



SOLOMON'S WISDOM

BIBLE PASSAGE: 1 Kings 3:3-15; 4:29-34

FOCUS VERSES: Ephesians 1:3; James 1:17; 2 Corinthians 9:11; Hebrews 13:16

Summary: David's son Solomon became king, keeping God's covenant with David. Solomon loved the Lord. God appeared to him in a dream, asking what Solomon wanted. Solomon requested wisdom to govern Israel, which pleased God. In addition to wisdom, God promised him riches and honor, emphasizing the importance of following Him. Solomon's reign brought prosperity, wisdom and peace to Israel. His wisdom was greater than any other person. Solomon's reign points towards Jesus, the forever King.



MONTHLY Memory Verse

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

(PSALM 46:1)



Every good gift is from God.

HE

WHY DOES GOD GIVE BLESSINGS TO HIS PEOPLE?

God loves His people so much and wants good for us. Every good thing comes from His grace and love.

WE

HOW CAN WE RESPOND TO GOD'S BLESSINGS?

We can be grateful for all God does. We can be humble, putting His desires and the needs of others before our own wants.

ME

HOW IS GOD INVITING ME TO RESPOND?

Kids will be given the opportunity to reflect on the truth they learned about God and respond accordingly.

Pray for each regular attendee by name. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Pray specifically for kids who are typically overlooked by others. Pray that they would be made to feel special and valued. Also pray for kids who are typically doing the "overlooking." Ask God to show them other kids who need to feel valued. Pray that these kids would work to make others feel included and special.

Before Kids Arrive

- Go through your supply tub and make sure you have all the supplies you need for the morning. (we do sometimes make mistakes 😊)

Arrival

Kids will be with their parents for worship and be dismissed to meet you in the Bridge Kids Lobby. During the kids blessing, come to the Bridge Kids Lobby and get your Attendance Book.

Welcome kids and verify you have all kids listed in the book (and that all kids ARE listed in the book. Any kids not listed will need to be checked in by the Welcome Desk).

Big Group

When prompted, take your group to the Big Group Room. If any brought their Bibles, have them place their names on the slips of paper and place in the proper container.

Please sit with your few and help them be good listeners.

After Big Group

Welcome the kids to your group.

Ask: What was the best part of your week? What was the worst part of your week?

Ask: How did God use those experiences to grow you as a disciple of Jesus?

Ask: How can I pray for you (write them on the journal page).

Start With Prayer Requests – this builds relationship.

You will pray at the end of the service



Leader TRAINING

LEADER TRAINING TOPIC: BE PREPARED

Teaching kids the truths of Jesus Christ is a great responsibility, and one of the greatest tools to help you create a place where each kid feels welcome is to be prepared.

- **Study your lesson all week.** We are all busy, but spending time in our lesson each day will help us meditate on it all week and stop us from doing last-minute prep when the kids are arriving.
- **Create a Plan.** Your curriculum is full of activities to support your lesson, but don't leave them up to chance. Create a plan of how the group time will flow so that when kids arrive, you are focused on engaging with kids and not stressed about the plan.
- **Arrive early.** We all feel special when we realize someone has been waiting to welcome us, but this can't happen if you run in as kids arrive. Make it a point to arrive early and set up your space so each kid has your full attention when they walk through the door.

NAVIGATING A BROKEN WORLD: DEFINING IDENTITY

In a 2019 survey, parents overwhelmingly identified personality and interests as the characteristics that defined their kids' identity.* Kids (and adults) sometimes struggle with defining their identity—who they are and how they want the world to view them. You may see preteens “try on” different personalities every other week as they emulate friends or social media influencers. In this week's lesson, kids will learn about Solomon who could have found his identity in riches or power, but in this portion of his life sought God's wisdom and blessing. Each week, look for opportunities to emphasize who we are in Christ and how that matters more than any worldly identity. In today's culture, these kids need constant reminders that the world can't define who they are—they are loved by God and created in His image.

ELEMENTARY GLOSSARY

Covenant: a very special promise

Wisdom: understanding a situation and knowing what to do

*For more resources on this topic, check out: <https://pin.it/7DENjStvp>

Small Group ROADMAP

1

BELONG (10 MINUTES)

Goal: For kids to experience God's love through a welcoming community

OVER/UNDER GIFT

SUPPLIES: Small wrapped present

OR

HEADS UP, GIFTS UP

SUPPLIES: 5 small gift bags

2

BELIEVE (10 MINUTES)

Goal: For kids to discover who God is by engaging with the Bible

PIPE CLEANER STRENGTH

SUPPLIES: Bibles, teaching slide, pipe cleaners (3 per kid)

OR

BLESSING BAG

SUPPLIES: Bible, large gift bag, paper (1 per kid), coloring supplies

3



DISCIPLESHIP DISCUSSION (10 MINUTES)

Goal: To engage kids in faith conversations that help them navigate a broken world with biblical wisdom

4

BECOME (10 MINUTES)

Goal: For kids to learn to follow Jesus by applying faith to their lives

WISDOM WHEEL

SUPPLIES: Bible, Take-Home page, coloring supplies, printable pages, scissors, brass brad (1 per kid)

OR

BLESSING TOOLBOX

SUPPLIES: Bible, Take-Home page, coloring supplies, printable pages, scissors

5



SMALL GROUP WRAP-UP (5 MINUTES)

SUPPLIES: Take-Home page, coloring supplies



PIPE CLEANER STRENGTH

SUPPLIES:

Bibles, teaching slide, pipe cleaners (3 per kid)

PREP:

Print or show the Memory Verse teaching slide (Image 03).

LEADER TIP:

To see an example, check out: <https://pin.it/1JFNTYE9S>.

ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS:

Prepare a few pipe cleaner people ahead of time for kids with fine motor difficulties. They can add the muscles themselves.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Lead kids to find Psalm 46:1 in their Bibles. Read the verse aloud together.
2. **Discuss:** What three blessings—or great things—does this verse tell us that God does for us?
3. Pass out three pipe cleaners to each kid.
4. Recite the verse together.
5. **Say:** God is our strength and our refuge! A refuge means a safe place.
6. **Say:** Let's use these pipe cleaners to make some pipe cleaner people with some muscles to help us remember that God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.
7. Assist kids in making stick people out of pipe cleaners, then instruct them to wrap one pipe cleaner around each arm making it look like muscles.
8. Divide kids into pairs and have them take turns reciting their verse together using their pipe cleaner people they made.
9. Recite the verse together again as a group.
10. **Discuss:** Why does God give blessings to His people?
11. **Say:** God loves His people so much and wants good for us. Every good thing comes from His grace and love!
12. **Discuss:** How did God bless Solomon?

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

God is our refuge and strength, and He blesses His people because He loves us so much.



Discipleship DISCUSSION

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR FOLLOWERS OF JESUS?

Discuss: What does this story show us about how God is a promise keeper?

Say: God promised David that his family would always be on the throne. God first kept that promise through David's son Solomon. God would always keep that promise and Jesus would come through David and Solomon's family!

BUT WHAT ABOUT... DEFINING IDENTITY?

Discuss: If someone asked "Who are you?", how would you describe yourself?

