



JACOB'S DREAM

BIBLE PASSAGE: Genesis 27-28

FOCUS VERSES: Malachi 3:6a, Romans 8:38-39,
Lamentations 3:22-23

Summary: God made the same promise to Abraham's son Isaac that he made to Abraham. Isaac and Rebekah had twin sons, Esau and Jacob. Isaac intended to bless Esau, but Jacob deceived him and received the blessing instead. Esau was angry, so Jacob fled. On his journey, Jacob dreamed of a ladder reaching heaven and heard God reaffirm the covenant. Despite Jacob's deceit, God revealed His plan and faithfulness through His promises.



MONTHLY *Memory Verse*

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

(HEBREWS 13:8)



God never changes.

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



DOES GOD CHANGE OVER TIME?

God is always the same. We can trust that He is always good, loving and in control.



DO OUR MISTAKES CHANGE GOD'S LOVE FOR US?

No! God's love for us doesn't change. He loves us no matter what.



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: RECOGNIZING ABUSE

As a loving, caring adult, you will be in a position to learn a lot about kids' lives. You could be a first line of defense in recognizing when something is not right. A kid may share that they are being hurt, but most often they won't. Here are some signs that a kid may be in danger:

- **Physical abuse:** unexplained bruises or other injuries, repeated injuries, burn marks, scars from previous injuries.
- **Sexual abuse:** drawings or play with sexualized tones, talking about sexual topics that are not age-appropriate, excessive touching of self.
- **Neglect:** consistently poor hygiene, malnutrition, stealing food, seems to lack adult supervision.
- **General potential signs of abuse or neglect:** sudden unexplained change in behavior, withdrawal, increased aggression with others, increased anxiety or clinginess.

If you have concerns that a kid is experiencing abuse or neglect, report your observations to appropriate local authorities right away and also share with your church leadership. You do not need solid proof to report and you could save a kid's life.

NAVIGATING A BROKEN WORLD: LONELINESS

Loneliness is pervasive in our culture. One survey reveals 28 percent of Gen Z reported that they frequently feel lonely.* Our kids are growing up in a very lonely culture. Many spent their younger years isolated from others due to the pandemic. In today's lesson, Jacob is very much alone after having to flee his family. You can help your group be a place where kids do not feel lonely. Be intentional in connecting kids together. Watch for kids who tend to isolate and work to build relationships with them. Utilize the Belong activities to get to know kids and pay attention to things they share about themselves. Help kids feel known. Most importantly, emphasize that God is always near to them, loving them, and helping them.

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

ELEMENTARY GLOSSARY

Blessing: gift of power, wealth, success and a special relationship with God

Covenant: a very special promise

Deceive: deliberately causing someone to believe something that is untrue

Unchanging: always stays the same

Small Group ROADMAP

1

BELONG (10 MINUTES)

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

LEFT SIDE, RIGHT SIDE

SUPPLIES: None

OR

HOW DOES IT CHANGE?

SUPPLIES: Sponge, water, rock, dirt, bowl, table, paper towels

2

BELIEVE (10 MINUTES)

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

TRICKY VOICE VERSES

SUPPLIES: Bibles, teaching slide

OR

UNCHANGING LIGHT

SUPPLIES: Bible, cardstock (1 per kid), flashlight, kid scissors (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

GOD NEVER CHANGES

SUPPLIES: Bibles, Take-Home page, writing supplies, printable page

OR

GOD LOVES ME ALL THE TIME!

SUPPLIES: Bible, Take-Home page, coloring supplies, paper



TRICKY VOICE VERSES

SUPPLIES:

Bibles, teaching slide

PREP:

Print or show the Memory Verse teaching slide.

ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS: Kids might have difficulty keeping their eyes closed for this period of time. They can also sit with their back toward the speaker.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. *Lead kids to find Hebrews 13:8 in their Bibles. Read it aloud together.*
2. **Discuss:** How did God show Jacob that He never changes and is always good, loving and in control?
3. *Practice the verse together several times.*
4. **Say:** Let's practice our memory verse by changing our voices and seeing if we can guess who is saying the verse!
5. *Have all the kids close their eyes. Quietly tap one kid on the back. Have them go up front and say the verse in a disguised voice. While their eyes are still closed, give the other kids three chances to guess who is saying the verse. Have everyone open their eyes to reveal who was speaking.*
6. *Have everyone close their eyes again and repeat the activity as many times as you have time for.*
7. **Discuss:** This activity reminds us of Jacob tricking Isaac by disguising himself as Esau. Was it hard to tell whose voice was saying the verse?
8. **Discuss:** Does God change over time?
9. **Say:** God is always the same. We can trust that He is always good, loving and in control.

