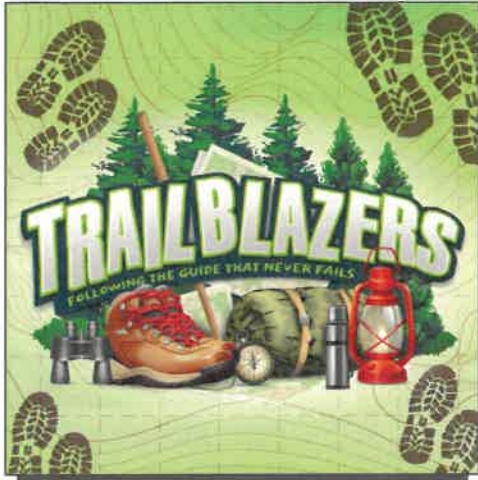




THE SUN STOOD STILL

BIBLE PASSAGE: Joshua 10; 13

FOCUS VERSES: Hebrews 10:23, Numbers 23:19,
Deuteronomy 7:9

Summary: The Israelites, led by Joshua, conquered Canaanite cities as God had promised. When several kings attacked a city named Gibeon, Joshua came to help. God told him not to fear and promised victory. Joshua prayed for the sun to stand still, and God answered, giving them more time to fight. The Israelites defeated their enemies, conquered more land, and Joshua divided it among the twelve tribes. The Promised Land became theirs, just as God said.



MONTHLY *Memory Verse*

For nothing will be impossible with God.

(LUKE 1:37)



God does what He says.

We will go deeper in God's truth by answering these questions:



WHY DOES GOD KEEP HIS PROMISES?

God is completely good.
He never lies or changes
His mind.



HOW CAN WE KNOW WHAT GOD'S PROMISES ARE?

We can learn the many
promises God has made to
His people by studying
the Bible.



HOW IS GOD INVITING ME TO RESPOND?

Kids will reflect and respond
to the truth they learned
about God.

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 PLAYFUL

When a kid does not meet expectations, engaging in play with them is often not our first response. However, when we approach a kid with a warm and playful demeanor, the kid will often begin to calm so we can better identify the need driving the behavior. Need help being more playful? Try these ideas:

- **Use your “fun” voice.** While it’s easy to go straight to our authoritative voice when a kid’s behavior is challenging, next time use your “fun” voice when redirecting or correcting. A playful voice signals to the kid that you are on their side and will work with them.
- **Play.** Relationships are built through shared fun experiences. As you build a relationship with a kid, correction and coaching will be more effective. Sit down on the floor, grab a truck, or join a kid who is coloring.
- **Start with play.** Telling a kid that our room is a fun space is not enough. We need to show them. Greeting them with a fist bump or high five is a great way to start your interaction with connection and fun. Have toys and craft supplies accessible to kids as soon as they arrive. Offering play immediately upon arrival helps ease the transition from their caregiver.

NAVIGATING A BROKEN WORLD: DIVORCE

One of the most significant ways kids experience the pain of broken promises is when divorce happens within their family. Research reveals 30 percent of kids experience their parents’ divorce.* When a kid experiences divorce, their whole world is affected. They may struggle emotionally, physically and socially. Also, their impression of promises and adults doing what they say may be jaded. You will likely have kids in your group whose parents have been through a divorce. In today’s lesson, they will learn that God always does what He says. Kids who have been hurt may struggle with believing that. They may wonder why a promise-keeping God would let their family go through so much. You can listen to kids’ struggles without judging their family. Point to God’s faithfulness, even when it takes time to see how He’s moving. Kids can learn that God won’t lie or break promises.

*For more resources on this topic, check out: britecurriculum.com/resources

ELEMENTARY GLOSSARY

Infallible: never wrong, failing, or making a mistake

Promise: when someone agrees to something

Promised Land: a special place God promised to give His people

Small Group ROADMAP

1

BELONG (10 MINUTES)

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

CAN YOU KEEP IT?

SUPPLIES: Printable pages, painter's tape

OR

THE SUN STOOD STILL

SUPPLIES: Building blocks (several per kid), yellow ball

2

BELIEVE (10 MINUTES)

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

STOP AND GO VERSE

SUPPLIES: Bibles, teaching slide

OR

JUMP FOR GOD'S PROMISES

SUPPLIES: Bible, printable page

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

PROMISE MATCH

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

OR

STAND AND PRAY

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



STOP AND GO VERSE

SUPPLIES:

Bibles, teaching slide

PREP:

Print or show the Memory Verse teaching slide.