Discuss: Who determines who we are? Who determines our identity?

Discuss: What does God have to say about that?

Say: You may have heard people say, "You can be anyone you want to be." That may be true for some things. For instance, you can pick your interests or what music you like or what sport you want to play. Also, your likes and interests might change over time. But God tells us there are some things about who we are that will never change. The world may say you were made by accident, but the Bible says God created you uniquely and wonderfully. The world may say you are on your own, but the Bible says you belong to God. The world may say you aren't good enough, but the Bible says that God deeply loves you. First John 3:1 says: See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. Even when the rest of the world is confusing and it's even hard to understand ourselves, we can remember that we are God's precious, loved children.



BLESSING TOOLBOX

SUPPLIES:

Bible, Take-Home page, coloring supplies, printable pages, scissors

PREP:

Print the Take-Home page (1 per kid).
Print the printable pages and cut out.

LEADER TIP:

Use a real toolbox and tools if possible!

ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS:

Help kids make connections between their tools and how to bless others. They might have trouble thinking on the spot!

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Read:** Hebrews 13:16.
2. **Discuss:** What should we do with the things (blessings) that God has given us?
3. **Discuss:** How can we respond to God's blessings?
4. **Say:** We can be grateful for all God does. We can be humble, putting His desires and the needs of others before our own wants.
5. **Discuss:** How did Solomon respond to God's blessings?
6. *Pull out the toolbox and tools printable pages.*
7. **Discuss:** What are tools used for?
8. **Say:** Tools help people do different things! God has blessed us in different ways. He has given us different "tools" to use as we love and serve others.
9. **Discuss:** What are some blessings God has given you?
10. *Invite volunteers to pick a printable tool and share a blessing from God. Have them then share a way they can respond to that blessing.*
11. **Say:** God has blessed us all! We can use those blessings to be "tools" for others. Let's pray for God's help in giving us grateful hearts and ready hands to serve those around us.
12. *Invite kids to pray that God would give them a grateful heart for all His blessings and give them ready hands to serve others and put the needs of others before their own wants.*

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

Today we learned that every gift comes from God. As we learn truths about God, we can respond to Him. We can tell Him our feelings, we can pray or we can decide to do something or change something.

Lead kids to the "Me Question" box on their Take-Home pages and discuss possible responses. Have kids choose a prompt and write/draw their response.



Wrap-Up

CHOOSE YOUR Challenge

Say: We want to respond to God and remember what He has taught us today. We also want to use what He's taught us during the coming week. As we become more like Jesus, our lives change!

Read the challenges from the Take-Home page aloud. Ask kids to mark which one they want to choose for this week.

SUPPLIES:

Take-Home page, coloring supplies

PREP:

Print the Take-Home page (1 per kid).



PRAYER

God, thank You for all Your good gifts! Help us to be humble as we use the gifts You have given us to love and care for those around us. Amen.



SAY GOODBYE!

Tell kids goodbye and thank them for being a part of your group.

As kids wait to be picked up, encourage them to complete the activities on the back of the Take-Home page. As kids work, ask relationship-building questions, such as, "What are you looking forward to this week?" or "What do you do for fun?"

As parents arrive at pickup, look for opportunities to connect with them, pointing out the Take-Home page their kid is bringing home.

Extra Time?

- Work on Books of the Bible
- Work on Memory Verse
 - ERASE A WORD: Write on a white board, erasing one word at a time after the class repeats the verse out loud to you.
 - BEAN BAG: Have children toss a bean bag to each other and when they catch the bean bag they say the next word in the verse
 - POPCORN: Have children sit in a circle and jump up in turn and say the next word of the verse, sitting down quickly after saying their word
 - HAND MOTIONS: Either you or the kids make up hand motions to key words or phrases of the verse. Practice and then have a competition between boys and girls.

Greet parents at the door. Make sure you match their security tag with Attendance Book. Have them initial Attendance Book (their security tag and child's nametag can be given to Welcome Desk for nametag ball.)

Hand each parent:

- Any craft/activity page

BEFORE YOU LEAVE:

After 10:00 Services:

- Erase whiteboard.
- Place Prayer Journal and Curriculum book in supply tub.
- Return Prayer Sheet, KidMin Team Member Report (if needed) and Attendance Book to Welcome Desk

After 11:45 Services:

- Erase whiteboard.
- Make sure chairs are stacked (kids can do this)
- Turn off TV by:
 - Close PowerPoint
 - Power off computer
 - Turn off TV
- Put everything away – all tables should be completely empty
- Place Prayer Journal and Curriculum book in supply tub.
- Return Prayer Sheet, KidMin Team Member Report (if needed) and Attendance Book to Welcome Desk
- Take supply tub to Resource Room



SOLOMON BUILDS THE TEMPLE

BIBLE PASSAGE: 1 Kings 5–8

FOCUS VERSES: 1 Kings 6:13; John 1:14, Hebrews 4:14–16; Revelation 21:3

Summary: The Israelites worshiped God through sacrifices at the tabernacle. King David wanted to build a temple but was told by God that his son, Solomon, would fulfill this task. Solomon began construction. The temple's design included the Holy Place and housed the ark of the covenant in the Most Holy Place. God's glory filled the temple. Solomon prayed and thanked God for His presence and that He couldn't be contained in a building.



MONTHLY *Memory Verse*

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

(PSALM 46:1)



God is present.



HE

WHERE DOES GOD LIVE?

God's home is in heaven, but He is omnipresent and can be everywhere at once.

He wants to be with His people. The Holy Spirit lives within every follower of Jesus.

WE

WHAT DOES GOD'S PRESENCE MEAN FOR US?

God is with us and we can have a relationship with Him through Jesus. We can pray to Him anytime, anywhere.

ME

HOW IS GOD INVITING ME TO RESPOND?

Kids will be given the opportunity to reflect on the truth they learned about God and respond accordingly.

Pray for each regular attendee by name. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Pray specifically for kids who are typically overlooked by others. Pray that they would be made to feel special and valued. Also pray for kids who are typically doing the “overlooking.” Ask God to show them other kids who need to feel valued. Pray that these kids would work to make others feel included and special.

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Arrival

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Welcome kids and verify you have all kids listed in the book (and that all kids ARE listed in the book. Any kids not listed will need to be checked in by the Welcome Desk).

Big Group

When prompted, take your group to the Big Group Room. If any brought their Bibles, have them place their names on the slips of paper and place in the proper container.

Please sit with your few and help them be good listeners.

After Big Group

Welcome the kids to your group.

Ask: What was the best part of your week? What was the worst part of your week?

Ask: How did God use those experiences to grow you as a disciple of Jesus?

Ask: How can I pray for you (write them on the journal page).

Start With Prayer Requests – this builds relationship.

You will pray at the end of the service



Leader TRAINING

LEADER TRAINING TOPIC: USE KIDS' NAMES

We all feel included when someone calls us by name. Kids are no different. Even though we might just see them weekly, knowing and saying their names can create a sense of belonging.

