

THIS MONTH'S BIBLICAL THEME IS: *God is with us.*

Our stories this month reveal that God is always with His people. Even in times of human failure, God's presence remained steadfast, showing that He is not confined to a place or dependent on human actions. No matter what our circumstances are, God is with us.

Monthly Memory Verse: God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. (*Psalm 46:1*)

Solomon's Wisdom (1 Kings 3:3–15; 4:29–34)

David's son Solomon became king. Solomon asked for wisdom from God to govern Israel. God gave Solomon great wisdom, and his reign points to Jesus, our forever King.

Brite Idea: Every good gift is from God.

Solomon Builds the Temple (1 Kings 5–8)

Solomon began construction on God's temple. Once the temple was completed, God's glory filled it. Solomon thanked God for His presence and acknowledged that God couldn't be contained in a building.

Brite Idea: God is present.

The Kingdom Divides (1 Kings 11–12)

Solomon began to worship other gods. God told Solomon He would divide the kingdom and leave only a portion of the kingdom to David's family. Solomon's son, Rehoboam, made the people's burdens heavier, leading to rebellion and the division of Israel.

Brite Idea: God never gives up on us.

Elisha is Surrounded (2 Kings 6:8–23)

After Israel was divided, the Syrian king sought to capture the prophet Elisha with a large army. Through a series of miraculous events, God protected Elisha and used him to advise the Syrian king.

Brite Idea: God is working, even when we don't see it.

Esther (Esther 2–8)

Esther was an Israelite whose family had been exiled to Persia. Esther was chosen as the new queen but kept her Jewish identity a secret. God used Esther to save her people from danger.

Brite Idea: God always has a plan.



THIS MONTH'S UNIT TITLE IS: *Main Attraction*

No matter what exciting things might be going on around us, God is the "Main Attraction"! Each Bible story ultimately points back to God's presence and purpose. We can learn more about Him and who He is. Review the Brite Idea each week as kids learn how God is always with them and is ever-present in their lives.

Check out our Pinterest page for decorating ideas: <https://pin.it/6VhKHPNVy>.

Elementary PERSPECTIVES

THIS MONTH'S LEADER PERSPECTIVE TOPIC IS: *Building a Place to Belong*

The need to belong is fundamental for everyone and is an important component of building relationships with the kids in your group. Don't allow the busyness of leading a group to crowd out creating an intentional environment of belonging. Here's how:

THROUGHOUT THE MONTH, WE'LL EXPLORE THE FOLLOWING:



Be Prepared



Include Everyone



Use Kids' Names



Follow Up



Make It Personal

TEACHING KIDS ABOUT THE GOSPEL



The Gospel is the good news. God wants everyone to know this good news and not miss out on this invitation! Here's the Gospel in four main words: God, Us, Jesus, Trust.

- GOD** God is a loving God who is all-powerful and holy. He knows and sees everything, and rules over everything. God created all people in His image, and we are valuable to Him.
- US** But we have sinned, and our sin separates us from God. What is sin? Sin is anything we think, say, or do that disobeys God. The penalty for sin is death and separation from God forever.
- JESUS** But because God loves us so much, He sent His one and only Son, Jesus, to pay the penalty for our sin. Jesus died in our place. But He did not stay dead—He rose again three days later. Because of Jesus, we no longer have to be separated from God and we are offered the free gift of eternal life!
- TRUST** God gives salvation, rescuing us from our sin, to everyone who places their trust in Jesus as their Savior. What is trust? It means that we rely on what Jesus did. You cannot be saved from sin by doing good things, but only through what Jesus did for you.