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

We can trust that God never changes and is always in control! He is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow!



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: Jacob didn't make great choices, but God chose to make the same promises to him that He had made to Jacob's father and grandfather. God's goodness didn't stop even when Jacob himself wasn't good.

Read Psalm 100:5 directly from the Bible: *For the LORD is good; His steadfast love endures forever, and His faithfulness to all generations.*

BUT WHAT ABOUT ... LONELINESS

Discuss: Can you share about a time when you felt lonely?

Discuss: Do you think kids are lonelier these days? What might be some reasons for that?

Discuss: What does God have to say about that?

Say: A lot of people feel lonely these days. If you've felt that, you are not alone. Sometimes it might feel challenging to make friends or hang out with others. We spend a lot of time on screens, but this isn't the same as having real friendships with people. God wants us to connect with other people. Maybe this week you can make a point to talk to someone new, especially someone else who might be lonely too. Even when we're alone, we can trust God is always with us. The Bible teaches us that when we feel lonely, we can talk to God. Psalm 25:16 says: *Turn to me and be gracious to me, for I am lonely and afflicted.*



GOD NEVER CHANGES

SUPPLIES:

Bibles, Take-Home page, writing supplies, printable page

PREP:

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

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Discuss:** What were some bad choices or mistakes Jacob made in our story?
2. **Discuss:** Did God's love for Jacob change after his bad choices?
3. **Discuss:** Did God's plans for Jacob change after his bad choices?
4. **Read:** Romans 8:38–39.
5. *Pass out the printable page.*
6. **Say:** This page tells us a truth about God.
7. *Read the page to kids.*
8. **Say:** Crumple up your piece of paper, uncrumple it and crumple it again.
9. **Say:** Now uncrumple your paper and make it as flat as you can.
10. **Say:** This paper represents our mistakes. It isn't perfect. Even though the paper is wrinkled and messed up, we can still see God's love coming through!
11. **Say:** This is the same in our lives. Even though we make mistakes, God's love for us still shines through!
12. **Discuss:** Do our mistakes change God's love for us?
13. **Say:** No! God's love for us doesn't change. He loves us no matter what.
14. **Read:** Lamentations 3:22–23.
15. **Pray:** God, thank You that You never change. Thank You that Your love for us is always the same. Help us trust You every day. Amen.
16. **Say:** God never changes. 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



JOSEPH AND HIS BROTHERS

BIBLE PASSAGE: Genesis 37

FOCUS VERSES: Psalm 145:13, Isaiah 26:4,
Deuteronomy 7:9, Proverbs 21:1

Summary: Joseph was his father's favorite son out of twelve brothers. His brothers hated him. One day, they schemed to throw him into a pit and tell their father he was dead. They sold Joseph to a caravan of traders, and he was taken to Egypt. Joseph encountered more terrible situations, but God was using every single event for good. Eventually, God would use Joseph's circumstances to place him in a position of power in Egypt, where he would save many lives.



MONTHLY *Memory Verse*

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

(HEBREWS 13:8)



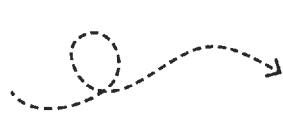
God can be trusted.



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



WHY CAN GOD BE TRUSTED?
Because He is completely good, everything God does is right and good. He is completely faithful.



CAN WE TRUST GOD WHEN THINGS DON'T GO OUR WAY?
Bad things happen because we live in a broken world. We can trust that God has a plan and He is good.



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: REPORTING ABUSE

If you have concerns about a kid's safety, what do you do? A mandatory reporter is someone who is legally required to report kid welfare concerns. Qualifications for mandatory reporting differ from state to state, so make sure you are aware of your state's laws. Most importantly, commit to doing the right thing to help ensure kids are safe.