- **Pray for them by name.** As you prepare your lesson during the week, keep a group list handy and pray for your kids by name.
- **Call them by name.** With a high-five and greeting, call each kid by name as they enter your space. What a great way to feel known when we hear our names.
- **Use their names as you teach the lesson.** Use kids' names when asking application questions, sharing the Gospel or reviewing the lesson. The Bible is full of examples where God or Jesus called people by names. Kids will feel a great sense of belonging when they understand that their leaders, and God Himself, know their names.

NAVIGATING A BROKEN WORLD: IS CHURCH IMPORTANT?

Sixty-six percent of Gen Z and Millennials who claim to be believers do not attend church even once a month.* Many young adults question the church's stance on issues such as racism, sexuality, politics and social issues. As our society has become more divided, the church has lost popularity in the culture. You will likely have a range of kids in your group—some whose families are extremely involved and some who exist on the perimeter of church life. Be cautious in assuming that every kid understands the importance of being involved in the church. Alternatively, be aware that some kids may associate church attendance with finding favor with God. In today's lesson, Solomon builds a temple for God but also recognizes that God can't be contained in a building. In your group, you get the privilege to help kids discover the joys of belonging with a group of believers and learning about Jesus.

ELEMENTARY GLOSSARY

Omnipresent: being everywhere all the time

Presence: being with someone or something

*For more resources on this topic, check out: <https://pin.it/1NWHmdCm8>

Small Group ROADMAP

1

BELONG (10 MINUTES)

Goal: For kids to experience God's love through a welcoming community

ROLL CALL

SUPPLIES: None

MARCO POLO

SUPPLIES: Blindfold

OR

2

BELIEVE (10 MINUTES)

Goal: For kids to discover who God is by engaging with the Bible

VERSE REFUGE

SUPPLIES: Bibles, teaching slide, several blankets, several pillows, tables, chairs

MY HOUSE

SUPPLIES: Bible, modeling dough (1 handful per kid)

OR

3



DISCIPLESHIP DISCUSSION (10 MINUTES)

Goal: To engage kids in faith conversations that help them navigate a broken world with biblical wisdom

4

BECOME (10 MINUTES)

Goal: For kids to learn to follow Jesus by applying faith to their lives

CROSS REMINDERS

SUPPLIES: Bible, Take-Home page, coloring supplies, glue sticks (1 per kid), craft sticks (2 per kid)

GOD IS WITH US!

SUPPLIES: Bible, Take-Home page, coloring supplies, printable pages, painter's tape

OR

5



SMALL GROUP WRAP-UP (5 MINUTES)

SUPPLIES: Take-Home page, coloring supplies



MY HOUSE

SUPPLIES:

Bible, modeling dough (1 handful per kid)

PREP:

None

LEADER TIP:

To avoid modeling dough getting into any carpets, provide something for kids to sculpt on if your space does not have tables and chairs.

ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS:

To accommodate any kids with sensory aversions, allow them to draw their house instead of using modeling dough.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. *Distribute one handful of modeling dough to everyone.*
2. **Discuss:** Where do you live?
3. **Say:** Use your modeling dough to create your home. Include your roof, windows, front door and everything! You can even make your driveway or trees if you have some in your yard.
4. *Give kids time to share their house creations.*
5. **Discuss:** When you are in your house, can you be anywhere else?
6. **Discuss:** Where does God live?
7. **Say:** God's home is in heaven, but He is omnipresent and can be everywhere at once. He wants to be with His people. The Holy Spirit lives within every follower of Jesus.
8. **Discuss:** In our story, where was God's presence?
9. **Read:** John 1:14.
10. **Discuss:** Once Jesus came in the flesh, or human, where was God's presence?
11. *Have kids form their modeling dough into a cross.*
12. **Say:** When we ask Jesus to forgive our sins and we choose to follow Him, the Holy Spirit lives within us!

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

We don't have enough modeling dough to create all the places God is! God is everywhere at all times. He is always present!



Discipleship DISCUSSION

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR FOLLOWERS OF JESUS?

Discuss: How does this story show us God is a promise keeper?

Say: When God told King David not to build the temple, He promised that David's son would. King Solomon built the temple, just like God promised. God keeps every promise all the time.

BUT WHAT ABOUT... IS CHURCH EVEN IMPORTANT?

Discuss: Have you ever heard someone say you can love God and not go to church? What do they mean by that?

Discuss: What do you think God has to say about that?

Say: Some people feel like going to church isn't very important. Some people have even been hurt by the church or feel like they can't trust people there. No church is perfect because churches are made up of people who aren't perfect. But the Church is important. God wants believers to work together to tell the world about Jesus. Hebrews 10:24-25a says: *And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another.* Believers gather together to learn about God and to worship Him together. You don't have to go to church to love God, but the Church is His design to help us grow and reach the world with the good news of Jesus.



CROSS REMINDERS

SUPPLIES:

Bible, Take-Home page, coloring supplies, glue sticks (1 per kid), craft sticks (2 per kid)

PREP:

Print the Take-Home page (1 per kid).

LEADER TIP:

You can also use glue dots if you don't have time to let the glue dry.

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

1. **Say:** We are learning that God is present!
2. **Read:** Revelation 21:3.
3. **Discuss:** What does God's presence mean for us?
4. **Say:** God is with us and we can have a relationship with Him through Jesus. We can pray to Him anytime, anywhere.
5. **Discuss:** What did God's presence mean for Solomon?
6. **Say:** Let's make a cross to help us remember that because of the price Jesus paid on the cross, we can have a relationship with God through Jesus. God is always with us!
7. *Distribute supplies.*
8. *Allow kids to decorate each craft stick, then glue the middles together perpendicularly to make a cross.*
9. **Discuss:** Where can you keep your cross to remind you that God is present?
10. **Discuss:** How can knowing God is present help you this week?

**ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:**

Today we learned God is present. As we learn truths about God, we can respond to Him. We can tell Him our feelings, we can pray or we can decide to do something or change something.

Lead kids to the "Me Question" box on their Take-Home pages and discuss possible responses. Have kids choose a prompt and write/draw their response.



Wrap-Up

CHOOSE YOUR *Challenge*

Say: We want to respond to God and remember what He has taught us today. We also want to use what He's taught us during the coming week. As we become more like Jesus, our lives change!

Read the challenges from the Take-Home page aloud. Ask kids to mark which one they want to choose for this week.

SUPPLIES:

Take-Home page, coloring supplies

PREP:

Print the Take-Home page (1 per kid).



PRAYER

God, thank You for Your presence! You hear us and You are with us. Thank You for sending Jesus so we can be in relationship with You. Help us to remember You are always with us and we can trust in You. Amen.



SAY GOODBYE!

Tell kids goodbye and thank them for being a part of your group.

As kids wait to be picked up, encourage them to complete the activities on the back of the Take-Home page. As kids work, ask relationship-building questions, such as, "What are you looking forward to this week?" or "What do you do for fun?"

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Extra Time?

