



SOLOMON'S WISDOM

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

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

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



MONTHLY Memory Verse

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

(PSALM 46:1)

BRITE Idea

Every good gift is from God.

HE

WHY DOES GOD GIVE BLESSINGS TO HIS PEOPLE?

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

WE

HOW CAN WE RESPOND TO GOD'S BLESSINGS?

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

ME

HOW IS GOD INVITING ME TO RESPOND?

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

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

Before Kids Arrive

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

Arrival

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

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

Big Group

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

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

After Big Group

Welcome the kids to your group.

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

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

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

Start With Prayer Requests – this builds relationship.

You will pray at the end of the service



Leader TRAINING

LEADER TRAINING TOPIC: BE PREPARED

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

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

NAVIGATING A BROKEN WORLD: DEFINING IDENTITY

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

ELEMENTARY GLOSSARY

Covenant: a very special promise

Wisdom: understanding a situation and knowing what to do

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

Small Group ROADMAP

1

BELONG (10 MINUTES)

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

POM-POM CHALLENGE

SUPPLIES: Printable page, scissors, red, blue, yellow, and white pom-poms (1 color per kid), 4 paper bags

OR

WRAP THE GIFT

SUPPLIES: 2 rolls of wrapping paper, 2 spools of ribbon, 2 pairs of scissors, 2 rolls of tape

2

BELIEVE (10 MINUTES)

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

TIMES OF TROUBLE

SUPPLIES: Bibles, teaching slide, 5 blue balloons, 5 red balloons

OR

BLESSING BOWS

SUPPLIES: Bibles, index cards (4 per kid), writing supplies, ribbon, 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

SQUEEZING OUT BLESSINGS

SUPPLIES: Bibles, Take-Home page, writing supplies, 2 spray bottles, water, 2 sponges, 2 plastic containers

OR

BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING

SUPPLIES: Bibles, Take-Home page, writing supplies, butcher paper, scissors, coloring supplies

5



SMALL GROUP WRAP-UP (5 MINUTES)

SUPPLIES: Take-Home page, writing supplies



BLESSING BOWS

SUPPLIES:

Bibles, index cards (4 per kid), writing supplies, ribbon, scissors

PREP:

Cut the ribbon into 8-inch pieces (1 per kid).

ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS:

If you have an active group, each card and verse can be a "station." Kids can travel to each station individually or in groups to increase movement opportunities.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. *Distribute four index cards, a piece of ribbon, and writing supplies to each kid.*
2. **Say:** God blesses His people!
3. **Discuss:** What blessing did God give Solomon?
4. **Discuss:** Why does God give blessings to His people?
5. **Say:** God loves His people so much and wants good for us. Every good thing comes from His grace and love.
6. *Lead kids to find Ephesians 1:3 in their Bibles. Read the verse aloud together.*
7. *Have kids write on a card the blessing God gave to those who believe in Him.*
8. *Lead kids to find James 1:17 in their Bibles. Read the verse aloud together.*
9. *On the next card, have kids write where every good and perfect gift comes from.*
10. *Lead kids to find John 3:16 in their Bibles. Read the verse aloud together.*
11. *On the next card, have kids write the blessing God gave and why He gave it.*
12. **Say:** On your last card, write a way God has blessed you.
13. **Say:** Stack your cards together. Take your ribbon and tie it in a bow around your cards as a reminder of God's blessings and gifts for His people because of His love and grace.

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

God loves and blesses His people! Let's remember that every good and perfect gift comes from Him.



Discipleship DISCUSSION

HOW CAN I KNOW THIS IS TRUE?

Discuss: How can you know someone from the past exists (your great-great-great-great grandparent, for example)?

Say: The Bible tells us Solomon was famous for his wisdom, attracting people from far and wide to hear him. Archaeologists haven't found records naming Solomon directly, but they've uncovered clues from his time. Writings from Egypt and Phoenicia mention a strong Israelite king who traded and built, like Solomon did. Ruins in cities like Megiddo and Hazor, linked to Solomon in the Bible, show that a powerful kingdom existed then also. These findings support that Solomon was a real king whose wisdom and works impacted history!

Read 1 Kings 4:30 directly from the Bible: *So that Solomon's wisdom surpassed the wisdom of all the people of the east and all the wisdom of Egypt.*

BUT WHAT ABOUT... DEFINING IDENTITY?

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

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

Discuss: What does God have to say about that?