- **Identify abuse:** You do not have to be 100 percent sure that a kid is in danger to get help. It is not your job to conduct an investigation, and doing so can potentially endanger the kid even more.
- **Report to Church Leadership:** Talk to the church staff leader who oversees your area. Share your concerns and the actions you have taken so far.
- **Report to authorities:** Contact your local child protective services or law enforcement agency. An alternative is the National Child Abuse Hotline: 1-800-4-A-CHILD.
- **Keep confidentiality:** This is definitely not a subject for prayer requests. Let the authorities do their job and avoid reaching out to the family or to other people.

NAVIGATING A BROKEN WORLD: WHY DO BAD THINGS HAPPEN?

One survey indicated that 14 percent of American adults expressed that suffering in the world leads them to believe that there is no God.* This idea can be confusing for kids as they learn that God is good and loving. It is important that we also help them understand who God is and His role in suffering as well. In today's lesson, kids will learn God is in control of everything and uses bad situations for His glory. You may have kids in your group who have experienced trauma that has left them wondering how good and kind God really is. You can be a safe place for them to share their story, listening without judging their questions. It's okay to say something like, "I don't know why that happened, but I do know that God is good and loves you." Consider sharing an age-appropriate story of how you've seen God work through tough times in your own life. Most of all, reiterate that even in our deepest hurts, God is very real and He is near.

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

ELEMENTARY GLOSSARY

Faithful: loyal; doing what you say you're going to do

Good: worthy of approval, right

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

Unchanging: always stays the same

Small Group ROADMAP

1

BELONG (10 MINUTES)

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

MYSTERY BOX

SUPPLIES: Box, flour, wooden spoon, egg, oven mitt, cookie sheet, potato chips, brown sugar, chocolate chips

OR

HOW'S IT GOING?

SUPPLIES: 5 pieces of paper, writing supplies

2

BELIEVE (10 MINUTES)

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

COLORFUL COAT VERSE

SUPPLIES: Bibles, teaching slide, printable page, several pieces of colored paper (various colors), glue sticks (1 per kid), kid scissors (1 per kid)

OR

FOLLOW ME!

SUPPLIES: Bible, printable pages, painter's tape

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

FAIR OR UNFAIR?

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

OR

EMOTION PRAYERS

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



FOLLOW ME!

SUPPLIES:

Bible, printable pages, painter's tape

PREP:

Print the printable pages and tape them up around your space.

ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS: Pair kids with physical limitations with a walking buddy to support them as needed.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Discuss:** What were some of the bad things that happened to Joseph?
2. **Discuss:** Why do you think Joseph continued to trust God even when bad things happened to him?
3. **Discuss:** Why can God be trusted?
4. **Say:** Because He is completely good, everything God does is right and good. He is completely faithful.
5. **Say:** Follow me and trust that we'll get where we need to go to learn about God!
6. *Point to the first verse poster. Then lead kids there by walking in an indirect, opposite, roundabout way. Do not go straight there.*
7. *Read the verse from the first poster. Have everyone come up with a motion to represent that characteristic of God.*
8. *Continue leading kids around your space to all the verse posters. Read each verse and have kids come up with a corresponding motion. Make sure to take random, confusing, unclear paths to get to each poster.*
9. *Gather kids together once all the verses have been explored. Repeat each motion to help kids remember what they learned about God.*
10. **Discuss:** What did you think when I went the wrong way to get to our next poster? Do we always understand what is happening in our lives?
11. **Say:** Trusting God is not always easy, but God is always faithful. We can trust Him, just like Joseph did!

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

God is our forever King and our strong Rock, full of love and faithfulness. He never changes, and we can trust Him no matter what happens.



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: Joseph went through really hard times. He probably wondered if God really was good. But God took care of Joseph every step of the way and used all of his terrible circumstances for good.

Read Romans 8:28 directly from the Bible: *And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose.*

BUT WHAT ABOUT ... WHEN BAD THINGS HAPPEN?

Discuss: Have you ever heard anyone say that if God is real, He wouldn't let bad things happen?

Discuss: Why might someone feel that way? How would you answer?