- Work on Books of the Bible
- Work on Memory Verse
 - **ERASE A WORD:** Write on a white board, erasing one word at a time after the class repeats the verse out loud to you.
 - **BEAN BAG:** Have children toss a bean bag to each other and when they catch the bean bag they say the next word in the verse
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Hand each parent:

- Any craft/activity page

BEFORE YOU LEAVE:

After 10:00 Services:

- Erase whiteboard.
- Place Prayer Journal and Curriculum book in supply tub.
- Return Prayer Sheet, KidMin Team Member Report (if needed) and Attendance Book to Welcome Desk

After 11:45 Services:

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- Make sure chairs are stacked (kids can do this)
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- Take supply tub to Resource Room



THE KINGDOM DIVIDES

BIBLE PASSAGE: 1 Kings 11-12

FOCUS VERSES: Psalm 5:4; Isaiah 59:2; Romans 5:8;
Romans 6:23

Summary: King Solomon married many foreign wives who led him to worship other gods, despite God's warnings. God told Solomon He would divide the kingdom, leaving only a portion for his family because of the promise He made to David. Solomon's son, Rehoboam, ignored wise counsel and made the people's burdens heavier, leading to rebellion and the division of Israel. God promised a future King who would unite His people.



MONTHLY *Memory Verse*

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

(PSALM 46:1)



God never gives up on us.

HE

HOW DOES GOD FEEL ABOUT SIN?

God is perfect and holy. He hates sin because it separates people from Him.

WE

DOES GOD STILL LOVE US WHEN WE SIN?

God loves us no matter what. There are consequences when we sin, but we can always have hope. God wants us to turn to Him and seek His forgiveness, which is available because of Jesus.

ME

HOW IS GOD INVITING ME TO RESPOND?

Kids will be given the opportunity to reflect on the truth they learned about God and respond accordingly.

Pray for each regular attendee by name. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Pray specifically for kids who are typically overlooked by others. Pray that they would be made to feel special and valued. Also pray for kids who are typically doing the "overlooking." Ask God to show them other kids who need to feel valued. Pray that these kids would work to make others feel included and special.

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Welcome kids and verify you have all kids listed in the book (and that all kids ARE listed in the book. Any kids not listed will need to be checked in by the Welcome Desk).

Big Group

When prompted, take your group to the Big Group Room. If any brought their Bibles, have them place their names on the slips of paper and place in the proper container.

Please sit with your few and help them be good listeners.

After Big Group

Welcome the kids to your group.

Ask: What was the best part of your week? What was the worst part of your week?

Ask: How did God use those experiences to grow you as a disciple of Jesus?

Ask: How can I pray for you (write them on the journal page).

Start With Prayer Requests – this builds relationship.

You will pray at the end of the service



Leader TRAINING

LEADER TRAINING TOPIC: MAKE IT PERSONAL

↓ God's Word applies to our lives today. Instead of just presenting "another story," help kids discover that they can apply God's truths to their everyday lives.

- **Point to the Gospel.** The Gospel is personal! As you teach each lesson, make sure you help kids see how each story points to God's greater story of redemption through Jesus Christ. Make it a priority to show kids that Jesus was willing to die for our sins because He loves us so much.
- **Name drop.** If appropriate, add the names of your kids in Scriptures to show how God's Word personally applies to their lives. When asking follow-up questions, ask specific kids how they think they might have responded in similar situations.
- **Apply truth to their lives.** We are called not only to be hearers of the truth but also doers of what it says. Take time to help kids understand how each lesson applies to their daily lives and give them tangible ways to practice the lesson during the week. This can help make your group time not just something they "attend" but something they are actively engaged in as they live out the truths discussed during the week.

NAVIGATING A BROKEN WORLD: PEER PRESSURE

Research indicates 75 percent of teenagers feel encouraged to drink or use drugs when they view those activities on social media.* Peer pressure has always existed, but the dynamics have changed as now peers are accessible 24/7 via devices. In today's story, the new king gives in to bad advice from his friends rather than listening to wise counsel. In your group, create a safe place for kids to talk about pressures they face. Help kids build connections with each other so that they have strong friendships with other believers who can encourage them to follow Jesus instead of the pressures of the world.

ELEMENTARY GLOSSARY

Forgiven: to be pardoned, freed from the penalty of sin

Holy: set apart; perfect

Sin: anything we think, say or do that disobeys God

*For more resources on this topic, check out: <https://pin.it/7kS5nFfju>

Small Group ROADMAP

1

BELONG (10 MINUTES)

Goal: For kids to experience God's love through a welcoming community

MARSHMALLOW CREATIONS

SUPPLIES: Mini marshmallows (2 handfuls per kid)

OR

BALANCE THE BALL

SUPPLIES: Spoon, ping-pong ball, timer

2

BELIEVE (10 MINUTES)

Goal: For kids to discover who God is by engaging with the Bible

MEMORY VERSE MOTION

SUPPLIES: Bibles, teaching slide

OR

THE OTHER SIDE

SUPPLIES: Bible, several small toy cars, 2 tables

3



DISCIPLESHIP DISCUSSION (10 MINUTES)

Goal: To engage kids in faith conversations that help them navigate a broken world with biblical wisdom

4

BECOME (10 MINUTES)

Goal: For kids to learn to follow Jesus by applying faith to their lives

HEART REMINDERS

SUPPLIES: Bible, Take-Home page, coloring supplies, printable page, scissors, craft supplies (glitter, glue, stickers, paint, etc.)

OR

TURN TO GOD!

SUPPLIES: Bible, Take-Home page, coloring supplies, painter's tape

5



SMALL GROUP WRAP-UP (5 MINUTES)

SUPPLIES: Take-Home page, coloring supplies



MEMORY VERSE MOTION

SUPPLIES:

Bibles, teaching slide

PREP:

Print or show the Memory Verse teaching slide (Image 03).

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. *Lead kids to find Psalm 46:1 in their Bibles. Read the verse aloud together.*
2. **Discuss:** What does this verse teach us about God?
3. **Discuss:** How does this verse remind us that God never gives up on us?
4. *Recite the verse together.*
5. **Discuss:** In our story, who is someone God did not give up on?
6. **Discuss:** How does God feel about sin?
7. **Say:** God is perfect and holy. He hates sin because it separates people from Him.
8. **Discuss:** In our story, who sinned against God? How was God a refuge for them?
9. **Say:** Let's keep practicing our verse by putting it to some motions!
10. *Teach kids the following motions to practice the verse together:*
 - God—point up
 - is our refuge—make a tent with your hands
 - and strength,—flex your biceps
 - a very present help—put hands on hips like Superman
 - in trouble.—Put hand over your mouth like you're scared
 - Psalm 46:1- open hands like a book
11. *Recite the verse together several times using the motions.*

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

God is always a refuge for us in times of trouble. He never gives up on us, even when we sin.



Discipleship DISCUSSION

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR FOLLOWERS OF JESUS?

Discuss: How does this story show us God is a promise keeper?

Say: Even though the Israelites sinned and worshipped other gods, the Lord kept His promise to David. Even though the kingdom divided, David's descendants remained on the throne. God didn't go back on His promise, and He didn't give up on His people.

BUT WHAT ABOUT... PEER PRESSURE?

Discuss: Have you ever felt pressure to do something that you knew wasn't right?

Discuss: Why is it hard to do the right thing when our friends are doing something different?

Discuss: What does God have to say about that?