LEADER TIP: Remind kids to use their walking feet during this activity.

ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS: For kids who are hard of hearing, give a visual cue for starting and stopping (e.g., open hand when starting and closed hand when stopping).

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. *Lead kids to find Luke 1:37 in their Bibles. Read it aloud together.*
2. **Discuss:** What does this verse tell us about God?
3. **Discuss:** What impossible thing did God do in today's story?
4. **Discuss:** What promise did God keep in today's story?
5. **Say:** Let's play a game to practice our verse!
6. **Say:** You will line up shoulder to shoulder on one side of our space and I will stand on the other side with my back to you.
7. **Say:** You will walk toward me. When I call, "stop" and turn around, you will freeze and we will say the Bible verse together. We will continue until everyone gets to me. If you don't freeze when I call "stop," you will start over.
8. *Play the game, making sure to say the memory verse together several times.*
9. *Play as many rounds as time allows.*
10. **Say:** God does what He says. He always keeps His promises. The Bible is full of stories where God keeps His promises to His people.
11. **Discuss:** Why does God keep His promises?

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

God is always good! He never lies or changes His mind. He can do anything. That means that when God promises something, we can trust that He will do it!



Discipleship DISCUSSION

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR FOLLOWERS OF JESUS?

Discuss: How does this true story from the Bible show us that God is good?

Say: Joshua asked for God to stop the sun, and He did! God also kept His promise to the Israelites, giving them the land He had promised. God is good and can never lie. He always does what He says!

Read Numbers 23:19 directly from the Bible: *God is not man, that He should lie, or a son of man, that He should change His mind. Has He said, and will He not do it? Or has He spoken, and will He not fulfill it?*

BUT WHAT ABOUT ... DIVORCE?

Discuss: What are some important promises that adults make?

Discuss: What happens when adults who are married to each other don't keep their promise to stay married?

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

Say: God designed marriage to be between a man and a woman forever. But even after a husband and wife promise to stay married forever, they sometimes don't. Some families go through a divorce, which is very hard for everyone. The Bible tells us that God doesn't like divorce. He knows how much it hurts the whole family. But He always loves the people who are involved with the divorce. Some of you may have parents who are divorced, and you know how hard it can be. Our world is broken by sin. Moms and dads are human and make mistakes. Sometimes the adults we love don't keep their promises. That hurts. We can turn to God and talk to Him about our hurt. We can also trust that He will always be there for us and always keeps every promise. Psalm 46:1 reminds us: *God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.*



STAND AND PRAY

SUPPLIES:

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

PREP:

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

ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS: For struggling learners, allow for idea sharing with a buddy in order to make best connections to the situations.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Discuss:** What did God tell Joshua about the battle He would fight? Did God keep His promise?
2. **Discuss:** How can we know what God's promises are?
3. **Say:** We can learn the many promises God has made to His people by studying the Bible.
4. **Say:** God has made so many promises to us in the Bible! We can remember those promises and trust that God does what He says. He will always keep His promises.
5. *Hold up one verse sign and read the verse from your Bible.*
6. **Discuss:** What does God promise in this verse?
7. *Place the verse sign on the floor around your space. Continue until you have read, discussed and placed all the verses.*
8. **Say:** Now think about something that is happening in your life and choose a verse that you want to remember and go stand by it.
9. *Give kids time to walk around and choose a verse to stand by.*
10. **Say:** I will start a prayer and then give you a moment to talk to God silently about your life and His promise. Then I will close the prayer.
11. *Pray a short opening prayer and then give kids time to silently pray to God.*
12. **Pray:** God, thank You for all the promises that You give us in the Bible. Help us to remember Your promises and trust that You will do what You say. Amen.
13. **Say:** God does what He says. Let's take time to respond to Him.

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

Lead kids to use the "Me Question" box on their Take-Home pages. Ask fun, relationship-building questions while kids wait to be picked up. As parents arrive, connect with them and point out the Take-Home page.