Discuss: What does the Bible have to say about that?

Say: It can be very hard to understand how a good God who loves us and is in control of everything would let bad things happen. First, we know that we live in a world broken by sin. God's design for the world did not include the terrible things that we experience today. But just like with Joseph, He uses hard times in our lives to fulfill His greater plan. He uses pain to bring us closer to Him and make us more like Him. Bad things happen to everyone, but that doesn't mean God isn't real. It just means that our world is broken. God is with us during the hard times, and He uses every situation for good. God says in Isaiah 41:10: *Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.*



EMOTION PRAYERS

SUPPLIES:

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

PREP:

Print the Take-Home page (1 per kid). Print the printable pages. Hang the pictures on the walls of your space.

LEADER TIP: If time allows, brainstorm together what kids might feel in various situations and stand by that emotion. Then pray the prayer together. Repeat with more scenarios.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. *Gather kids in a seated circle.*
2. **Discuss:** What did you learn about God today from the life of Joseph?
3. **Discuss:** Can we trust God when things don't go our way?
4. **Say:** Bad things happen because we live in a broken world. We can trust that God has a plan and He is good.
5. **Say:** No matter what is happening in our lives—whether we are happy, sad, excited or angry—we can trust God. We may not understand everything, but we can always talk to God in any situation and tell Him how we are feeling.
6. *Review the emotions taped around your space.*
7. **Discuss:** When might you feel some of these emotions?
8. *Instruct kids to stand by the emotion that they are feeling right now. Once everyone is standing by an emotion, encourage kids to share why they feel that way. Pray for kids aloud and have them fill in the emotion they are standing by.*
9. **Pray together:** God, when I'm _____, help me trust that You have a plan!
10. **Read:** Deuteronomy 7:9.
11. **Say:** Joseph had some really good times and some really bad times. He trusted that God was with him in the good and the bad; God always had a plan. No matter what we are facing in our lives, God is faithful and we can trust Him.
12. **Pray:** God, thank You that You never change and You always do what is right and good. Help us trust You, even when things don't go our way. Amen.
13. **Say:** God can be trusted. 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



THE BURNING BUSH

BIBLE PASSAGE: Exodus 3

FOCUS VERSES: Revelation 22:13, Psalm 90:2; John 3:16;
1 John 5:13

Summary: God's people were slaves in Egypt and were treated harshly. They called out for God to rescue them. Moses was tending sheep and saw a bush on fire, but it wasn't burning up. God instructed Moses to go to Pharaoh and demand that the Israelite people be released. When Moses asked who to say sent him, the Lord responded with, "I AM who I AM." God has always existed and always will. Eventually, the people were freed from slavery in Egypt, just like God said.



MONTHLY *Memory Verse*

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

(HEBREWS 13:8)



God will forever be God.

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



HOW LONG HAS GOD EXISTED?

God has always existed and will always exist. He was before everything and He has no end.



CAN WE LIVE FOREVER?

When we trust in Jesus as our Savior, we can have eternal life.



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: SIGNS OF A PREDATOR

Statistics show that 90 percent of kids who have been abused know their abuser. Because churches are generally welcoming and open environments, they can attract those who seek to harm kids. People who abuse are cunning and hide what they are doing, but there are signs you can be aware of. Predators will often:

- **Show extra interest in a kid:** We want adults in our churches to invest in kids, but predators will take it too far. They may have a "favorite kid" to whom they give focused attention, including providing gifts, inviting them to special events or bringing them special treats.
- **Try to gain trust with kids and adults:** Predators may go above and beyond to earn the trust of others. They may seem to be extra-dependable or helpful.
- **Spend more time with kids than adults:** The predator may seem childish or "extra fun" but has little interest in developing relationships with other people their age.
- **Develop secrecy with kids:** The predator's secrets may seem innocent, such as "Don't tell your mom I gave you that candy," but it could be a grooming tactic on kids to protect darker secrets.

NAVIGATING A BROKEN WORLD: WHERE DID GOD COME FROM?