Say: Sometimes we feel pressure from others to do things that we know aren't right. Sometimes we are tempted to listen to our friends even though they may not have the best ideas or advice. That is exactly what happened to Rehoboam in today's story. It can feel really hard to deal with the pressure we feel from others because we may want to look cool or fit in. In the book of Acts, Peter felt pressure too. He said in Acts 5:29: *We must obey God rather than men.* The only thing in life that truly lasts is our relationship with God. Keeping focus on our relationship with God should be our top priority, even when it isn't popular. God knows what is best for us, and living life His way is always the best choice.



TURN TO GOD!

SUPPLIES:

Bible, Take-Home page, coloring supplies, painter's tape

PREP:

Print the Take-Home page (1 per kid). On one side of the space, tape three large circles on the ground. On the other side, tape a large cross on the ground (big enough for all the kids to stand on).

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Say:** We are learning that God never gives up on us!
2. **Discuss:** Does God still love us when we sin?
3. **Say:** God loves us no matter what. There are consequences when we sin, but we can always have hope. God wants us to turn to Him and seek His forgiveness, which is available through Jesus.
4. **Discuss:** How were consequences and God's love shown in our story?
5. **Read:** Romans 5:8.
6. **Discuss:** How is God's love shown in this verse?
7. *Instruct kids to stand in one of the three circles on the floor, facing away from the cross.*
8. **Say:** Sin separates us from God. Standing in your circle, pray silently and ask God for forgiveness of your sins.
9. **Discuss:** What can you do when you sin?
10. *Have kids yell, "Turn to God!" and run onto the cross tape.*
11. *While on the cross tape, lead kids to pray and thank God for His forgiveness and love for us in sending Jesus to pay for our sins.*



ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

Today we learned God never gives up on us. As we learn truths about God, we can respond to Him. We can tell Him our feelings, we can pray or we can decide to do something or change something.

Lead kids to the "Me Question" box on their Take-Home pages and discuss possible responses. Have kids choose a prompt and write/draw their response.



Wrap-Up

CHOOSE YOUR Challenge

Say: We want to respond to God and remember what He has taught us today. We also want to use what He's taught us during the coming week. As we become more like Jesus, our lives change!

Read the challenges from the Take-Home page aloud. Ask kids to mark which one they want to choose for this week.

SUPPLIES:

Take-Home page, coloring supplies

PREP:

Print the Take-Home page (1 per kid).



PRAYER

God, thank You for never giving up on us! You freely offer forgiveness from our sins when we ask, and we thank You for that grace. Thank You for Your love! Amen.



SAY GOODBYE!

Tell kids goodbye and thank them for being a part of your group.

As kids wait to be picked up, encourage them to complete the activities on the back of the Take-Home page. As kids work, ask relationship-building questions, such as, "What are you looking forward to this week?" or "What do you do for fun?"

As parents arrive at pickup, look for opportunities to connect with them, pointing out the Take-Home page their kid is bringing home.

Extra Time?

- Work on Books of the Bible
- Work on Memory Verse
 - ERASE A WORD: Write on a white board, erasing one word at a time after the class repeats the verse out loud to you.
 - BEAN BAG: Have children toss a bean bag to each other and when they catch the bean bag they say the next word in the verse
 - POPCORN: Have children sit in a circle and jump up in turn and say the next word of the verse, sitting down quickly after saying their word
 - HAND MOTIONS: Either you or the kids make up hand motions to key words or phrases of the verse. Practice and then have a competition between boys and girls.

Greet parents at the door. Make sure you match their security tag with Attendance Book. Have them initial Attendance Book (their security tag and child's nametag can be given to Welcome Desk for nametag ball.)

Hand each parent:

- Any craft/activity page

BEFORE YOU LEAVE:

After 10:00 Services:

- Erase whiteboard.
- Place Prayer Journal and Curriculum book in supply tub.
- Return Prayer Sheet, KidMin Team Member Report (if needed) and Attendance Book to Welcome Desk

After 11:45 Services:

- Erase whiteboard.
- Make sure chairs are stacked (kids can do this)
- Turn off TV by:
 - Close PowerPoint
 - Power off computer
 - Turn off TV
- Put everything away – all tables should be completely empty
- Place Prayer Journal and Curriculum book in supply tub.
- Return Prayer Sheet, KidMin Team Member Report (if needed) and Attendance Book to Welcome Desk
- Take supply tub to Resource Room



ELISHA IS SURROUNDED

BIBLE PASSAGE: 2 Kings 6:8–23

FOCUS VERSES: 1 Timothy 1:17; Romans 1:20;
2 Corinthians 5:7; Hebrews 11:1

Summary: After the kingdom was divided, Israel and Judah had many kings, most of whom ignored God. The Syrian king sought to capture Elisha, sending a large army to Dothan. Elisha's servant was afraid, but Elisha prayed for God to open his eyes. The servant saw God's army in the mountains. Elisha then prayed for the Syrian soldiers' blindness and led them to Samaria, where he advised the king to spare them and host a feast instead.



MONTHLY *Memory Verse*

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

(PSALM 46:1)

BRITE *Idea*

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

HE

WHY CAN'T WE SEE GOD?
God is spirit. He is invisible, but He is real and always present. He is always working, and we can see the great things He does.

WE

WHAT DO WE DO WHEN IT DOESN'T FEEL LIKE GOD IS WORKING?
We can trust God and ask Him to help us have faith that He is working even though we can't see it.

ME

HOW IS GOD INVITING ME TO RESPOND?
Kids will be given the opportunity to reflect on the truth they learned about God and respond accordingly.

Pray for each regular attendee by name. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Pray specifically for kids who are typically overlooked by others. Pray that they would be made to feel special and valued. Also pray for kids who are typically doing the "overlooking." Ask God to show them other kids who need to feel valued. Pray that these kids would work to make others feel included and special.

Before Kids Arrive

- Go through your supply tub and make sure you have all the supplies you need for the morning. (we do sometimes make mistakes 😊)

Arrival

Kids will be with their parents for worship and be dismissed to meet you in the Bridge Kids Lobby. During the kids blessing, come to the Bridge Kids Lobby and get your Attendance Book.

Welcome kids and verify you have all kids listed in the book (and that all kids ARE listed in the book. Any kids not listed will need to be checked in by the Welcome Desk).

Big Group

When prompted, take your group to the Big Group Room. If any brought their Bibles, have them place their names on the slips of paper and place in the proper container.

Please sit with your few and help them be good listeners.

After Big Group

Welcome the kids to your group.

Ask: What was the best part of your week? What was the worst part of your week?

Ask: How did God use those experiences to grow you as a disciple of Jesus?

Ask: How can I pray for you (write them on the journal page).

Start With Prayer Requests – this builds relationship.

You will pray at the end of the service



Leader TRAINING

LEADER TRAINING TOPIC: INCLUDE EVERYONE

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to Me" (Matthew 19:14), and He welcomed them in. He didn't keep them at a distance or preach at them. To help kids feel like they belong, we need to be intentional about including everyone.

