankful that God kept them fed and warm in the cold winters a very long time ago. They had lots of things going on that could have made them be angry with God. It was so cold outside. Maybe they did not have enough food. But they were still thankful and took time to “give thanks” to God no matter what was happening around them. God today is still the same God. He wants us to be happy and He gives us many things to enjoy each day.

There are 4 ways we can show God whether or not we are truly thankful for what He has provided for us:

1. How we look (on our faces).
2. The way we act.
3. What we say to others.
4. The way we feel in our hearts.

Talk with the children about both scenarios – being thankful AND not being thankful. Talk about and practice the “how we look” and “what we say to others” for each scenario. Talk about “how we act” in both scenarios. (When we are thankful, are we kind and helpful and giving to others?) Who can see how we feel in our hearts? (Discuss together).

Review the memory verse and message statement together.

Memory Work Fun

1. Recite the memory verse. Then explain what it means in your own words.
2. Practice finding the memory verse in the Bible. (Old or New Testament?)
3. Ask a volunteer to lead the class in a short prayer of thanksgiving. Remember to thank God for all He WILL do for you too!

Activity Ideas

Choose One

All Ages

Bible Turkey Hunt

See: www.kidssundayschool.com → Grade School → Games → “Bible Turkey Hunt”

You will need large envelopes, glue sticks and Bibles for this activity. You will also need to print and cut out the turkey puzzle pieces onto card stock before class. Be sure to make a sample of a completed turkey as well. Please see the above website for detailed instructions. Pair older children with younger children and encourage them to help each other and work together.

To begin this game, give each child an envelope with one of the puzzle pieces inside. The children will open their envelopes and look up the verse on the back of the puzzle piece inside. As the children read their verse and have a short discussion, the piece will be glued into place. Have a large sheet of paper or poster board 11" x 14" to paste the pieces to complete a finished turkey to look like the picture above. Extra pieces if needed can be glued on as well to complete the picture.

Sticky Note Thankfulness

See: www.kidssundayschool.com → Grade School → Activities → “Sticky Note Thankfulness”

During this activity, the children will identify times when it is easy or hard to show thankfulness. You will need a white board or easel, markers, and sticky notes for this activity. Please see the above website for detailed instructions and the application discussion.

“Be Thankful” Craft

See: www.kidssundayschool.com → Grade School → Crafts → “Be Thankful”

You will need: light green cardstock, tempera paint (assorted colors), paper plates, sponges (see link above for sponge shapes), word pages (see link above), smocks or old shorts, crayons/colored markers, glue sticks, and scissors (optional) for this activity. Before class, print enough Word Pages with the phrase "Don't worry, be thankful," and the Bible verse so each child will have one copy of each. Cut sponges into petal shapes, and a circle for the center of the flower. Prepare a place for painting, using drop cloths, towels for cleanup, etc. Please see the above website for detailed instructions.

Remember to keep the conversation going during the craft time. You can refer to Matthew 6:25-34 from today's lesson. God takes care of us in such wonderful ways. We sometimes forget about all the beauty and majesty that He has prepared for us. Take time to see all that God has given us for our enjoyment. We have a God who cares for the little things. We need to remember that He cares about us and that He will take care of our every need.

Grades K-2**Thankful Treasures**

See: www.kidssundayschool.com → Grade School → Activities → “Thankful Treasures”

The children will find treat bags and practice showing thankfulness. You will need items to make the treat bags (small toys, candy, games, etc.) and you should prepare and hide them throughout the room before class. Please see the above website for detailed instructions and the application discussion.

Thankful Wheels

For each child, you will need a sturdy orange or yellow paper plate, and a fine-tipped permanent marker. Draw six pie-piece sections on the plate using a fine-tipped permanent marker. Write one thing to be thankful for in each pie section, such as church, Jesus, family, friends, food, and the Bible. Below the words, draw simple (or paste) illustrations depicting each word. Talk with the children about being thankful for everything on the wheel, and then take turns closing your eyes and pointing to a section on the wheel. Say something you are grateful for that relates to the corresponding item. (See attached for sample pictures.) *Adapted from: www.childrensministry.com*

Make Mini Pumpkin Pies

For a tasty way to celebrate Thanksgiving this year, have your students make mini-pumpkin pies. Allow each child to make two pies: one for them to eat, and one for them to “cheerfully” give to someone else in the congregation. You will need premade custard crusts (available in grocery stores), spoons, bowls, and the following ingredients for each “pie.”

- 2 tablespoons canned pumpkin pie mix
- 2 tablespoons marshmallow crème
- 1 tablespoon whipped cream

Help the children to mix their ingredients in a small bowl and then spoon the mixture into a custard crust. Allow the pies to sit for 15 minutes. (You may need extra hands for this activity – so find those awesome volunteers!)

Grades 3-5**Give Praise Where Praise Is Due**

See: www.kidssundayschool.com → Grade School → Activities → Give Praise Where Praise Is Due

You will need a whiteboard or easel and the appropriate markers for this discussion activity. The children will explore giving God praise and thanks in ALL things. Please see the above website for detailed instructions.

I Can Show Thankfulness

See: www.kidssundayschool.com → Grade School → Activities → “I can show thankfulness”

This activity will help the children identify thankfulness in their lives. You will need to print out and copy the activity pages and provide pencils for the activity. Please see the above website for detailed instructions and the application discussion.

Thankfulness Pictionary

See: www.kidssundayschool.com → Grade School → Activities → “Thankfulness Pictionary”

The children will guess the pictures being drawn and discover different ways to show thankfulness. You will need to print the handout from the above website before class. You will also need a white board or easel and markers for this activity. Please see the above website for detailed instructions and the application discussions.

“Thanksgiving Basket” Craft

See: www.kidssundayschool.com → grade school → crafts → “Thanksgiving Basket”

You will need: one paper plate for each child, colored construction paper (8X11), basket instructions (see website above), stapler, scotch tape, and food pictures (see website above or cut out your own from magazines).

Before class gather all the supplies needed so each child can make their own basket and print out several copies of the instructions. Next, print out one copy for each child of the food pictures. Using medium card stock will work well. Please see the above website for detailed instructions. Remember to keep the conversation going, use the activity discussion suggestions as a guide.

God’s Many Blessings

See: www.kidssundayschool.com → grade school → object talks → “God’s Many Blessings”

For this activity, you will need a water glass (about 2 1/2” in diameter), a pitcher of water, a spoon, some cheerios®, and 10 to 20 marbles or large coins for blessings.

You will need to practice this a few times before the class. Please see the above website for detailed instruction and guidance for the discussion.



Grades K-2

Who is the one person that you are most thankful for in your life? Draw a picture and write about why you are thankful for them.

Grades 3-5 (Choose One)

Write a thank you letter to God. Tell Him about all the things that you are thankful for in your heart. Write about it.