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

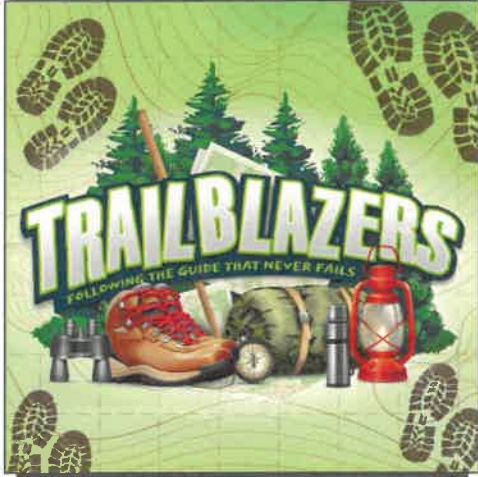
BEFORE YOU LEAVE:

After 10:00 Services:

- Erase whiteboard.
- Place Prayer Journal and Curriculum book in supply tub.
- Return Prayer Sheet, Blue 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, Blue Report (if needed) and Attendance Book to Welcome Desk
- Take supply tub to Resource Room



DEBORAH LEADS

BIBLE PASSAGE: Judges 4–5

FOCUS VERSES: 1 John 4:4; Matthew 19:26;
1 Corinthians 15:57

Summary: Deborah was a judge in Israel. Because of their disobedience, Israel had been taken over by the king of Canaan and his general, Sisera. Deborah told Barak to go and fight them, but Barak insisted that Deborah had to come too. The Lord caused the Canaanite army to panic, but Sisera escaped and hid in a tent. A woman named Jael killed him with a tent peg. The Lord was victorious.



MONTHLY *Memory Verse*

For nothing will be impossible with God.

(LUKE 1:37)



God is victorious.



We will go deeper in God's truth by answering these questions:



CAN ANYTHING DEFEAT GOD?

No! God is all-powerful. There is nothing or no one anywhere who is more powerful than He is.



HOW CAN WE FACE TOUGH TIMES IN LIFE?

We can worship God even when life is hard. We can praise Him for who He is because He is always victorious.



HOW IS GOD INVITING ME TO RESPOND?

Kids will reflect and respond to the truth they learned about God.

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: BIG EMOTIONS AND HELPFUL RESPONSES

While it may appear that a kid is overreacting to a situation, we don't know the whole story. Their reaction may be a response to events that happened before they entered our church. Responding with empathy and understanding will help a kid calm down and feel known.

- **Believe the kid.** Often if a kid is upset, we attempt to reassure them by saying "you're okay" or "don't cry." Instead of reassuring, this message communicates that their feelings are not valid. When we believe a kid's emotions are real, we will be less likely to dismiss their feelings.
- **Help kids name their feelings.** Some kids need help identifying what they are feeling. For example, if they're crying say, "It seems like you're sad." Or if they just kicked a chair, "It looks like you're angry because you just kicked a chair." This will help the kid begin to consider the emotion they are feeling.

NAVIGATING A BROKEN WORLD: VIOLENCE

Unfortunately, violence is prevalent in our culture. A recent study revealed that 60 percent of kids had witnessed abuse, violence or crime.* Kids who have been exposed to violence can struggle with emotional and mental health issues, as well as potentially engaging in troublesome behavior. Media and entertainment have desensitized many to violence, and unfortunately, many kids live with the reality of violence every day. Kids will likely pick up on the violence in the story today. Remind kids that this story describes what happened, but it isn't telling us what to do. Jael killed a man with a tent peg, but that doesn't mean God is saying we should act violently toward others. Remember, if a kid mentions abuse or violence that has happened to them, report that immediately and find help for the family. Remind kids that violence of any type is not part of God's design for the world. Violence is a result of the fall and is a terrible part of the broken world we live in. One day Jesus will make all things new, and violence will not be a part of His forever kingdom.

*For more resources on this topic, check out: [britecurriculum.com/resources](https://www.britecurriculum.com/resources)

ELEMENTARY GLOSSARY

Infallible: never wrong, failing, or making a mistake

Judge: a person chosen by God to lead His people

Omnipotent: having unlimited power; stronger than anything

Victorious: having won a challenge or battle

Small Group ROADMAP

1

BELONG (10 MINUTES)

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

CUP BOWLING

SUPPLIES: 10 cups, tennis ball

OR

ELEPHANT, MOUSE, MOOSE!

SUPPLIES: None

2

BELIEVE (10 MINUTES)

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

MEMORY VERSE MOVEMENT

SUPPLIES: Bibles, teaching slide

OR

BATTLE CRY

SUPPLIES: Bible

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

FACING TOUGH TIMES

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

OR

VICTORY PRAYERS

SUPPLIES: Bible, Take-Home page, coloring supplies, butcher paper, scissors, sticky notes (1 per kid), painter's tape



MEMORY VERSE MOVEMENT

SUPPLIES:

Bibles, teaching slide

PREP:

Print or show the Memory Verse teaching slide.

ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS: Provide alternate motions for kids with mobility needs or allow them to assist in being the caller.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. *Lead kids to find Luke 1:37 in their Bibles. Read it aloud together.*
2. **Discuss:** What impossible thing did God do for the Israelites?
3. **Discuss:** Do you think Deborah, Barak and the Israelites believed that nothing was impossible for God?
4. **Discuss:** Can anything defeat God?
5. **Say:** No! God is all-powerful. There is nothing or no one anywhere who is more powerful than He is.
6. **Say:** Let's say our verse together while doing some tricky movements!
7. *Say the verse together while attempting one of the movements below. Repeat with as many movements as you have time for.*
8. **Movements:**
 - Hopping on one foot
 - Doing a back bend
 - Crab walking
 - March in place
 - Spinning in circles
 - Balancing on one foot
 - Bear crawl
 - Frog jump
9. **Say:** Great job with our movements! Some of those were easy and some were tough!

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

No matter how things feel, God is not limited like we are. When you face something hard this week, remember this verse and trust that nothing is impossible with God!



Discipleship DISCUSSION

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR FOLLOWERS OF JESUS?

Discuss: How does this true story from the Bible show us that God is good?

Say: The Israelites were defeated by their enemies because of their sin. And not just once—over and over. But over and over, God raised up a judge who would help rescue them. He didn't give up on them. He was good even when they were not!

Read Judges 2:18a directly from the Bible: *Whenever the LORD raised up judges for them, the LORD was with the judge, and He saved them from the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge.*

BUT WHAT ABOUT ... VIOLENCE?

Discuss: Without describing what you saw, what are some ways that you have seen violence or people hurting other people? Movies? TV shows? Social media?

Discuss: How does it make you feel when you see something violent like that?

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

Say: Our Bible story today contained some violence. It sounded like something out of a movie! It's important to remember that this story is telling us what happened in this situation, but it isn't telling us that it is something we should do. The Old Testament tells us about a lot of battles and wars that happened. God used these battles to protect His people or to punish people who were against Him. Those are God's decisions, not ours. God calls us to love others and to treat others kindly. Proverbs 3:31 says: *Do not envy a man of violence and do not choose any of his ways.* All violence is a result of living in a world broken by sin. It is not what God designed for us. One day, Jesus will return and make this whole world new again. There will be no fighting or violence or pain. Until then, we can seek God's help when we are afraid of violence around us. If something violent is happening to you, that is not okay or what God wants for you. Talk to an adult you trust.



FACING TOUGH TIMES

SUPPLIES:

Bibles, Take-Home page, coloring supplies, printable pages, beanbag (1 per kid)

PREP:

Print the Take-Home page (1 per kid). Print the printable pages. Keep the Situations Page with you.

LEADER TIP: Invite kids to share difficult situations they are facing and what praise card they could use.

ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS: For active learners, provide a designated spot for them to sit in between two positive kids or provide a chair within the circle for the kid to sit. This will allow for personal space.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Discuss:** How was Israel victorious in our story today?
2. **Say:** We may not fight in battles, but all of us face tough times in our lives.
3. **Discuss:** How can we face tough times in life?
4. **Say:** We can worship God even when life is hard. We can praise Him for who He is because He is always victorious.
5. *Gather kids in a circle. Read each praise card aloud and then put it down in the middle of your circle.*
6. *Pass out a beanbag to each kid.*
7. *Read the first situation and have each kid toss their beanbag on the praise card they could use to praise God. Invite kids to share why they chose that card.*
8. *Continue until you have read and discussed each situation.*
9. **Read:** 1 Corinthians 15:57.
10. **Discuss:** What does this verse remind us of and tell us to do?
11. **Say:** When we face tough times, we can remember and praise God for who He is because we know that ultimately He will be victorious and defeat sin and death.
12. **Pray:** God, we praise You for always being victorious. Help us to trust You even during tough times and remember that nothing is impossible for You. Amen.
13. **Say:** God is victorious. Let's take time to respond to Him.

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

Lead kids to use the "Me Question" box on their Take-Home pages. Ask fun, relationship-building questions while kids wait to be picked up. As parents arrive, connect with them and point out the Take-Home page.