Children are taught that everything has a beginning. Babies and puppies are born, chickens come from eggs and plants come from seeds. But where did God come from? This question is one of the most commonly asked by kids. As concrete thinkers, it is challenging for them to grasp that God has no beginning. In today's lesson, kids will learn that God is eternal. He has always existed and will exist forever. Emphasize that He has no beginning and He didn't have to be created. Point out that this is one way God is different from people and all of creation. Help kids understand that there are parts of God that we will never fully grasp with our human minds, and that's okay!

ELEMENTARY GLOSSARY

Eternal: always existed and always will

Eternal life: living forever, even after death on Earth

Savior: the only One who can save us from our sins

Unchanging: always stays the same

Small Group ROADMAP

1

BELONG (10 MINUTES)

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

DESIGN A SHOE

SUPPLIES: Printable pages, coloring supplies

OR

FOLLOW THE LEADER

SUPPLIES: None

2

BELIEVE (10 MINUTES)

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

FIRE VERSE

SUPPLIES: Bibles, teaching slide, red, orange and yellow balloons (1 of each)

OR

ALPHABETICAL ORDER

SUPPLIES: Bible, printable pages, 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

GOSPEL BOOKMARK

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

OR

FIRE PRAYERS

SUPPLIES: Bible, Take-Home page, coloring supplies, printable pages, scissors, brad fasteners (1 per kid), hole puncher, red, yellow and orange colored paper (1 of each per kid)



ALPHABETICAL ORDER

SUPPLIES:

Bible, printable pages, scissors

PREP:

Print the printable pages and cut out.

Mix up the cards so they are not in alphabetical order.

ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS: Have a visual of the alphabet available for kids to reference during the activity.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Discuss:** What did God tell Moses His name was?
2. **Say:** God told Moses to tell the Israelites His name was "I AM that I AM." He was saying that He is God forever and the source of existence.
3. **Say:** Let's work together to put all the alphabet cards in order, from A to Z!
4. *Distribute cards to kids and allow them to work on putting the letters in order.*
5. **Discuss:** Which letter comes before D? Which letter comes after X?
6. **Discuss:** Which letter comes before A? Which letter comes after Z?
7. **Say:** You're exactly right. No letter comes before A and no letter comes after Z.
8. **Read:** Revelation 22:13.
9. **Say:** In the Greek alphabet, alpha is the first letter and omega is the last letter, like our A and Z. Just like there is no letter before A, no one or no thing comes before God. Our alphabet ends with the letter Z, but there is no end to God. He will forever be God.
10. **Discuss:** How long has God existed?
11. *God has always existed and will always exist. He was before everything, and He has no end.*
12. **Discuss:** Is it a good or bad thing that God has always existed and will always exist? Why?

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

It is great news that God will forever be God. He is before all things, and He has no end. We know we can trust Him completely because He is God. He is good and does what is good.



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 the Israelites' cry for help and sent Moses to rescue them. This was part of keeping His promise to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. God was good to them, He was good to Moses and He will forever be good.

Read Psalm 118:1 directly from the Bible: *Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; for His steadfast love endures forever!*

BUT WHAT ABOUT ... WHERE DID GOD COME FROM?

Discuss: Have you ever wondered where God came from?

Discuss: A lot of people ask that question. Why would that be something people wonder about?

Discuss: What does the Bible tell us about that?

Say: When the Lord told Moses "I AM who I AM," He was reminding Moses that He had always existed and always will. He doesn't have a beginning. Because He is God, He is different from people. He was not made by anything or anyone else. He has always existed. That can be hard to wrap our minds around. Everything else that we know of has a beginning. But God is the Creator. He was not created. It is okay if we can't fully understand how that can be true. There are things about God that we will never completely understand because we are humans and He is God. Romans 11:33 says: *Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and how inscrutable His ways!* We will never understand everything about God, but we can trust He is forever God and He is forever good.