Do you think it is important to have a thankful heart? Why or why not? Write about it.

Who is the one person you are most thankful for in your life? Write about why you are thankful for them.

Homework Ideas

- Read at home with a grown up the lesson titled: **"Balaam and the Donkey"** (Numbers 22:21-35).
- Learn the memory verse for next week: *"The Lord will guide you always."* --Isaiah 58:11
- Work on memorizing commandment # ____.
- Complete the **Balaam and the Donkey** coloring sheet and return it to class for a sticker.
- Look up the word "guide" in the dictionary and write down the definition. Who do you think should guide us? Make a list. Bring it to class to share.

Other Resources

www.daniellesplace.com → Login to the Resource Room → Search "Thanksgiving" and click on "Pilgrims"
www.kidssundayschool.com → Topical Index → "T" → "Thanksgiving"



Grades K-2 Activity: Thankful Wheels



Church



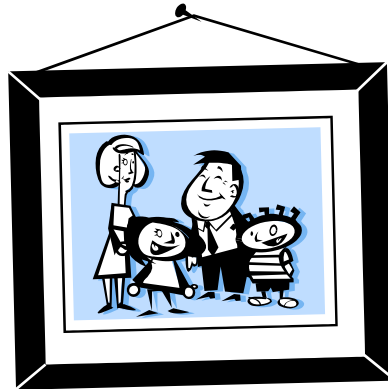
Jesus



Friends (boy)



Friends (girl)



Family



Food



Name: _____

Prayer



"But when you pray, go away by yourself, shut the door behind you,
and pray to your Father in private."

--Matthew 6:6 (NLT)

Take Home Page: F9. Thanksgiving

Today I learned...

Today your child learned that we should **in all things give thanks** to God. The children explored things that God has done for them in their own lives. They also talked about the importance of thanking our Heavenly Father no matter what happens.

Help me learn my memory verse...

"Give thanks no matter what happens" --1 Thessalonians 5:18

Ask me...

1. What things does the Bible tell us to not worry about?
2. Why do you think God wants to give us the things that we need?
3. When is it hard to be thankful?

Live Your Faith...

When our hearts are thankful, we thank God for all He provides for us. We can also make a habit of thanking others for their help, for food they give us, or even for their kindness. As a family, encourage and challenge each other this week to not only have a thankful heart, but to verbally thank others for everything possible this week. Each day take a few minutes to share who you thanked and why.



F10. Prayer

James 5:13-16

Learning Objectives

1. The children will recognize that prayer is a way to speak to God and draw near to Him.
2. The children will examine what James wrote about the topic of prayer.
3. The children will recognize that we can pray to God anywhere, anytime, about anything.

Memory Verse: *“But when you pray, go away by yourself, shut the door behind you, and pray to your Father in private.” --Matthew 6:6 (NLT)*

Getting Started

Choose One

Grades K-2

Connect the dots – Praying Hands:

See: www.kidssundayschool.com → Preschool → Color pages → “Praying Hands”

You will need to print out a copy of the “connect-the-dots” worksheet for each child and provide crayons and pencils for the children. Have the materials out on the table so that children can begin the activity as they enter your class. You may also want to write the message statement on the bottom of each worksheet before class.

Object Talk – “Things That we can Hear”:

In a paper bag, so the students cannot see, have items that make noise (for example: a whistle, bell, baby rattle, stapler, etc.). These are sounds they should be familiar with. Have the children close their eyes as you have the students guess what item is making each sound.

Explain to the children that all the sounds were different, but we knew them all. God wants to hear us when we pray. We all sound different, but He knows our voices, just like we knew the sounds. God is waiting to hear our voices! (Continue with the lesson.)

Grades 3-5

Object Talk

See: www.kidssundayschool.com → Grade school → Lessons → Life Applications - Prayer (Lesson 1) – “As Kids Arrive”

Display the following items on a table: Telephone, Newspaper, Letters & Envelopes, a Road Map, and a radio. As the children arrive, give them a sheet of paper and ask them to list what they think the items on the table have in common. Just before class starts let the kids know that all the things displayed on the table are used to communicate with each other. Tell the children that today we will explore a way to communicate with God – through prayer.

“Prayer” White Board Activity

See: www.kidssundayschool.com → Grade school → Lessons → Life Applications - Prayer (Lesson 2) – “As Kids Arrive”

You will need your white board or an easel for this activity. (If you have sticky easel paper, use three sheets; or make three columns on your white board; or use three sheets of paper on the table). As the children arrive to class, have them write on the board (or on the sticky paper or papers on the table) adding to any of the three lists: “how we pray”, “where we pray”, or “when we pray”. Let them come up with as many ideas as possible, then share their lists and add to them as much as possible. Continue with the lesson.

Bible Lesson with Discussion Questions

Message: *We can pray to God anywhere, anytime, about anything, AND He wants to hear from us!*

James 5:13-18 ~ The Prayer of Faith (NIRV)

¹³ Are any of you in trouble? Then you should pray. Are any of you happy? Then sing songs of praise.

¹⁴ Are any of you sick? Then send for the elders of the church to pray over you. Ask them to anoint you with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵ The prayer offered by those who have faith will make you well. The Lord will heal you. If you have sinned, you will be forgiven.

¹⁶ So admit to one another that you have sinned. Pray for one another so that you might be healed. The prayer of a godly person is powerful. It makes things happen.

Additional Background Information for Teachers (from NACI Lesson on Prayer):

Prayer is an opportunity for us to feel close to God. Praying is described as the “breathing of the soul.” It is necessary for us to pray. If we do not pray, we do not have a living faith. A prayer without faith is also not a real prayer. When we pray, we experience God’s presence and we believe that He hears as well as answers our prayers.

When we pray, we humbly bow before God and allow the Holy Spirit to inspire a prayer within us. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus gave important instruction concerning prayer (Matthew 6:5-8). We are not to make an outward show of prayer nor are we to use a lot of words. We may address God as “Father”. Prayers should come from the heart. We are not required to pray a certain way. The intensity of a prayer can be encouraged by closing one’s eyes, folding one’s hands, or kneeling. By doing this we are taking ourselves out of the busy activity of daily life to pause and bow before God in humbleness.

As New Apostolic Christians, we are encouraged to begin and end our day with a prayer. We also may pray before meals. We may also turn to God throughout the course of the day in order to feel His nearness and seek His help. In the family circle, children learn to pray as well as develop their own prayer life.

A prayer should include, and generally in this order: adoration and worship, thanks, petitions and intercessions. Our knowledge of God’s greatness prompts us to worship and adore Him. We give thanks for everything that has been given to us spiritually through His word, grace and the sacraments. We should also give thanks for the gifts we receive in our natural lives (such as food, clothing and accommodation). We bring all our concerns to God in our petitions. Such concerns may be in regard to strengthening our faith, angel protection, or help in daily life. The most important petition is with regard to the return of Christ and our longing to be accepted in grace at that moment. When we intercede for another person, we express our love towards our family or neighbor and even those in the beyond. We always close our prayer “in Jesus name. Amen.”