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

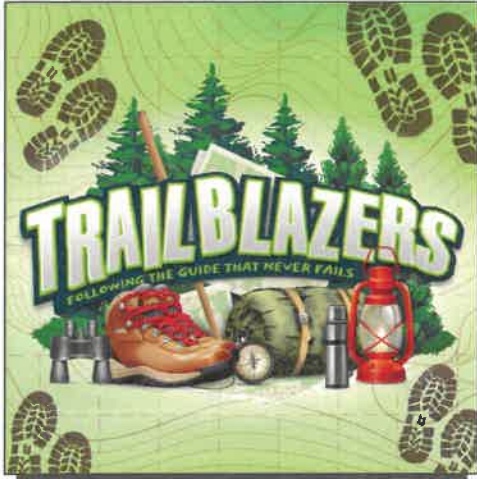
BEFORE YOU LEAVE:

After 10:00 Services:

- Erase whiteboard.
- Place Prayer Journal and Curriculum book in supply tub.
- Return Prayer Sheet, Blue 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, Blue Report (if needed) and Attendance Book to Welcome Desk
- Take supply tub to Resource Room



HANNAH AND SAMUEL

BIBLE PASSAGE: 1 Samuel 1–3

FOCUS VERSES: 1 Peter 5:7; Luke 12:6–7; 1 Samuel 12:24; Colossians 3:17

Summary: More than anything else, Hannah wanted a baby. She prayed fervently to the Lord, promising that if He gave her a child, she would dedicate the child to God's service forever. Hannah gave birth to Samuel. She kept her word and left him with Eli, the high priest, to serve in the temple. God called out to Samuel, but Samuel didn't know it was Him. After several times, Eli told Samuel to respond to God. God raised up Samuel to be a prophet for all of Israel.



MONTHLY *Memory Verse*

For nothing will be impossible with God.

(LUKE 1:37)



God cares about us.

We will go deeper in God's truth by answering these questions:



DOES GOD KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING IN PEOPLE'S LIVES?

God knows everything, including the details of every single person's life. He knows us and cares about us.



HOW CAN WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GOODNESS TO US?

We can respond to God with thankfulness and a willingness to serve Him.



HOW IS GOD INVITING ME TO RESPOND?

Kids will reflect and respond to the truth they learned about God.

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: REMEMBER IT'S NOT ABOUT YOU

When a kid responds in a way that does not meet our expectations, it's common to take that behavior personally. This can cause leaders to become frustrated and respond in ways that are not helpful and may even escalate the kid's behavior. Here are some ways to stay calm in the midst of tough situations.

- **Check your breathing:** Before responding, take a few deep breaths. This is also a great modeling for the kid who may be having a hard time. As they see us breathing deeply, often they will do the same.
- **Pray.** Matthew 19:26 says: *With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.* Need more patience, discernment or calm? Ask God for it.
- **Reframe the behavior:** Instead of being offended at the kid's behavior, consider what this behavior may be telling you and how you might help. If we approach the kid as someone needing help, we will tend to approach them in a more compassionate and empathetic way.

NAVIGATING A BROKEN WORLD: FOSTER CARE

In today's story, kids might be confused why Hannah entrusted the very child she had prayed for to someone else's care. In this situation, Hannah was keeping a promise to God. She loved Samuel so much that she wanted the best for him, which in this case meant living and serving God in the temple. There are over 340,000 kids in foster care in the United States.* In these situations, kids end up living with someone other than their parents due to sickness, trouble or neglect. You may have kids in your group who have been in the foster care system. Avoid asking specifics about why kids are in foster care or about the situation of their biological parents. It might be difficult for them to discuss, but there is also a good chance they don't know the whole situation. Recognize that many kids in foster care have experienced significant trauma, resulting in emotional or behavioral challenges that they may exhibit in your group. Offer support and acceptance to all kids while partnering with foster parents to understand how best to meet kids' needs.

*For more resources on this topic, check out: [britecurriculum.com/resources](https://www.britecurriculum.com/resources)

ELEMENTARY GLOSSARY

Infallible: never wrong, failing, or making a mistake

Omniscient: all-knowing

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

Temple: the holy place where God's people went to worship Him

Small Group ROADMAP

1

BELONG (10 MINUTES)

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

WHAT DO YOU LIKE?

SUPPLIES: None

OR

PRAISE WEB

SUPPLIES: Ball of yarn

2

BELIEVE (10 MINUTES)

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

REPEAT IF YOU...

SUPPLIES: Bibles, teaching slide, printable pages, paper bag, scissors

OR

GOD KNOWS AND CARES FOR ME

SUPPLIES: Bible, pony beads (10 per kid), heart beads (2 per kid), elastic cord, scissors, bowls (1 per 4 kids)

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

ACTS OF SERVICE

SUPPLIES: Bible, Take-Home page, coloring supplies

OR

DRAW AND TELL

SUPPLIES: Bible, Take-Home page, coloring supplies, cardstock (1 per 2 kids), scissors



GOD KNOWS AND CARES FOR ME

SUPPLIES:

Bible, pony beads (10 per kid), heart beads (2 per kid), elastic cord, scissors, bowls (1 per 4 kids)

PREP:

Cut the elastic cord into 12-inch pieces (1 per kid). Divide the beads into the bowls.

ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS: Kids with fine motor needs may require support when stringing beads.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Discuss:** What did God know about Hannah's life?
2. **Discuss:** What did He do to show He cared about Hannah and Samuel?
3. **Discuss:** Does God know what's happening in people's lives?
4. **Say:** God knows everything, including the details of every single person's life. He knows us and cares about us.
5. **Read:** Luke 12:6–7 and Psalm 139:1–4.
6. **Discuss:** What do these verses tell us God knows about us?
7. *Pass out the supplies.*
8. *Invite kids to string on a heart bead to start their bracelet.*
9. *Invite kids to share something God knows about them as they make their bracelets such as their favorite color, food, activity or subject in school; what makes them happy, excited, sad or scared; what they do after school; what they like to do in their free time.*
10. *Continue until they have completed their bracelets and shared the details from their lives that God knows and cares about.*
11. **Say:** Now let's put on our last heart bead to end our bracelet. The hearts remind us that God knows everything and He will always care for us.
12. *Help kids tie their bracelets on their wrists.*
13. **Read:** 1 Peter 5:7.

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

When you look at your bracelet, remember that God knows and cares for you! You can talk to Him anywhere, anytime, about anything!



Discipleship DISCUSSION

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR FOLLOWERS OF JESUS?

Discuss: How does this true story from the Bible show us that God is good?

Say: God heard Hannah's prayer. He answered her prayer and gave her Samuel. God shows His goodness in His care for us. He hears our prayers and helps us.

Read Psalm 18:6 directly from the Bible: *In my distress I called upon the LORD; to my God I cried for help. From His temple He heard my voice, and my cry to Him reached His ears.*

BUT WHAT ABOUT ... FOSTER CARE?

Discuss: What did you think about Hannah leaving Samuel to grow up in the temple?

Discuss: Are there situations where kids live with people who aren't their parents?

Say: Sometimes kids live with other family members. Sometimes kids live in foster care, which means they live with another family because there is a reason they cannot live with their own.

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

Say: God loves when families grow by including others. Psalm 68:6 says: *God settles the solitary in a home.* In other words, God puts those who are alone in families. Sometimes, kids end up alone because their parents are sick or going through a really tough time. God shows He cares by providing love during that really hard time. There were probably times when it was hard for Samuel to grow up in the temple instead of in his parents' house. But God used the place where Samuel was to call him and to prepare him to be the prophet of Israel. God cares about every kid and is with every kid, no matter their situation. He can use the really hard things we go through in His plan for our lives.



ACTS OF SERVICE

SUPPLIES:

Bible, Take-Home page, coloring supplies

PREP:

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

ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS: Pair kids who may struggle with this activity with a friend who can help.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Discuss:** What did God give Hannah? What was Hannah's response to God?
2. **Say:** Hannah was so happy and thankful to have a baby that she dedicated Samuel to God's service.
3. **Read:** Colossians 3:17.
4. **Discuss:** How can we respond to God's goodness to us?
5. **Say:** We can respond to God with thankfulness and a willingness to serve Him.
6. **Discuss:** Have you ever been so thankful for something that you wanted to do something nice for the person who gave it to you? What did you do?
7. **Say:** That's how it is with God! We are so grateful for His goodness that we want to serve Him.
8. **Discuss:** How can we serve and be thankful for His goodness?
9. **Say:** In pairs, you will act out one way that you can be thankful to God by serving Him and others.
10. *Assign pairs ideas to act out, such as helping a family member or friend, telling someone about Jesus, giving food or serving at a food pantry, comforting a friend who is sad or hurting.*
11. *Divide kids into pairs and give them time to choose and prepare their idea.*
12. *Invite each group to act out their idea.*
13. **Discuss:** How can you show gratitude to God and serve Him this week?
14. **Pray:** God, thank You for knowing the details of our lives and caring about us. We are so grateful for Your goodness and want to serve You. Amen.
15. **Say:** God cares about us. Let's take time to respond to Him.

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

Lead kids to use the "Me Question" box on their Take-Home pages. Ask fun, relationship-building questions while kids wait to be picked up. As parents arrive, connect with them and point out the Take-Home page.