FIRE PRAYERS

SUPPLIES:

Bible; Take-Home page; coloring supplies; printable pages; scissors; brad fasteners (1 per kid); hole puncher; red, yellow and orange colored paper (1 of each per kid)

PREP:

Print the Take-Home page (1 per kid). Print the printable pages on red, yellow and orange paper and cut out (1 of each per kid). Hole-punch each flame.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Discuss:** How did God talk to Moses? How did God rescue the Israelites?
2. **Discuss:** God sent Jesus to Earth. How did Jesus rescue us?
3. **Read:** John 3:16.
4. **Discuss:** Can we live forever?
5. **Say:** God sent His only Son to Earth for us. We all sin, but we can believe that Jesus died on the cross for our sins, rose again and is alive today!
6. **Say:** When we trust in Jesus as our Savior, we can have eternal life with Him.
7. **Say:** Let's respond to God through prayer. We have orange, red and yellow "fire." You will each come and grab one orange, one red and one yellow "flame" from the fire. I will read the prompts, and you can write or draw your response to them on your flame.
8. *Pass out one of each color of the printable flames to kids.*
9. *Read one prompt at a time and give kids time to write or draw their responses.*
10. *Discuss each prompt after kids have finished.*
11. *Pass out a brad fastener to everyone and help kids thread it through their flames.*
12. **Say:** God is God forever. He loves you and wants you to live forever with Him. Choosing to follow Him is the best decision we can ever make!
13. **Pray:** God, thank You that You never change. You are always good and always with us. Help us trust You every day. Amen.
14. **Say:** God will forever be God. 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



THE WILDERNESS

BIBLE PASSAGE: Exodus 13:1–17:6

FOCUS VERSES: Philippians 4:19, Matthew 6:25–27, James 1:17, Nehemiah 9:21

Summary: God freed the Israelites from Egypt. They traveled toward the land God had promised Abraham long ago. God provided for their needs over and over. He appeared as a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night to guide them. When the Egyptians chased them, He split the Red Sea so they could safely cross. God provided quail and manna from heaven when they were hungry, and they struck a rock to produce water when they were thirsty.



MONTHLY *Memory Verse*

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

(HEBREWS 13:8)



God provides for us.

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



HOW IS GOD ABLE TO GIVE US WHAT WE NEED?
God created everything, and everything belongs to Him. He is faithful to provide what we need.



HOW DO WE ASK GOD FOR WHAT WE NEED?
We can talk to God through prayer, seeking His will and asking for what we need.



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: SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

Abuse is real and the church is not immune. Here are some best practices to protect kids in your church:

- **Advocate for background screenings.** Be prompt in filling out your own background screening. Do not invite anyone to serve with you (out-of-town guest, friend, relative) who has not gone through your church's screening procedures. Advocate for background checks to be repeated every few years and for volunteers to complete an online application with references. Request that background checks include cross-checking an individual's name against the national sex offender registry.
- **Never be alone with a kid.** Avoid any situation where anyone is isolated with a kid. Keep doors open. If someone needs help in a bathroom, the bathroom door must always be propped open with a second approved, background-checked adult volunteer present. If a kid wants to talk, sit somewhere visible to others.
- **Self-enforce the two adults in a room.** While you are probably very capable of managing a group of kids by yourself, it is always best practice to have two approved, background-checked adult volunteers present. This provides accountability on multiple levels.

NAVIGATING A BROKEN WORLD: HUNGER

According to the organization Feeding America, one in eight American kids face hunger.* Sometimes we think hunger is a problem kids encounter in other parts of the world, but it is also a real issue in America. You may have kids in your group whose families are considered food insecure. Hunger can obviously cause health issues, but it can also cause behavioral and learning issues. By providing small, healthy snacks in your group, you can help kids who struggle with hunger better settle in for discipleship. In today's lesson, kids will learn that God provides what we need. This idea may be challenging for kids whose families struggle with providing food. You can help kids understand that God is with them and knows what they need. They can see that every single thing they have is a gift from God, and while He may not provide everything we want, He is with us in our hurt and has a plan for our lives.