Bible Lesson with Discussion Questions - Continued

Discussion Questions:

1. When does James say we should pray? Give three reasons. *(When we are in trouble, when we are happy, and when we are sick.)*
2. What could we pray for when we are in trouble? *(We could pray for God to help or guide us.)*
3. What could we pray for when we are happy? *(We could praise God in our prayers when we are happy.)*
4. What could we pray when we are sick? *(We can pray for God to help make us well, to heal us.)*
5. What can we pray when we have sinned or done something that we shouldn't have? *(We can pray that we are forgiven.)*
6. Why should we pray for each other? *(We can help others by praying for them. Refer to Verse 16 – also the memory verse.)*
7. If we know that someone is really having a hard time with something, what is something that we can ALWAYS do for them? *(PRAY!)*
8. Does God always listen to our prayers, even if He doesn't answer them exactly the way we wanted or asked Him to? *(YES! God is always listening to our prayers. He gives us what is best for us, and sometimes that means not giving us exactly what we ask for. He is our Heavenly Father, He knows what is best, and we need to trust Him completely. This is not always easy.)*

Additional Discussion Questions:

Teacher Note: Make a chart or poster as you go through these questions. Put "Service for the Departed" at the top. Have a calendar or 12 squares with the months written on them. As the children identify what months of the year we have this special service, have them come up and color in that square with a marker.

1. What is the Service for the Departed? *(A special day when we remember souls who have died/passed on, and we pray for them.)*
2. How many Services for the Departed are there each year? *(Three.)*
3. What months do the Services for the Departed take place in? *(The first weekend of: March, July, and November.)*
4. What can we do to help those souls? *(Pray for them.)*
5. When could we pray for these souls? *(Each time we pray, but especially as we approach an upcoming special Service for the Departed)*
6. Why is it necessary for us to remember to pray for those who have died or passed on? *(In praying for them, we pray that the congregation will be a place where they can feel welcome to come. We also pray that our hearts can be filled with love for all souls.)*
7. Does everyone die or pass on someday? *(No – not everyone, because one day the Lord will return and if we have proven ourselves through our good works, by the grace of God we will go with the Lord Jesus to the place that God has prepared for us.)*
8. What does it mean to "prepare our hearts" for the Service for the Departed? How do we accomplish this? *(Answers may vary; we want to have a peaceful heart and do our very best to stay away from the things that might cause our heart to be anything but peaceful. This includes what we watch/see, what we listen to, how we behave at home, praying, etc.)*

Application to Real Life

Grades K-2

When Can We Pray?

Enjoy a healthy snack together. While the children are eating, make a class list of times and reasons why we can pray. Use your easel paper or a poster board, and title it “When Can We Pray?” Examples may include:

When we are sad

When we are happy

When we need help

To say thank you

Before we eat

Before we go to bed

Be sure to post the list in class where you can refer back to it as needed.

Airplane Prayers

See: www.kidssundayschool.com → Preschool → Activities → “Airplane Prayers”

Please see the above referenced website for detailed instructions. You will need tables, chairs, blocks or other assorted toys, and an “airplane prayers map” (see website to print). This activity will take about 15-20 minutes, so you will need to allow enough time at the end of class to complete it. This activity is a fun way to teach children about praying for others. You will use the objects (as described in the activity) to create your own airplane and pretend to fly to faraway places, marking your destinations on your map along the way. When you return home again, you will talk with the children about what kinds of prayers the people of the areas they visited might need. Then pray together for the people in those areas, being specific according to the children’s responses during the discussion. This activity will help the children to become more aware of others in the world around them, and to remember to pray for them too.

Grades 3-5

Remind the children that we can all pray not matter what we are going through in our lives. We can pray to God anywhere, anytime, about anything. The memory verse tells us that our prayers are powerful and that they can make things happen. When we pray, we want to remember to (list these on the easel or white board, have the children write these down or have them pre-printed for the children to take with them):

1. PRAISE God
2. THANK God
3. Pray for OTHERS
4. Pray for ME
5. Ask God for FORGIVENESS for the specific things we have done wrong, and for His help so that we may “do better”.

Allow the children time to go and find a quiet place in the church and pray to God. Encourage them to especially pray for those that are no longer with us on this Earth as we approach the upcoming service for the departed.

Memory Work Fun

1. Recite the memory verse. Then explain what it means in your own words.
2. Recite and/or review the 23rd Psalm.
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.

All Ages**“What can YOU pray for?” Poster Activity:**

Before class, have hands cut out of construction paper (you can usually purchase these pre-cut at teacher stores, Christian stores, or sometimes even office supply stores on the teacher isle). Discuss with the children what kind of things they might pray for. On each of the hands, write a child’s idea for prayer. Then allow the children to use glue sticks to add their praying hand to a class poster (use a large piece of paper or poster board) titled “What Can YOU Pray For?”.

Prayer Chain

Make a prayer chain of people that the children can pray for. You will need many strips of colored paper. On each strip, have the children write down someone (or a group of people) they can pray for. Add it to the chain using a stapler or glue stick. Children can take their chain home and add to it (even with their family) and save it for the next service, or you may choose to make a class chain to hang in the Sunday school area.

Grades K-2**Make Prayer Mats:**

See: www.kidssundayschool.com → Preschool → Crafts → Prayer Mats

You will need a small carpet sample for each child, or a plain solid colored welcome mat will work as well for this activity. You will also need stickers, permanent markers, and paint. Please see the above website for detailed instructions. The children will make their own prayer mats to take home and use beside their bed at home to kneel on and to remind them to pray to God each day. Remember to keep the conversation going as you work. You may also wish to put the memory verse or message statement on your prayer mats as well. Be creative and have fun!

“Duck-Duck-Prayer” Game:

This game is just like Duck-Duck-Goose, only this time you will reinforce the concept of prayer. The child who ends up being “it” must first tell one thing he/she learned about prayer in today’s class, or they might also tell one thing they will pray for.

Telephone Game:

Play telephone with the children with simple phrases they can repeat. Examples could be “God loves us all” or “I can say the Lord’s Prayer”. Explain that when we pray, it is important to be clear so God can hear what we are saying to him.



Activity Ideas - Continued

Choose One

Grades 3-5

“Let the Prayers Begin” Skit

See: www.kidssundayschool.com → Grade school → skits → “Let the Prayers Begin”

You will need copies of each of the three prayer skits and four puppets for this activity. You may also choose to use other props after reading the skits. Please see the above website for the skits and detailed instructions. After each skit you will ask the same three questions about prayer: What did they pray for? What can learn about prayer from the skit? When could we pray a similar prayer in our own lives?