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

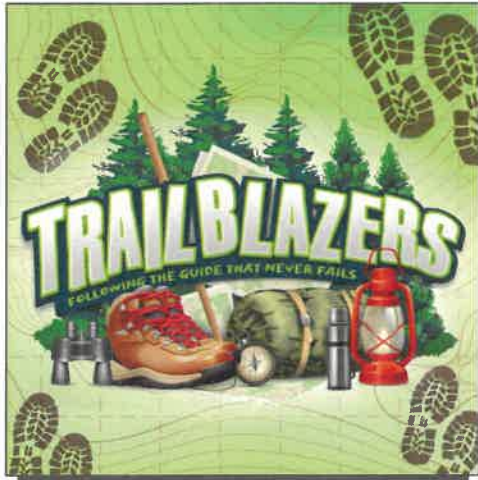
BEFORE YOU LEAVE:

After 10:00 Services:

- Erase whiteboard.
- Place Prayer Journal and Curriculum book in supply tub.
- Return Prayer Sheet, Blue 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, Blue Report (if needed) and Attendance Book to Welcome Desk
- Take supply tub to Resource Room



DAVID AND JONATHAN

BIBLE PASSAGE: 1 Samuel 20

FOCUS VERSES: Jeremiah 29:11; Proverbs 3:5-6;
Hebrews 10:24

Summary: Saul was still the king of Israel, but God had anointed David to replace him. Saul brought David to live in his house. Saul's son Jonathan and David became best friends and promised to always take care of each other. Saul grew very jealous of David and tried to kill him multiple times. David and Jonathan made a plan to figure out if Saul truly intended to harm David. Jonathan helped David escape. Jonathan was a good friend to David even though that meant he would never be the king himself.



MONTHLY *Memory Verse*

For nothing will be impossible with God.

(LUKE 1:37)



God's plan comes first.

We will go deeper in God's truth by answering these questions:



WHY SHOULD GOD'S PLAN COME FIRST?

God's plan is the most important, and He will make it happen.



DO WE HAVE TO LIVE OUT GOD'S PLAN ON OUR OWN?

God gives us other people who can encourage us, strengthen us, love us and help us.



HOW IS GOD INVITING ME TO RESPOND?

Kids will reflect and respond to the truth they learned about God.

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: OUR WORDS ARE POWERFUL

Our words have the power to build up or tear down. Our words have the power to negatively affect a kid's self-esteem or to encourage them and build up their confidence. Let's be intentional with the words we use, calling out the strengths of each child.

- **Praise publicly, correct privately.** Correction is best done in a quiet corner of the room, out of earshot of others. Public correction can cause shame, which can increase undesirable behavior.
- **Look for ways to say "yes."** "Yes" is a powerful word. While there are times we must say no, look for opportunities to respond with a yes or use a positive response. For example if a kid wants to get out the toys, instead of saying no, which can result in a power struggle, reframe your response with, "yes, we will play with the toys after large group."
- **Call out the good in each kid.** Kids who have difficult behavior often receive negative feedback everywhere they go, which can impact their beliefs about themselves. Be the one to point out the unique gifts that God has given them.

NAVIGATING A BROKEN WORLD: CHOOSING FRIENDS

Research shows that 20 percent of elementary-age kids have difficulty making or keeping friends. Friendships are crucial for kids' social development and mental health. In today's lesson, kids will learn about David and Jonathan and their commitment to God and to each other. You may have kids in your group who struggle with having close friends. Some kids choose friendships that are not healthy. You can help kids begin to create a definition for Godly, healthy friendships. Your group can be a safe place for kids to develop friendships. Utilize "Belong" experiences to help kids connect with each other and discover similarities. When kids work in partners or groups, help pair them in varying groups so they have the opportunity to know others. Most of all, help kids understand that great friendships help them grow closer to God.

*For more resources on this topic, check out: britecurriculum.com/resources

ELEMENTARY GLOSSARY

Anoint: chosen by God for a special job

Infallible: never wrong, failing, or making a mistake

Providence: God's active involvement in the world today

Small Group ROADMAP

1

BELONG (10 MINUTES)

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

PLAN A PARTY

SUPPLIES: Whiteboard, dry-erase markers

OR

BUILD A FRIEND

SUPPLIES: Printable pages, scissors, painter's tape

2

BELIEVE (10 MINUTES)

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

OVER UNDER VERSE

SUPPLIES: Bibles, teaching slide, ball

OR

PUZZLE IT

SUPPLIES: Bible, printable page, scissors

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

ENVELOPES OF SUPPORT

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

OR

PICTURE FRAME PRAYERS

SUPPLIES: Bible, Take-Home page, coloring supplies, craft sticks (4 per kid), glue dots (4 per kid), cardstock (1 per kid), scissors, glue (1 per kid)



OVER UNDER VERSE

SUPPLIES:

Bibles, teaching slide, ball

PREP:

Print or show the Memory Verse teaching slide.

ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS: For kids with mobility needs, allow modified movements specific to their needs.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. *Lead kids to find Luke 1:37 in their Bibles. Read it aloud together.*
2. **Discuss:** What may have felt impossible to David? What impossible things did God do?
3. **Discuss:** What plan did God have for David's life?
4. **Discuss:** Why should God's plan come first?
5. **Say:** God's plan is the most important, and He will make it happen.
6. **Say:** There were many times when David may have felt discouraged or like it was impossible for him to become king, but God's plan happened! David and Jonathan worked together to accomplish God's plan.
7. **Say:** Let's work together as friends to learn our verse!
8. *Gather kids in a standing circle.*
9. *Have everyone face the same direction.*
10. *Choose someone to give the ball to and begin the verse.*
11. *They will pass the ball over their head to the person behind them while saying the first word of the verse aloud. The person in line behind them will pass the ball under their legs to the person behind them while saying the next word of the verse aloud.*
12. *Everyone will continue alternating passing the ball over or under while saying a word of the verse until the verse is completed.*
13. *Repeat the verse as many times as you have time for.*

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

God's plan is always the best plan! Nothing is impossible for Him!



Discipleship DISCUSSION

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR FOLLOWERS OF JESUS?

Discuss: How does this true story from the Bible show us that God is good?

Say: God gives us friends. Friends are a precious gift because we don't have to live life on our own. Friends bring joy and comfort. Good friends are a reminder of God's goodness.

Read Ecclesiastes 4:9–10a directly from the Bible: *Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow.*

BUT WHAT ABOUT ... CHOOSING FRIENDS?

Discuss: Share about how you met your best friend.

Discuss: What are some characteristics of true friends?

Discuss: What does God have to say about that?

Say: Friendships are very important and are a gift from God. We can all think of friends who have helped us in many ways. But you can likely also think of friends you have had who have gotten you into trouble. 1 Corinthians 15:33 says: *Do not be deceived: "Bad company ruins good morals."* In other words, if we spend a lot of time with people who aren't living like God wants them to, we are likely to end up not making great choices as well. Our friends influence us a lot, so it is important that we spend time with people who help our relationship with God. It is hard enough to follow God's plan in our lives. Imagine how much easier it would be if you had a friend group who encouraged that? Show love to all people, but be picky in who your closest friends are.



ENVELOPES OF SUPPORT

SUPPLIES:

Bible, Take-Home page, coloring supplies, envelopes (1 per kid), craft sticks (several per kid)

PREP:

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

ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS: Allow for extra time and cueing of ideas to support struggling learners.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Discuss:** How did Jonathan put God's plan first? How was Jonathan a good friend to David?
2. **Discuss:** Do we have to live out God's plan on our own?
3. **Say:** God gives us other people who can encourage us, strengthen us, love us and help us.
4. **Read:** Hebrews 10:24.
5. **Discuss:** Who is someone in your life who helps you follow God's plan?
6. **Say:** Jonathan and David kept their promise to always take care of each other. We can thank God for the people He has given us to help us follow Jesus.
7. *Give everyone several craft sticks, coloring supplies and an envelope.*
8. *Invite kids to decorate the envelope to look like a church.*
9. *Next, challenge them to decorate each craft stick to look like someone who is a helper in their life.*
10. *When kids are finished, invite kids to share about the helpers in their life who help them follow God. Have kids place their craft sticks in their church envelopes.*
11. **Say:** God gives us a church filled with people who care about us and want us to follow Jesus. He gives us friends who are also following Jesus. He gives us adults to teach us. Putting God's plan first isn't always easy; but we don't have to do it alone!
12. **Pray:** God, thank You for having a good plan for our lives. Help us remember that Your plan comes first. You will make it happen because You never fail. Amen.
13. **Say:** God's plan comes first. Let's take time to respond to Him.

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

Lead kids to use the "Me Question" box on their Take-Home pages. Ask fun, relationship-building questions while kids wait to be picked up. As parents arrive, connect with them and point out the Take-Home page.

Extra Time?

- Work on Books of the Bible
- Work on Memory Verse
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 - 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, Blue 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, Blue Report (if needed) and Attendance Book to Welcome Desk
- Take supply tub to Resource Room