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

ELEMENTARY GLOSSARY

Faithful: loyal; doing what you say you're going to do

Provide: to give

Unchanging: always stays the same

Small Group ROADMAP

1

BELONG (10 MINUTES)

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

WILDERNESS RELAY

SUPPLIES: Printable pages, scissors, painter's tape

OR

WANT VS. NEED

SUPPLIES: Apple, water, toy, cell phone, stuffed animal, Bible, candy, shirt, tablet, shoes, large box that closes

2

BELIEVE (10 MINUTES)

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

VERSE JOURNEY

SUPPLIES: Bibles, teaching slide, painter's tape

OR

GOD PROVIDES SCULPTURES

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

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

PILLAR OF CLOUD AND FIRE

SUPPLIES: Bible, Take-Home page, coloring supplies, craft tubes (1 per kid), glue sticks (1 per kid), cotton balls (handful per kid), orange, red and yellow tissue paper, scissors

OR

MOVE AND PRAY

SUPPLIES: Bible, Take-Home page, coloring supplies, music player, soft worship music



VERSE JOURNEY

SUPPLIES:

Bibles, teaching slide, painter's tape

PREP:

Print or show the Memory Verse teaching slide. Use the painter's tape to make a line on the floor on one side of your small group area.

ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS: Think about kids' physical capabilities when selecting moves. They can also match arm and leg movements in place if needed.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. *Lead kids to find Hebrews 13:8 in their Bibles. Read it aloud together.*
2. **Discuss:** What does this verse tell us about God?
3. **Discuss:** How does this verse connect to our Bible story?
4. **Say:** God never changes. He will always be faithful and provide.
5. **Say:** Let's practice our verse by playing a game. You will line up across this line (*point to line*), and I will stand across from you. I will tell you how you will move to me. While you are moving toward me, we will say the verse.
6. *Line up the kids along the line. Tell kids they will walk to you in baby steps.*
7. *Say the verse aloud and have kids join you as they move. This allows you to control the speed with which you say the verse.*
8. *Continue the game, using different movements (e.g., crawl, jump, skip, slither like a snake, gallop, march, dance, run, etc.) and speeding up how fast you say the verse.*
9. **Read:** Matthew 6:25–27.
10. **Discuss:** What do these verses tell us about God?

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

God provides for our needs. He created everything, and everything belongs to Him. He is faithful to provide what we need.



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 showed His goodness to the Israelites throughout their entire journey. He guided them, rescued them and gave them food and water. Because His goodness never changes, God still provides for us today.

Read James 1:17 directly from the Bible: *Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.*

BUT WHAT ABOUT ... HUNGER?

Discuss: Are there places in our world where people don't have enough food to eat? What places like this have you heard of?

Discuss: Have you ever heard someone wonder why God doesn't provide food for all of the hungry kids in the world?

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

Say: God loves every kid in every place. He is near to every kid, whether they have lots to eat or very little. Our world is broken, causing issues like hunger and poverty. God has provided the world with plenty of food, but because our world is sinful, people don't always help those in need. All over the world, God is using His people to help those who are hungry, and we can look for ways to help too. Life will never be fair for all people in this world, but we look forward to the day when Jesus will make all things new and no one will ever hunger again. Revelation 7:16 talks about that day. This verse says: *They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat.*



MOVE AND PRAY

SUPPLIES:

Bible, Take-Home page, coloring supplies, music player, soft worship music

PREP:

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

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Discuss:** How did God provide for the Israelites?
2. **Discuss:** How is God able to provide for us and give us what we need?
3. **Read:** Philippians 4:19.
4. **Discuss:** How do we ask God for what we need?
5. **Say:** We can talk to God through prayer, seeking His will and asking for what we need.
6. **Read:** James 1:17.
7. **Say:** Every good gift comes from God! I'll play some music and you will move around our space. When the music stops, you will freeze and sit down. I will tell you something to talk to God about. You will pray, then I will start the music and you will move around again.
8. *Turn on the music and have the kids stand up and start moving.*
9. *Stop the music and give kids one of the prayer prompts listed below.*
 - **Praise:** Pray and tell God what you love about Him.
 - Prompt: God, I praise You because You are ...
 - **Seek:** Pray and ask God to show You His will.
 - Prompt: God, show me ...
 - **Ask:** Pray and ask God for something you need.
 - Prompt: God, I need ...
10. *Continue until you have prayed through all the prayer prompts. You can vary the way the kids move around: dance, tiptoe, sidestep, walk on heels, baby-step, walk in slow motion.*
11. **Pray:** God, thank You that every good and perfect gift comes from You! Thank You for loving and providing for us. Help us talk to You anytime, anywhere and about anything this week. Amen.
12. **Say:** God provides for 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.

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