After the skits, remind the children that there are many times that we can pray each day. It doesn't matter where we pray or when exactly we pray, just as long as we DO pray to God each day. He wants to hear from us and He is there to help us.

“Answers Without Speaking”

See: www.kidssundayschool.com → Grade School → Activities → “Answers without Speaking”

You will need a cup of water, a piece of fruit, a hand drawn map of your church, a picture of a stop sign (see website above) and some index cards for this activity. This activity will demonstrate for the children how God answers our prayers without speaking by having the children communicate with each other without speaking and using various objects instead. Please see the above website for detailed instructions.

Journal

Optional

Grades K-2

What are some things you are praying for or want to pray for? Draw pictures in your journal or write about those things.

Grades 3-5 (choose one)

What are some ways you could improve how you pray to God? (Do you need to praise Him more? Ask less for things for yourself? Do you need to prayer for others more? Maybe you need to be less “automatic” and pray more from your heart?) Write about it.

What are you praying for right now in your life or what do you think you need to be praying for right now in your life? Write about it.

Homework Ideas

- Read at home with a grownup the lesson **Jesus is Born** (Luke 2:1-20).
- Learn the memory verse: *“For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.”* --Luke 2:11 (NKJV)
- Work on memorizing commandment #_____.
- (Optional for younger children) Complete the **Jesus is Born** coloring and activity sheet as your parents read you the Sunday School Lesson. Return your coloring page for a sticker.
- (Optional for older children) What is the best gift you ever received? Be ready to share in class.

Other Resources

www.kidssundayschool.com → Grade School → Lessons → Scroll Down to “Spiritual Life” - Prayer

www.daniellesplace.com → Search the Resource Room for “Prayer”



Name: _____

Jesus is Born



"For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior,
who is Christ the Lord." --Luke 2:11 (NKJV)



Take Home Page: F10. Prayer

Today I learned...

Today your child learned that **we can pray to God anywhere, anytime, about anything, AND He wants to hear from us!** The children examined what James wrote about prayer in the Bible. They also talked about how prayer is a way we can speak to God and draw near to Him.

Help me learn my memory verse...

“But when you pray, go away by yourself, shut the door behind you, and pray to your Father in private.” (Matthew 6:6)

Ask me...

1. When does James say we should pray? (When we are....)
2. Why do you think we should pray for each other?
3. If you know someone is really having a hard time or a bad day, what can we ALWAYS do for them?

Live Your Faith...

Praying is described as the “breathing of the soul.” It is necessary for us to pray. If we do not pray, we do not have a living faith. A prayer without faith is also not a real prayer. When we pray, we experience God’s presence and believe that He hears as well as answers our prayers. A prayer should include adoration and worship, thanks, petitions, and intercessions. Our knowledge of God’s greatness prompts us to worship and adore Him. We should give thanks for everything that has been given to us spiritually through His word, grace and the sacraments. We should also give thanks for the gifts we receive in our natural lives (such as food, clothing and accommodation). We bring all our concerns to God in our petitions. Such concerns may be in regard to strengthening our faith, angel protection, or help in daily life. The most important petition is with regard to the return of Christ and our longing to be accepted in grace at that moment. When we intercede for another person, we express our love towards our family or neighbor and even those in the beyond. Prayer strengthens faith and trust in God and provides the assurance of security in God. After praying, we can be sure that all our concerns now lie in the hand of God.

Ideas for Discussion Prayer is an opportunity for us to feel close to God.

As a family, discuss specific petitions and intercessions that can be included in your family prayers. Make a list together and use that list during your family prayer time this week.

F11. Jesus is Born

Luke 2:1-20, Matthew 2:1-12

Learning Objectives

1. The children will be able to retell the events surrounding the birth of Jesus.
2. The children will recognize that Jesus is the Son of God and that He was sent to be our Savior.
3. The children will be able to verbalize that we are waiting for Jesus to return.

Memory Verse: *“For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior,
who is Christ the Lord.” -- Luke 2:11 (NKJV)*

Getting Started

Choose One

All Ages

Census Card Activity

Adapted from www.kidssundayschool.com

As the children arrive, give them an index card that is prepared as seen below. Have the children complete the card. When everyone is finished, use the whiteboard or easel to tally the different categories (age, boy, girl, state they were born in). The children can also keep a tally on the back of their index card. Explain to them that this activity is similar to a census that would occur today in our country. A census occurs every 10 years in the United States to help the government keep track of all kinds of things about the people who live here. In today’s lesson, there also was a census happening in Israel that caused Mary and Joseph to have to travel back to their hometown to be counted properly. Continue with the lesson.

Name: _____
Boy: _____ Girl: _____
State you were born in: _____
Birthday: _____
Current Age: _____



“Caesar Says” Game

See: <http://children.ccm.com/curriculum/> → NT Teacher Guide → Page 1 → “Birth of Jesus” → Page 2

This game is just like “Simon says”. Have all the children in class stand up facing you. Explain that every time you say, “Caesar Says” they need to copy an action demonstrated for them by you. If you don't say “Caesar Says” and they still do your command then they have to sit down until the game is over. Make the actions you model for the children as silly as possible; it will be a reference point for the lesson.

When you are finished, sit the children down and remind them of the silly things they had to do to stay in the game, all because “Caesar Says.” Explain to them that during the time of Caesar Augustus, people had to do what “Caesar Says” just to stay alive. Caesar was master of the world, and it was in those days that Jesus was born. It was one of the darkest hours our world has ever known. No one could choose or decide things for themselves; no one could disagree with Caesar. He said that everyone had to be enrolled and counted in order to be taxed; and everyone had to obey. It wasn't enough to write a letter to be counted. Each person had to go to the place of his or her family origin.

Object Talk – “How does it belong?”

For this getting started activity, you will need to bring in various items or pictures that have to do with the lesson and show them one by one to the children. Have the students tell you the relevance of the item to the lesson. Items could include, plastic or stuffed animals, a picture of a donkey, paper wrapped with ribbon as scroll (to represent the law), plastic hotels from a Monopoly game, a ring (Mary's engagement), a pacifier, a small blanket, a small bale of hay, etc. If the children don't know what the object has to do with the story, set the object aside and see if they figure it out as you continue with the lesson.

Bible Lesson with Discussion Questions

Message: *We are waiting for Jesus to return.*

Luke 2:1-20

¹ In those days, Caesar Augustus made a law. It required that a list be made of everyone in the whole Roman world. ² It was the first time a list was made of the people while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ All went to their own towns to be listed.

⁴ So Joseph went also. He went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea. That is where Bethlehem, the town of David, was. Joseph went there because he belonged to the family line of David. ⁵ He went there with Mary to be listed. Mary was engaged to him. She was expecting a baby.

⁶ While Joseph and Mary were there, the time came for the child to be born. ⁷ She gave birth to her first baby. It was a boy. She wrapped him in large strips of cloth. Then she placed him in a manger. There was no room for them in the inn.