- **Give kids roles.** When kids have a part to play in the group, it gives them a sense of importance and belonging. It can be as easy as having a kid pass out papers or as specific as asking a kid to talk to visitors.
- **Creatively include the introvert.** Not all kids want to be "up front." Placing a shy kid outside their comfort zone can have a reverse effect of belonging. Include kids in ways they feel comfortable with. This requires getting to know each kid's learning style and comfort level.
- **Help kids to include others.** One of the greatest obstacles to kids feeling like they fit into a group is when they are left out or treated negatively. Make "loving your neighbor" an anchor of group behavior. Give kids opportunities to ask each other questions and learn how to have conversations. Discourage cliques by making sure groups don't always consist of kids who are already good friends.

NAVIGATING A BROKEN WORLD: FEAR

According to recent research, the number of kids struggling with anxiety doubled following the pandemic.* More kids are struggling with social anxiety, phobias, panic attacks, and generalized anxiety. It is likely that there are kids in your group who struggle with fear. In today's lesson, kids will have the opportunity to learn God is with us when we are afraid. If kids open up about their fears, be cautious not to diminish their feelings by saying something like, "Tests aren't a big deal, you will have to learn how to get over that" or "You're really scared of that?" Instead, validate their feelings but don't dwell on the fear. Be willing to share something you have feared in your life. Point to Jesus always and communicate with parents about anything concerning that kids brought up.

ELEMENTARY GLOSSARY

Trust: confidence someone or something is reliable and will do what is expected

Faith: trusting and believing even if you can't see or understand

Prophet: a person who gives God's messages to His people

*For more resources on this topic, check out: <https://pin.it/6Vp6Xg5Ff>

Small Group ROADMAP

1

BELONG (10 MINUTES)

Goal: For kids to experience God's love through a welcoming community

BLINDFOLDED VICTORY

SUPPLIES: Pipe cleaners (1 per 2 kids), blindfolds (1 per 2 kids), loop cereal (1 handful per 2 kids)

OR

WAITING GAME

SUPPLIES: Timer

2

BELIEVE (10 MINUTES)

Goal: For kids to discover who God is by engaging with the Bible

NO-SEE VERSE

SUPPLIES: Bibles, teaching slide

OR

HIDDEN ARMY

SUPPLIES: Bible, 5 toy soldiers

3



DISCIPLESHIP DISCUSSION (10 MINUTES)

Goal: To engage kids in faith conversations that help them navigate a broken world with biblical wisdom

4

BECOME (10 MINUTES)

Goal: For kids to learn to follow Jesus by applying faith to their lives

FAITH WALK

SUPPLIES: Bible, Take-Home page, coloring supplies, printable page, scissors, hole punch, yarn

OR

LETTING GO

SUPPLIES: Bible, Take-Home page, coloring supplies

5



SMALL GROUP WRAP-UP (5 MINUTES)

SUPPLIES: Take-Home page, coloring supplies



HIDDEN ARMY

SUPPLIES:

Bible, 5 toy soldiers

PREP:

Before kids enter, hide five toy soldiers around the space where kids cannot see them.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Discuss:** In our story, how was God working when Elisha couldn't see Him?
2. **Discuss:** What surrounded Elisha to keep him safe?
3. **Say:** Let's play a game!
4. **Discuss:** Do you see any toy soldiers around our space?
5. **Say:** Sometimes even though you can't see something, it doesn't mean it's not there. I have hidden five toy soldiers around the space. I want you to work together to try to find them!
6. *Give kids time to find the toy soldiers. Assist as needed.*
7. *Once they have been found, gather kids together.*
8. **Read:** 1 Timothy 1:17 and Romans 1:20.
9. *Line up the five toy soldiers.*
10. **Say:** From the verses we just read, let's use these toys to think more about who God is.
11. *Choose different volunteers to choose a toy soldier and share one descriptor of who God is, referring back to the verses. Read verses again if needed.*
12. **Discuss:** Why can't we see God?
13. **Say:** God is spirit. He is invisible, but He is real and always present. He is always working, and we can see the great things He does.
14. **Discuss:** What are some great things God has done for you?

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

Though God is invisible, He is always there. We may not see Him, but we can trust He is always at work!



Discipleship DISCUSSION

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR FOLLOWERS OF JESUS?

Discuss: How does this story show us God is a promise keeper?

Say: God promises to be our help in times of trouble. God was protecting Elisha and his servant even when they couldn't see what He was doing. God keeps His promises. We can always trust Him and have faith He is working out His perfect plan.

BUT WHAT ABOUT... FEAR?

Discuss: What are some things kids your age are afraid of?

Discuss: How do you react when you are scared?

Discuss: What does God have to say about when we are afraid?

Say: The Bible tells us not to fear more than 300 times, not because God gets mad at us or because we are failures if we feel afraid. Rather, it's because God knew that fear would be a big struggle for all of us. He is a loving Father who cares for us. Some of us struggle with smaller fears. We don't like snakes or walking in a dark hallway. Kids in our world struggle with fear. If that's you, know that you aren't alone. God understands your feelings and wants you to talk to Him about them. It's also okay to talk to an adult you trust about what you are feeling. And remember, you are not alone because Jesus is always with you. Psalm 56:3 says: *When I am afraid, I put my trust in You.* This verse is great to remember and repeat when fear seems overwhelming. Jesus is more powerful than everything we face, and He is always with us.



FAITH WALK

SUPPLIES:

Bible, Take-Home page, coloring supplies, printable page, scissors, hole punch, yarn

PREP:

Print the Take-Home page (1 per kid). Print the printable page and cut out (1 per kid). Hole punch where indicated on the shoe (1 per kid). Cut the yarn into 12-inch pieces (1 per kid).

ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS:

Help kids with fine motor challenges lace their shoes. They can practice making the bow independently.



INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Discuss:** What do we do when it doesn't feel like God is working?
2. **Say:** We can trust God and ask Him to help us have faith that He is working even though we can't see it.
3. **Read:** 2 Corinthians 5:7.
4. **Discuss:** What does it mean to walk by faith and not by sight?
5. **Say:** We walk by faith and not by sight by remembering that God keeps all of His promises. We remember that He is working even when we can't see it.
6. **Discuss:** How did Elisha walk by faith?
7. **Say:** Let's make a walking shoe to help remind us to always trust God and walk by faith and not by sight.
8. *Distribute printable pages, coloring supplies and yarn to each kid.*
9. *Give kids time to color their shoes and add a bow to their shoelace.*
10. **Discuss:** How could you help a friend who is having a hard time and doesn't feel like God is working?
11. **Discuss:** How did Elisha help his servant when he saw his servant was afraid?
12. **Read:** Hebrews 11:1.
13. *Close your time in prayer asking God to help the kids trust Him and have faith that He is working even when they can't see it.*



ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

Today we learned God is working even when we don't see it. As we learn truths about God, we can respond to Him. We can tell Him our feelings, we can pray or we can decide to do something or change something.

Lead kids to the "Me Question" box on their Take-Home pages and discuss possible responses. Have kids choose a prompt and write/draw their response.



Wrap-Up

CHOOSE YOUR Challenge

Say: We want to respond to God and remember what He has taught us today. We also want to use what He's taught us during the coming week. As we become more like Jesus, our lives change!

Read the challenges from the Take-Home page aloud. Ask kids to mark which one they want to choose for this week.

SUPPLIES:

Take-Home page, coloring supplies

PREP:

Print the Take-Home page (1 per kid).