Angels Appear to the Shepherds

⁸ There were shepherds living out in the fields nearby. It was night, and they were looking after their sheep.

⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them. And the glory of the Lord shone around them. They were terrified.

¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy. It is for all the people.

¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is Christ the Lord. ¹² Here is how you will know I am telling you the truth. You will find a baby wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger."

Bible Lesson with Discussion Questions - Continued

¹³ Suddenly a large group of angels from heaven also appeared. They were praising God. They said, ¹⁴ "May glory be given to God in the highest heaven! And may peace be given to those he is pleased with on earth!"

¹⁵ The angels left and went into heaven. Then the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem. Let's see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph and the baby. The baby was lying in the manger. ¹⁷ After the shepherds had seen him, they told everyone. They reported what the angel had said about this child. ¹⁸ All who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.

¹⁹ But Mary kept all these things like a secret treasure in her heart. She thought about them over and over. ²⁰ The shepherds returned. They gave glory and praise to God. Everything they had seen and heard was just as they had been told.

Matthew 2 ~ The Wise Men Visit Jesus

Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea. This happened while Herod was king of Judea. After Jesus' birth, Wise Men from the east came to Jerusalem. They asked, "Where is the child who has been born to be king of the Jews? When we were in the east, we saw his star. Now we have come to worship him."

When King Herod heard about it, he was very upset. Everyone in Jerusalem was troubled too. So Herod called together all the chief priests of the people. He also called the teachers of the law. He asked them where the Christ was going to be born. "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied. "This is what the prophet has written. He said, 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are certainly not the least important among the towns of Judah. A ruler will come out of you. He will be the shepherd of my people Israel.' "

Then Herod called for the Wise Men secretly. He found out from them exactly when the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem. He said, "Go! Make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, bring me a report. Then I can go and worship him too."

After the Wise Men had listened to the king, they went on their way. The star they had seen when they were in the east went ahead of them. It finally stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were filled with joy. The Wise Men went to the house. There they saw the child with his mother Mary. They bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures. They gave him gold, incense and myrrh. But God warned them in a dream not to go back to Herod. So they returned to their country on a different road.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why did Joseph and Mary go from their home in Nazareth and walk all the way to Bethlehem? *(Because Caesar Augustus issued a law for everyone to go to their hometown for a census.)*
2. Why was Jesus born in a stable and then placed in a manger? See verse 7. *(Because there was no more room at any of the Inns.)*
3. What is a manger? *(A feeding trough for animals - or have someone look up manger in a Bible dictionary.)*
4. How do you think Joseph and Mary felt about spending the night where they kept animals? *(Discuss together. Perhaps they felt disappointed, but maybe thankful they had someplace to stay.)*
5. Jesus the Savior of the whole world wasn't born in a beautiful palace like other kings. Why do you think that was? *(Discuss together.)*
6. What did the shepherds do after they saw Jesus for themselves? *(They spread the word about Jesus and glorified God.)*
7. Wise men came from the east looking for Jesus. What did they follow to find him? *(A Star.)*
8. What did the visitors bring with them? *(Treasures or gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.)*
9. What did they want to do when they found Jesus? *(To worship Him and bring Him gifts.)*

Bible Lesson with Discussion Questions - Continued

10. How would you have worshipped the Baby Jesus if you had been there when He was born? (*Discuss. Answers will vary.*)
11. The prophets told about Jesus coming a long time ago, long before Jesus was born. What are we waiting for today? (*Jesus to come again for us.*)
12. What do you think you would do or want to say to Jesus when He comes again? (*Discuss together.*)

Application to Real Life

All Ages

Enjoy a healthy snack together as you discuss the homework. What was the greatest gift each child ever received? Allow them to share. Then talk about the gifts and talents that each child was born with. Go around the room and identify one gift each child has. (Be prepared and think about what you might say before class.) Then ask the children to think about how they can use that gift that God gave them to give back to Him by serving Him? Try to think outside the box. How can they use that gift in the congregation AND outside of the congregation, and bring praise to God? Remind the children that we want to use our gifts to serve God and show the love of Jesus to others in our lives EVERY DAY until Jesus comes again. That is what God wants us to do. Review the message statement together.

Memory Work Fun

1. Recite the memory verse.
2. Practice finding the memory verse and/or Bible text in their Bible!
3. Play a game to review a commandment – pass/toss a bean bag or stuffed animal – whoever gets it says the next word.
4. Lead the class in a short prayer, thanking God for giving us the wonderful gift of His Son.

Activity Ideas

Choose One

All Ages

A Jesus Baby Book

Did your mom or dad keep a baby book for you? You can make a baby book for Jesus. The children will draw pictures of things they have learned about Jesus from today's lesson. Use Bible verses that tell about each picture. (Just put the verses at the bottom, not all the words. Let the picture be the words.) After the pictures are completed, stack the papers together and punch two holes on one end. (You may want to use heavy card stock or a similar material for the front and back covers of the baby book.) Thread a long piece of yarn through the holes and tie it to hold the papers together.

A Jesus Baby Book - Continued

Sample Verses the children could illustrate:

1. "The angel greeted her..." --Luke 1:28 (Draw a picture of young Mary with the angel Gabriel)
2. "He went there with Mary to be listed..." --Luke 2:5 (Draw a picture of Mary riding on the donkey with Joseph on their way to Bethlehem to be counted.)
3. "You will find a baby wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger." --Luke 2:12
4. "Suddenly, a large group of angels from heaven also appeared." --Luke 2:13 (Draw the angels)
5. "So, they (the shepherds) hurried off and found Mary and Joseph and the baby." --Luke 2:16 (Draw the shepherds with some animals)
6. "After Jesus' birth, Wise Men from the east came to Jerusalem." --Matthew 2:1
7. "The Wise Men went to the house. There they saw the child and His mother Mary." --Matthew 2:11

Grades K-2**Manger Mobile**

Using coat hangers, string and construction paper, make a mobile of the key events in the story of Jesus' birth. Write or draw the events on the paper. Then cut them out and use string to hang them from the coat hanger. Be creative and have fun! Remember to keep the conversation going.

Pass the Ornament Game

You will need an ornament (not glass) or a small object that the children can easily pass to each other and music (preferably Christmas) to play in the background. Tell the children to sit in a circle on the floor. Give one of them the small object. Explain that while the music is playing, they are to pass the object around the circle. When the music stops, the person with the object in their hands should tell one small part of the Bible story. Each time the music stops, the person with the object must tell the next part of the Bible story.

Grades 3-5**"How do YOU Worship?"**

Talk with the children about the word "WORSHIP". Write it on your easel or white board. Ask the children to tell you what they think it means. As they do, write down their responses all around the word "worship" that is on your easel. Then share with them the following (write down the definition in a different color on your easel):

What is Worship? – an expression of awe, it's what you do each day to honor God for who He is, what He does, etc.

Is there a "right" way to worship? NO! There are lots of ways to worship God, and we may all choose to do it differently. It's not just music or singing either.

Use the story to show different ways to worship God. List on your easel or white board the following four names. Look up in your Bibles (either as a group or have the verses written on index cards and let the children find different verses on their own) each of the verses to see how each of these people chose to *worship* the Lord Jesus.

Activity Ideas - Continued

Choose One

“How do YOU Worship?” – Continued

Mary – Luke 1:46-55 (singing) and Luke 2:19 (in her thoughts)

Angels – Luke 2:13-14 (singing praises)

Shepherds – Luke 2:17 (shared the news with others)

Wise Men – Matthew 2:11 (bowed and worshipped, brought GIFTS to share)

Remind the children that there are many ways to worship God, to honor Him each day. God wants us to make the time each day to worship Him. (Review the message statement and or memory verse.)

Drama Time – “The Birth of a Savior”

Have the children do a skit acting out today’s story and the key points of it. You will need some simple props to make things more fun and interesting (robes, scarves, baby doll, shoebox for manger). See the attached script at the end of this lesson.

Journal

Optional

Grades K-2

If you could give Jesus a gift, what would it be? Write about it and/or draw a picture of your gift.

Grades 3-5 (choose one)

If you could give a gift to Jesus, what would it be? Why? Be specific in your answer and write about it.

Why do you think Jesus is referred to as the greatest gift? Write about it.

Think about your own gifts and talents. How can you use your gifts to give back and serve God? Write about it.

Homework Ideas

- Read at home with a grownup the lesson titled: **The Wise Men/Escape to Egypt** (Matthew 2:1-23).
- Learn the memory verse: *“...We have come to worship Him.”*
--Matthew 2:2
- Work on memorizing commandment #_____.
- Complete the **The Wise Men/Escape to Egypt** coloring sheet as your parents read you the Sunday School Lesson. Return your coloring page for a sticker.
- Is there someone famous that you really admire? Bring in a picture or write down their name and bring it to class to share.

Other Resources

www.daniellesplace.com → Resource Room → Search “Christmas” or “Worship”

<http://children.ccm.com/curriculum/> → NT Support Curriculum → Page 1 → “Birth of Jesus”

Activity - Role Play: Birth of a Savior

- Narrator: Caesar Augustus issued a law. Everyone in the country was to return to the place where their family had originally come from to record and register their names. Mary and Joseph travelled to Bethlehem.
- Mary: (Very pregnant, tired and looking weary.) Joseph, I am so tired from our travels, I need to find a place where we can rest for the night.
- Joseph: Maybe one of these places will have a room for us.
- Narrator: Joseph went to inn after inn. All of them turned him away. They simply did not have room.
- Joseph: There is no room anywhere for us, Mary. We will have to find somewhere else to go for the night.
- Mary: We better find something quickly; I think the baby is coming!
- Narrator: Mary and Joseph found a stable where they rested for the night. Mary gave birth to Jesus. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him a manger. Meanwhile, that same night in the fields near Bethlehem, some shepherds were guarding their sheep. Suddenly, a light appeared and it became bright as day.
- Shepherd 1: What was that? (The other 2 shepherds shrug their shoulders.)
- Narrator: The shepherds became afraid when an angel appeared to them.
- Angel 1: Do not be afraid. Today in Bethlehem a Savior has been born. You will find the infant wrapped in swaddling clothes laying in a manger.
- Angel 2: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!
- Shepherd 2: We better go to see what this is about.
- Shepherd 3: Yes, let us go find the Savior!
- Narrator: The shepherds followed the star and found everything just as the angel described it to them. Afterwards, they told everyone about their experiences.



Name: _____

The Wise Men/Escape to Egypt



"...We have come to worship Him."
--Matthew 2:2



Take Home Page: F11. Jesus is Born

Today I learned...

Today your child learned that we should **we are waiting for Jesus to return** to us again. The children explored the story of Jesus' birth. They also were reminded that Jesus is the Son of God and was sent to be our Savior.

Help me learn my memory verse...

*"For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior,
who is Christ the Lord." (Luke 2:11)*

Ask me...

1. Tell me what happened when Jesus was born.
2. How would you have worshiped Jesus if you were there when He was born?
3. What do you think you would want to say to Jesus when He comes again?

Live Your Faith...

When Jesus was born, God used the light of a very bright star to show others the way to find the baby Jesus. Our actions, the things we do and say, and how we treat others all can shine a light and draw others to the love of Jesus too. How can you share the love of Jesus with others this Christmas season? What can your family do? Maybe you can help a family or child in need or do something kind for your neighbors. Decide together on one way your family can be a light and share Jesus' love in the next few weeks. Pray that you would also be able to share the story of Jesus with others too.



F12. The Wise Men/Escape to Egypt

Matthew 2:1-23

Learning Objectives

1. The children will be able to recall the story of Jesus' birth.
2. The children will identify specific ways that they can worship God and His Son each day of their lives.

Memory Verse: *"...We have come to worship Him." --Matthew 2:2*

Getting Started

Choose One

All Ages

"Celebrate!"

As the children arrive, give them a party hat and/or a noise maker. You can also use simple decorations to create an environment of celebration. As the questions pour in, just let everyone know that today is a time to celebrate. (You will fill them in later in the lesson.) Recruit extra volunteers to join in on the big celebration as you learn about worship in today's lesson.

Grades 3-5

"The Magi Search for Jesus" Puzzle

www.kidssundayschool.com → grade school → puzzles → Word Search → "The Magi Search for Jesus"

You will need to print out one sheet for each child and have pencils ready as the children enter class. This is a word simple word search with words that are relevant to the story of the Wise Men. Be sure to set a time limit. Reassure the children that they will have more time at the end of class, etc. to complete their word search if needed.

Bible Lesson with Discussion Questions

Message: *Make time to worship Him every day.*

Matthew 2 ~ The Wise Men Visit Jesus

Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea. This happened while Herod was king of Judea. After Jesus' birth, Wise Men from the east came to Jerusalem. They asked, "Where is the child who has been born to be king of the Jews? When we were in the east, we saw his star. Now we have come to worship him."

When King Herod heard about it, he was very upset. Everyone in Jerusalem was troubled too. So Herod called together all the chief priests of the people. He also called the teachers of the law. He asked them where the Christ was going to be born. "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied. "This is what the prophet has written. He said, 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are certainly not the least important among the towns of Judah. A ruler will come out of you. He will be the shepherd of my people Israel.' "

Then Herod called for the Wise Men secretly. He found out from them exactly when the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem. He said, "Go! Make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, bring me a report. Then I can go and worship him too."