PRAYER

God, thank You for always being at work even when we don't see it. Help us see the great things You have done. Help us to point others to You and Your faithfulness. Amen.



SAY GOODBYE!

Tell kids goodbye and thank them for being a part of your group.

As kids wait to be picked up, encourage them to complete the activities on the back of the Take-Home page. As kids work, ask relationship-building questions, such as, "What are you looking forward to this week?" or "What do you do for fun?"

As parents arrive at pickup, look for opportunities to connect with them, pointing out the Take-Home page their kid is bringing home.

Extra Time?

- Work on Books of the Bible
- Work on Memory Verse
 - ERASE A WORD: Write on a white board, erasing one word at a time after the class repeats the verse out loud to you.
 - BEAN BAG: Have children toss a bean bag to each other and when they catch the bean bag they say the next word in the verse
 - POPCORN: Have children sit in a circle and jump up in turn and say the next word of the verse, sitting down quickly after saying their word
 - HAND MOTIONS: Either you or the kids make up hand motions to key words or phrases of the verse. Practice and then have a competition between boys and girls.

Greet parents at the door. Make sure you match their security tag with Attendance Book. Have them initial Attendance Book (their security tag and child's nametag can be given to Welcome Desk for nametag ball.)

Hand each parent:

- Any craft/activity page

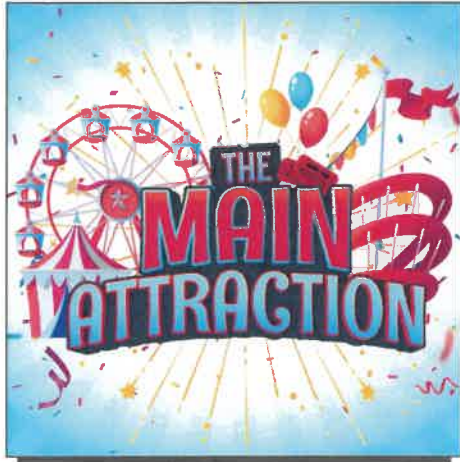
BEFORE YOU LEAVE:

After 10:00 Services:

- Erase whiteboard.
- Place Prayer Journal and Curriculum book in supply tub.
- Return Prayer Sheet, KidMin Team Member Report (if needed) and Attendance Book to Welcome Desk

After 11:45 Services:

- Erase whiteboard.
- Make sure chairs are stacked (kids can do this)
- Turn off TV by:
 - Close PowerPoint
 - Power off computer
 - Turn off TV
- Put everything away – all tables should be completely empty
- Place Prayer Journal and Curriculum book in supply tub.
- Return Prayer Sheet, KidMin Team Member Report (if needed) and Attendance Book to Welcome Desk
- Take supply tub to Resource Room



ESTHER

BIBLE PASSAGE: Esther 2–8

FOCUS VERSES: Psalm 33:11; Isaiah 46:9–10;
Romans 8:28; 1 Peter 2:9

Summary: Mordecai and his cousin Esther were Israelites whose family had been exiled to Persia. When the king needed a new queen, Esther was chosen. Mordecai urged her to keep her Jewish identity secret. When Haman wanted to destroy the Jews, Mordecai told Esther to help. He told her that she might be in the palace for this very reason. Though it was risky, she approached the king and revealed Haman's plan. The king was furious, punished Haman and saved the Jews.



MONTHLY *Memory Verse*

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

(PSALM 46:1)



God always has a plan.

HE

HOW CAN GOD HAVE A PLAN FOR EVERYTHING?

God is sovereign and in control. He loves us and knows what is best for the world.

WE

DOES GOD HAVE A PURPOSE FOR EVERYONE?

God made each of us for a purpose. He has a great plan for our lives and works through us for His glory.

ME

HOW IS GOD INVITING ME TO RESPOND?

Kids will be given the opportunity to reflect on the truth they learned about God and respond accordingly.

Pray for each regular attendee by name. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Pray specifically for kids who are typically overlooked by others. Pray that they would be made to feel special and valued. Also pray for kids who are typically doing the “overlooking.” Ask God to show them other kids who need to feel valued. Pray that these kids would work to make others feel included and special.

Before Kids Arrive

- Go through your supply tub and make sure you have all the supplies you need for the morning. (we do sometimes make mistakes 😊)

Arrival

Kids will be with their parents for worship and be dismissed to meet you in the Bridge Kids Lobby. During the kids blessing, come to the Bridge Kids Lobby and get your Attendance Book.

Welcome kids and verify you have all kids listed in the book (and that all kids ARE listed in the book. Any kids not listed will need to be checked in by the Welcome Desk).

Big Group

When prompted, take your group to the Big Group Room. If any brought their Bibles, have them place their names on the slips of paper and place in the proper container.

Please sit with your few and help them be good listeners.

After Big Group

Welcome the kids to your group.

Ask: What was the best part of your week? What was the worst part of your week?

Ask: How did God use those experiences to grow you as a disciple of Jesus?

Ask: How can I pray for you (write them on the journal page).

Start With Prayer Requests – this builds relationship.

You will pray at the end of the service



Leader TRAINING

LEADER TRAINING TOPIC: FOLLOW UP

Our lesson doesn't end at the final "amen." Helping kids feel like they are loved and belong is an ongoing process.

- **Extend the lesson beyond the group time.** If a kid shares something specific during group time, follow up with questions when you see them afterward. Take time to support kids in their activities outside group time so they know there is another adult invested in their lives.
- **Drop a note.** Who doesn't love mail, especially if it affirms that you are valued and accepted? If a kid shares something specific during group time, follow up that week with a card in the mail. If a kid asks a significant question during the lesson, write them a card, encouraging them as they seek to know and follow Jesus.
- **Brag on the kids.** Parents love good news texts or conversations in the hallway. Take a moment to brag about kids to their parents. When the parents share that with their kids, that reaffirms they have a place where they are valued.
- **Follow up next week.** As you review the truths from the week before and introduce a new lesson, be sure to include things kids shared the week before. (You may have to write them down to remember!) Ask kids how last week's lesson impacted their week and affirm any ways they applied what they learned during their daily lives.

NAVIGATING A BROKEN WORLD: DIFFERENT RACES AND RELIGIONS

Reports indicate a 200 percent increase in anti-Semitic incidents from 2023 to 2024.* Kids' worlds are brimming with conversations about other races and people groups. In today's lesson, Esther works to prevent the destruction of the Jews in the land in which she was living. Kids may connect the story with current world events. Help kids see God loves all people. As followers of Jesus, we should avoid conversations or actions that hurt others or look down on others. Don't allow your group to be a place where kids hear unkind things about other groups of people. We can help kids remember every single person is made in the image of God no matter their background or skin color.

ELEMENTARY GLOSSARY

Glory: magnificence, honor, high worth

Sovereign: supreme authority; in charge of everything

*For more resources on this topic, check out: <https://pin.it/sWOG36JuC>

Small Group ROADMAP

1

BELONG (10 MINUTES)

Goal: For kids to experience God's love through a welcoming community

CREATE A STORY

SUPPLIES: None

OR

COLOR CLOSELY

SUPPLIES: Printable page, scissors, coloring supplies

2

BELIEVE (10 MINUTES)

Goal: For kids to discover who God is by engaging with the Bible

VERSE PATH

SUPPLIES: Bibles, teaching slide, 14 pieces of colored paper

OR

CROWN REMINDERS

SUPPLIES: Bible, printable page, scissors, stapler, coloring supplies

3



DISCIPLESHIP DISCUSSION (10 MINUTES)

Goal: To engage kids in faith conversations that help them navigate a broken world with biblical wisdom

4

BECOME (10 MINUTES)

Goal: For kids to learn to follow Jesus by applying faith to their lives

WALKING WITH GOD

SUPPLIES: Bible, Take-Home page, coloring supplies, modeling dough (1 handful per kid)

OR

FINGERPRINT DIFFERENCES

SUPPLIES: Bible, Take-Home page, coloring supplies, index cards (1 per kid), ink pad, wipes

5



SMALL GROUP WRAP-UP (5 MINUTES)

SUPPLIES: Take-Home page, coloring supplies



VERSE PATH

SUPPLIES:

Bibles, teaching slide, 14 pieces of colored paper

PREP:

Print or show the Memory Verse teaching slide (Image 03). Create a winding path around your space with different-colored paper.

ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS:

Partner kids with physical limitations with a buddy to help them navigate the path.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. *Lead kids to find Psalm 46:1 in their Bibles. Read the verse aloud together.*
2. **Discuss:** How does knowing that God always has a plan comfort you in times of trouble?
3. **Say:** I planned and made a path to help us with our verse! One at a time, you will step on a different "stone" on our path. Each stone represents one word from our verse. The verse reference (46:1) is on one stone.
4. *Demonstrate the path you have made. One at a time have kids take turns saying their verse as they step on the stones around your space.*
5. *Play multiple rounds, having kids step and say the verse as fast as they can.*
6. *Say the verse aloud together while pretending to walk on a tightrope.*
7. **Discuss:** Does God have a plan for everything?
8. **Discuss:** How can God have a plan for everything?
9. **Say:** God is sovereign and in control. That means that He is the supreme authority in charge of everything. He loves us and knows what is best for the world. He loves us and knows what is best for the world!
10. **Discuss:** How did God's plan work out for Esther?

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

God always has a plan. He is in complete control, and His plans are far better than we could imagine. We just have to trust in Him!



Discipleship DISCUSSION

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR FOLLOWERS OF JESUS?

Discuss: How does this story show that God is a promise keeper?

Say: God had promised that the Israelites would be a great nation and His Savior would come from Israel. Haman threatened to destroy God's people. God put Esther in the right place at the right time to protect them. He had a great plan all along.

BUT WHAT ABOUT ... DIFFERENT RACES AND RELIGIONS?

Discuss: Can you think of times in history when people have been treated badly because of their race or religion?

Discuss: Why would some people treat other groups badly?

Discuss: What does God have to say about that?

Say: In today's story, Haman was angry with Mordecai and decided to destroy all the Jewish people. Sometimes people become angry or afraid of people who are different from them. They may feel like they have a reason, or it may just be because they don't like differences. In John 13:34, Jesus said: *A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.* Jesus didn't say to only love the people who are just like you. Jesus loves everyone in the world. God made every person. Each person in each race and each background is precious to Him. How can we show His love to all people?



FINGERPRINT DIFFERENCES

SUPPLIES:

Bible, Take-Home page, coloring supplies, index cards (1 per kid), ink pad, wipes

PREP:

Print the Take-Home page (1 per kid).

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Read:** Romans 8:28.
2. **Discuss:** Does God have a purpose for everyone?
3. **Say:** God made each of us for a purpose. He has a great plan for our lives and works through us for His glory!
4. *Lead kids to pray that they would trust God's great plan for their lives.*
5. *Lead kids to pray that they would glorify God and trust Him as He works in them.*
6. **Discuss:** What was one of God's purposes for Esther's life?
7. *Give each kid a card. If kids are able, have them write their name on one side of the card, then flip it over. Help any kids who need it to do this.*
8. *Help kids press their index finger onto the ink pad then onto their card.*
9. *Gather the papers and mix them up. Lay them in the middle of the space and have kids guess which is their fingerprint. Flip them over to see if they are correct.*
10. **Say:** Your fingerprints look pretty similar, but each one is very unique! God created us in such a way that no two people have the same fingerprints. Just like our fingerprints, God's plans for each of us are great and unique. He always has a plan for us!
11. *End your time praying for each kid. Thank God for making them each unique and having a plan for each of their lives.*

**ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:**

Today we learned God always has a plan. As we learn truths about God, we can respond to Him. We can tell Him our feelings, we can pray or we can decide to do something or change something.

Lead kids to the "Me Question" box on their Take-Home pages and discuss possible responses. Have kids choose a prompt and write/draw their response.



Wrap-Up

CHOOSE YOUR *Challenge*

Say: We want to respond to God and remember what He has taught us today. We also want to use what He's taught us during the coming week. As we become more like Jesus, our lives change!

Read the challenges from the Take-Home page aloud. Ask kids to mark which one they want to choose for this week.

SUPPLIES:

Take-Home page, coloring supplies

PREP:

Print the Take-Home page (1 per kid).



PRAYER

God, thank You for the millions of ways You are working around us! You always have a good plan!
Amen.



SAY GOODBYE!

Tell kids goodbye and thank them for being a part of your group.

As kids wait to be picked up, encourage them to complete the activities on the back of the Take-Home page. As kids work, ask relationship-building questions, such as, "What are you looking forward to this week?" or "What do you do for fun?"

As parents arrive at pickup, look for opportunities to connect with them, pointing out the Take-Home page their kid is bringing home.

Extra Time?

- Work on Books of the Bible
- Work on Memory Verse
 - ERASE A WORD: Write on a white board, erasing one word at a time after the class repeats the verse out loud to you.
 - BEAN BAG: Have children toss a bean bag to each other and when they catch the bean bag they say the next word in the verse
 - POPCORN: Have children sit in a circle and jump up in turn and say the next word of the verse, sitting down quickly after saying their word
 - HAND MOTIONS: Either you or the kids make up hand motions to key words or phrases of the verse. Practice and then have a competition between boys and girls.

Greet parents at the door. Make sure you match their security tag with Attendance Book. Have them initial Attendance Book (their security tag and child's nametag can be given to Welcome Desk for nametag ball.)

Hand each parent:

- Any craft/activity page

BEFORE YOU LEAVE:

After 10:00 Services:

- Erase whiteboard.
- Place Prayer Journal and Curriculum book in supply tub.
- Return Prayer Sheet, KidMin Team Member Report (if needed) and Attendance Book to Welcome Desk

After 11:45 Services:

- Erase whiteboard.
- Make sure chairs are stacked (kids can do this)
- Turn off TV by:
 - Close PowerPoint
 - Power off computer
 - Turn off TV
- Put everything away – all tables should be completely empty
- Place Prayer Journal and Curriculum book in supply tub.
- Return Prayer Sheet, KidMin Team Member Report (if needed) and Attendance Book to Welcome Desk
- Take supply tub to Resource Room