Bible Lesson with Discussion Questions - *continued*

After the Wise Men had listened to the king, they went on their way. The star they had seen when they were in the east went ahead of them. It finally stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were filled with joy. The Wise Men went to the house. There they saw the child with his mother Mary. They bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures. They gave him gold, incense and myrrh. But God warned them in a dream not to go back to Herod. So they returned to their country on a different road.

Jesus' Family Escapes to Egypt

When the Wise Men had left, Joseph had a dream. In the dream an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph. "Get up!" the angel said. "Take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you to come back. Herod is going to search for the child. He wants to kill him."

So Joseph got up. During the night, he left for Egypt with the child and his mother Mary. 15 They stayed there until King Herod died. So the words the Lord had spoken through the prophet came true. He had said, "I brought my son out of Egypt.

Herod realized that the Wise Men had tricked him. So he became very angry. He gave orders about Bethlehem and the area around it. He ordered all the boys two years old and under to be killed. This agreed with the time when the Wise Men had seen the star. 17 In this way, the words Jeremiah the prophet spoke came true. He had said,

"A voice is heard in Ramah. It's the sound of crying and deep sadness. Rachel is crying over her children. She refuses to be comforted, because they are gone."

Jesus' Family Returns to Nazareth

After Herod died, Joseph had a dream while he was still in Egypt. In the dream an angel of the Lord appeared to him. The angel said, "Get up! Take the child and his mother. Go to the land of Israel. The people who were trying to kill the child are dead."

So Joseph got up. He took the child and his mother Mary back to the land of Israel. But then he heard that Archelaus was king of Judea. Archelaus was ruling in place of his father Herod. This made Joseph afraid to go there. Joseph had been warned in a dream. So he went back to the land of Galilee instead. There he lived in a town called Nazareth. So what the prophets had said about Jesus came true. They had said that he would be called a Nazarene.

Discussion Questions:

1. Wise men came from the east looking for Jesus. What did they follow to find him? (*A Star.*)
2. What did the visitors bring with them? (*Treasures or gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.*)
3. What did they want to do when they found Jesus? (*To worship Him and bring Him gifts.*)
4. What does worship mean? (*Discuss together. See Activity below "How do YOU Worship" for discussion guidance.*)
5. How would you have worshipped the Baby Jesus if you had been there when He was born? (*Discuss. Answers will vary.*)

Application to Real Life

Share a healthy snack together. Then proceed with the “Love Without End” Object talk (See: www.kidssundayschool.com → grade school → objects → “Love without end” for details.) You will need a stuffed animal or similar object for this discussion. Through the discussion, you will compare getting a new toy and then setting it aside to how we sometimes set God aside. When we set a toy aside, we spend less and less time playing with it. When we set God aside, we spend less and less time praising and worshipping Him. We also may give less and less of our love to Him. God wants us to take the time to worship Him EVERY DAY, no matter what. In a small way or a very big way, we can find the time to worship Him. (Review the message statement and memory verse.)

Memory Work Fun

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 Luke located? In the Old or New Testament? Practice finding it together.
3. Recite the memory verse.
4. Lead the class in a short prayer thanking God for sending baby Jesus and for giving us a special time to celebrate His birth each year.

Activity Ideas

Choose One

All Ages

Role Play: The Wise Men Follow the Star

Before Class: Gather the props for the play (star template). Print the star. Color and decorate the star. Print a copy of the play for each character. (See pages at the end of this lesson for the script and star template.)

A Jesus Baby Book

Did your mom or dad keep a baby book for you? You can make a baby book for Jesus. The children will draw pictures of things they have learned about Jesus from today’s lesson. Use Bible verses that tell about each picture. (Just put the verses at the bottom, not all the words. Let the picture be the words.) After the pictures are completed, stack the papers together and punch two holes on one end. (You may want to use heavy card stock or a similar material for the front and back covers of the baby book.) Thread a long piece of yarn through the holes and tie it to hold the papers together.

Sample Verses the children could illustrate:

1. “The angel greeted her...” --Luke 1:28 (Draw a picture of young Mary with the angel Gabriel)
2. “He went there with Mary to be listed...” --Luke 2:5 (Draw a picture of Mary riding on the donkey with Joseph on their way to Bethlehem to be counted.)
3. “You will find a baby wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger.” --Luke 2:12
4. “Suddenly, a large group of angels from heaven also appeared.” --Luke 2:13 (Draw the angels)
5. “So they (the shepherds) hurried off and found Mary and Joseph and the baby.” --Luke 2:16 (Draw the shepherds with some animals)
6. “After Jesus’ birth, Wise Men from the east came to Jerusalem.” --Matthew 2:1
7. “The Wise Men went to the house. There they saw the child and His mother Mary.” --Matthew 2:11

“How do YOU Worship?”

Talk with the children about the word “WORSHIP”. Write it on your easel or white board. Ask the children to tell you what they think it means. As they do, write down their responses all around the word “worship” that is on your easel. Then share with them the following (write down the definition in a different color on your easel):

What is Worship? – an expression of awe, it’s what you do each day to honor God for who He is, what He does, etc.

Is there a “right” way to worship? NO! There are lots of ways to worship God, and we may all choose to do it differently. It’s not just music or singing either.

Use the story to show different ways to worship God. List on your easel or white board the following four names. Look up in your Bibles (either as a group or have the verses written on index cards and let the children find different verses on their own) each of the verses to see how each of these people chose to *worship* the Lord Jesus.

Mary – Luke 1:46-55 (singing) and Luke 2:19 (in her thoughts)

Angels – Luke 2:13-14 (singing praises)

Shepherds – Luke 2:17 (shared the news with others)

Wise Men – Matthew 2:11 (bowed and worshipped, brought GIFTS to share)

Remind the children that there are many ways to worship God, to honor Him each day. God wants us to make the time each day to worship Him. (Review the message statement and or memory verse.)

Grades 3-5**“Who Gets the Glory?”**

See: www.kidsundayschool.com → Grade School → Activities → “Who Gets the Glory?”

You will need to print copies of the activity page for each child before class. The children will read through each of five examples and distinguish “who gets the credit” in each situation. This exercise will help bring to their attention how easy it is to give ourselves all the credit or all the glory. We want to give the credit to others, especially to God. We want to worship Him through our thoughts and our words whenever given the opportunity.

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

Draw a picture of how you like to worship the Lord best. Write about it too.

Grades 3-5

What is your favorite way to worship God and Jesus? Why? Write about it.

Other Resources

www.daniellesplace.com → Resource Room → Search “Christmas” or “Worship”

<http://children.ccm.com/curriculum/> → NT Support Curriculum → Page 1 → “The Wise Men”/“Escape to Egypt”



Role Play: The Wise Men Follow the Star

Narrator 1: After Jesus was born, three wise men travelled to Jerusalem. *(The three wise men enter one side of the stage.)*

Wise Men 1: Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him.

Narrator 2: King Herod also heard of their enquiries. He was shocked and feared that his power might be taken from him. *(King Herod enters.)*

King Herod: High priest! Scribe! Come, I need to talk to both of you! *(The high priest and scribe come running to King Herod. Herod turns to speak to them.)* Do you know where Christ, this new King, will be born?

High Priest: According to one of the prophets, He is to be born in Bethlehem.

King Herod: Go get the wise men and bring them to me. *(The high priest and scribe go to the wise men.)*

Scribe: *(Speaking to the three wise men.)* Wise men! King Herod would like to speak to you. Come with us. *(The high priest and scribe bring the three wise men to King Herod.)*

Narrator 1: King Herod wanted to know when they first discovered the star.

King Herod: *(Speaking to the three wise men.)* Go to Bethlehem. When you have found the Child, please let me know. I would like to worship Him. *(The wise men nod their heads. King Herod, the high priest and scribe exit.)*

Narrator 2: The king had very different plans. He did not want to worship Jesus. Instead, he wanted to harm the Child so that He would not take his place as king. The wise men had no idea of the king's wicked plan, so they set out on their journey.



Role Play: The Wise Men Follow the Star

Narrator 1: *(The person holding the star picture enters, stands in the centre of the stage and holds the picture up over their head. The wise men walk around the stage. Mary and Joseph enter holding baby Jesus, stop and stand beside the star. The three wise men walk towards Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus.)* The three wise men followed the star to the young Child. They were filled with joy to find Mary, Joseph and Jesus.

Narrator 2: They fell down on their knees before the Child and worshipped Him. They gave Him gold, frankincense and myrrh as gifts. *(The three wise men fall to their knees and pretend to place their gifts beside baby Jesus. Once they have given their gifts, the three wise men exit the stage. Mary and Joseph fall asleep.)*

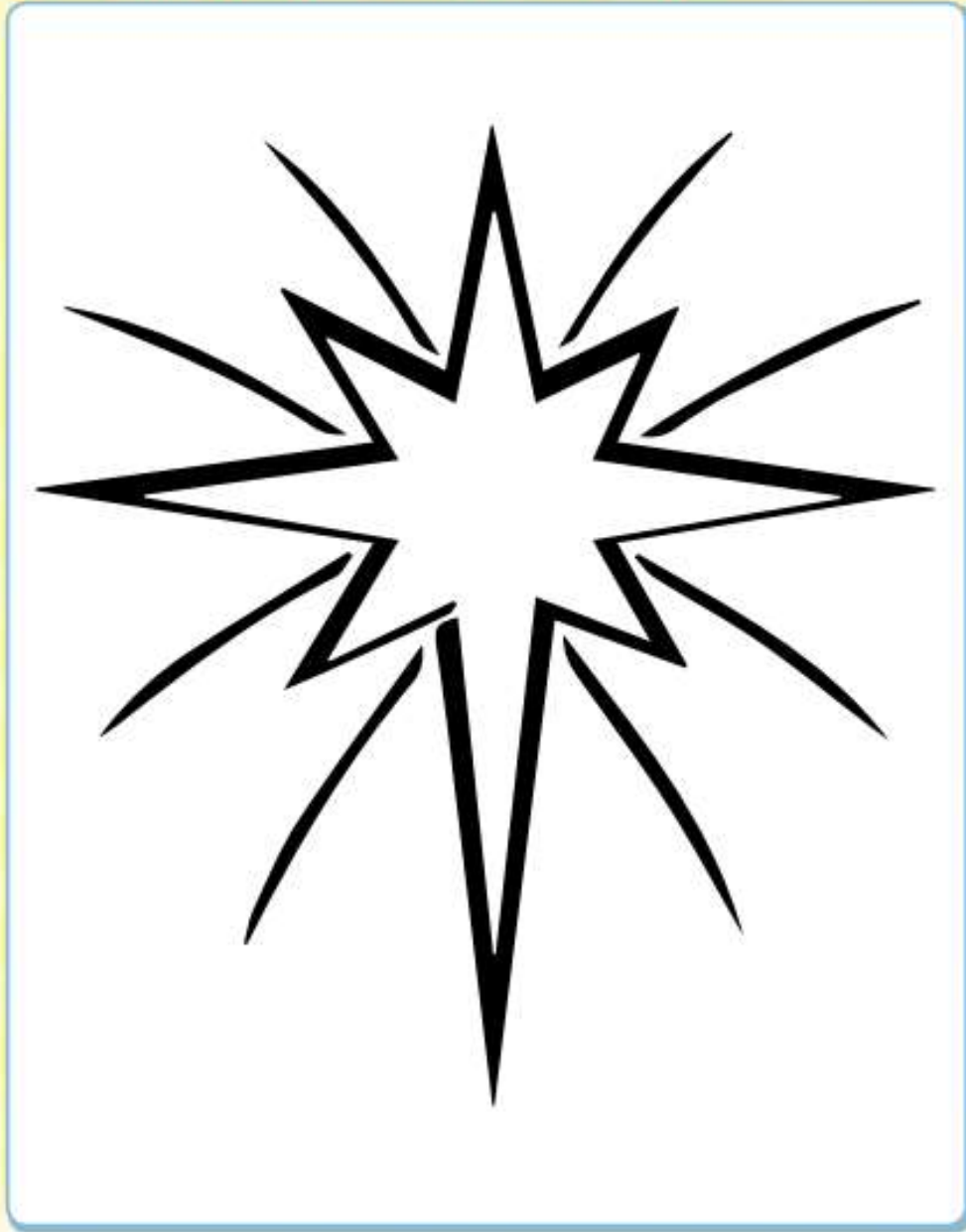
Narrator 1: In a dream, the wise men were warned not to report back to the king and to return home another way. When the wise men left, an angel also appeared to Joseph in a dream. *(The angel enters and goes to Joseph.)*

Angel: Take Mary and Joseph to Egypt and stay there until I come to you. The king wants to harm the Child.

Narrator 2: When Joseph woke up, he took Mary and Jesus to Egypt.



 **Role Play: The Wise Men Follow the Star**



Take Home Page: F12. The Wise Men/Escape to Egypt

Today I learned...

Today your child learned that God wants us to **make time to worship Him every day**. The children reviewed the story of Jesus' birth and how the wise men found Jesus. They also talked about specific ways they can worship God each day.

Help me learn my memory verse...

"...We have come to worship Him." --Matthew 2:2

Ask me...

1. How did the wise men find Jesus? What did they bring?
2. What did the wise men do when they finally found Jesus?
3. In what ways can we worship God each day?

Live Your Faith...

Spend time together singing your favorite songs from Sunday school or church or worship time. Try to do this every day this week, even if it's just one song each day. Talk with your child about how important it is to worship the Lord each day, and one easy way to do that is through songs and music. When you pray together, thank God for the gift of singing praises to Him.