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



BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING

SUPPLIES:

Bibles, Take-Home page, writing supplies, butcher paper, scissors, coloring supplies

PREP:

Print the Take-Home page (1 per kid).
Cut a large sheet of butcher paper.

ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS:

Support kids who have difficulty brainstorming in the moment by having a few ideas prepared.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. *Lead kids to find Hebrews 13:16 in their Bibles. Read the verse aloud together.*
2. **Discuss:** What should we do with the blessings God has given us?
3. **Discuss:** How can we respond to God's blessings?
4. **Say:** We can be grateful for all God does. We can be humble, putting His desires and the needs of others before our own wants.
5. **Discuss:** How did Solomon respond to God's blessings? How did he use God's blessings to bless others?
6. *Place the butcher paper in the middle of your space and give everyone coloring and writing supplies.*
7. *Have kids write "BLESSED" in large print in the middle of the paper.*
8. **Say:** Write or draw two ways God has blessed you.
9. *Allow volunteers to share.*
10. *Lead kids in prayer, thanking God for the many blessings in their lives.*
11. *Flip over the paper and have kids write "BLESSING" in the middle of the paper.*
12. **Say:** Now write or draw two ways to put the needs of others before your own.
13. *Allow volunteers to share.*
14. *Lead kids in prayer, asking God to help them serve others and put the needs of others before their own.*



ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

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

Lead kids to use the "Me Question" box on their Take-Home pages to choose a prompt and draw/write their response. Allow kids to volunteer to share their responses.



Wrap-Up

CHOOSE YOUR Challenge

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

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

SUPPLIES:

Take-Home page, writing supplies

PREP:

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



PRAYER

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



SAY GOODBYE!

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

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

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

Extra Time?

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

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

Hand each parent:

- Any craft/activity page

BEFORE YOU LEAVE:

After 10:00 Services:

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

After 11:45 Services:

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



SOLOMON BUILDS THE TEMPLE

BIBLE PASSAGE: 1 Kings 5–8

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

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



MONTHLY *Memory Verse*

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

(PSALM 46:1)

BRITE  *Idea*

God is present.

HE

WHERE DOES GOD LIVE?
God's home is in heaven, but He is omnipresent and can be everywhere at once. He wants to be with His people. The Holy Spirit lives within every follower of Jesus.

WE

WHAT DOES GOD'S PRESENCE MEAN FOR US?
God is with us and we can have a relationship with Him through Jesus. We can pray to Him anytime, anywhere.

ME

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

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

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

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

Big Group

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

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

After Big Group

Welcome the kids to your group.

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

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

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

Start With Prayer Requests – this builds relationship.

You will pray at the end of the service



Leader TRAINING

LEADER TRAINING TOPIC: USE KIDS' NAMES

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

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

NAVIGATING A BROKEN WORLD: IS CHURCH IMPORTANT?

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

ELEMENTARY GLOSSARY

Omnipresent: being everywhere all the time

Presence: being with someone or something

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

Small Group ROADMAP

1 BELONG (10 MINUTES)

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

HOT AND COLD

SUPPLIES: Blindfold

OR

HOW DO YOU LIVE?

SUPPLIES: None

2 BELIEVE (10 MINUTES)

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

STACK THE VERSE

SUPPLIES: Bibles, teaching slide, 30 plastic cups, printable pages, scissors, tape

OR

TEMPLE CONSTRUCTION

SUPPLIES: Bibles, printable page, 3 sets of building blocks

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

WITH ME

SUPPLIES: Bibles, Take-Home page, writing supplies, paper (1 per kid), coloring supplies

OR

SOLOMON'S PRAYER

SUPPLIES: Bibles, Take-Home page, writing supplies, printable pages, painter's tape

5



SMALL GROUP WRAP-UP (5 MINUTES)

SUPPLIES: Take-Home page, writing supplies



STACK THE VERSE

SUPPLIES:

Bibles, teaching slide, 30 plastic cups, printable pages, scissors, tape

PREP:

Print or show the Memory Verse teaching slide (Image 03). Print two copies of the printable pages and cut them out. Tape each verse card on separate cups. There will be two sets of verse cups.

LEADER TIP:

Have an additional round of stacking the cups in different configurations.

ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS:

This activity may be tough for kids with fine motor challenges. Provide the words on paper so they can lay them in the correct order in a pyramid shape on the table.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. *Lead kids to find Psalm 46:1 in their Bibles. Read the verse aloud together.*
2. **Discuss:** What does it mean that God is our refuge? What is a refuge?
3. **Say:** A refuge is a safe place. God is always present with us, and He is our safe place.
4. **Discuss:** Where does God live?
5. **Say:** God's home is in heaven, but He is omnipresent and can be everywhere at once. He wants to be with His people. The Holy Spirit lives within every follower of Jesus.
6. *Recite the verse together in a silly voice.*
7. **Say:** Let's keep practicing our verse!
8. *Divide kids into two teams and give each team a set of verse cups.*
9. **Say:** Your team will work together to try to be the first team to stack your verse cups in the right order. The very first word of the verse should be on top.
10. *Challenge kids to compete to see which team can stack its verse in the right order the fastest. Have the teams say the verse aloud together.*
11. *Play another round but this time with the last part of the verse (the verse reference) at the very top.*
12. *Five cups should be stacked on the bottom row, then four, three, two and finally one at the top.*

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

God is our refuge and strength! He is a safe place for us and is a very present help in trouble.



Discipleship DISCUSSION

HOW CAN I KNOW THIS IS TRUE?

Discuss: If something has been destroyed, how can you tell it once existed?

Say: The Bible says that Solomon built a large temple in Jerusalem. While the temple was destroyed in 586 B.C., archaeology confirms its existence. Excavations have uncovered massive stone foundations beneath the Temple Mount, matching what would be needed for such a structure. The Temech Seal, dated to around 600 B.C., mentions temple servants, proving the temple played an active role in daily life. These discoveries confirm that a grand temple stood in Jerusalem before the second temple was built, just as the Bible describes.

Read 1 Kings 6:14 directly from the Bible: *So Solomon built the house and finished it.*

BUT WHAT ABOUT... IS CHURCH EVEN IMPORTANT?

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

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

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



SOLOMON'S PRAYER

SUPPLIES:

Bibles, Take-Home page, writing supplies, printable pages, painter's tape

PREP:

Print the Take-Home page (1 per kid). Print the printable pages. Tape each printable page to a different wall.

LEADER TIP:

If time allows, place blank paper and coloring supplies at each verse station. Kids can then write or draw their answers to each question before praying.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Say:** We are learning that God is present.
2. *Lead kids to find Revelation 21:3 in their Bibles. Read the verse aloud together.*
3. **Discuss:** What does God's presence mean for us?
4. **Say:** God is with us and we can have a relationship with Him through Jesus. We can pray to Him anytime, anywhere!
5. **Discuss:** What did God's presence mean for Solomon?
6. **Say:** In 1 Kings 8:23–61, Solomon prayed to God to bless the temple after it was finished. Let's use his prayer as a model to pray together.
7. *Divide kids into four groups.*
8. **Say:** On each wall, there is a verse on a page. Look up the verse in your Bibles, read it together and answer the question on the page. After this, spend time praying for the specific requests outlined on the page.
9. *Assign each group a printable page where they will start. Give them time at each one before having them rotate to the next. Rotate through all the printable pages.*
10. *Gather kids back together.*
11. **Discuss:** How can knowing God is present help you this week?

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

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

Lead kids to use the "Me Question" box on their Take-Home pages to choose a prompt and draw/write their response. Allow kids to volunteer to share their responses.



Wrap-Up

CHOOSE YOUR Challenge

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

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

SUPPLIES:

Take-Home page, writing supplies

PREP:

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



PRAYER

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



SAY GOODBYE!

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

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Hand each parent:

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BEFORE YOU LEAVE:

After 10:00 Services:

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

After 11:45 Services:

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THE KINGDOM DIVIDES

BIBLE PASSAGE: 1 Kings 11–12

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

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



MONTHLY *Memory Verse*

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

(PSALM 46:1)

BRITE *Idea*

God never gives up on us.

HE

HOW DOES GOD FEEL ABOUT SIN?

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

WE

DOES GOD STILL LOVE US WHEN WE SIN?

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

ME

HOW IS GOD INVITING ME TO RESPOND?

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

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

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After Big Group

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

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

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

Start With Prayer Requests – this builds relationship.

You will pray at the end of the service



Leader TRAINING

LEADER TRAINING TOPIC: MAKE IT PERSONAL

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

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

NAVIGATING A BROKEN WORLD: PEER PRESSURE

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

ELEMENTARY GLOSSARY

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

Holy: set apart; perfect

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

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

Small Group ROADMAP

1

BELONG (10 MINUTES)

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

UNWRAP IT

SUPPLIES: Wrapped candy (1 per kid), 2 sets of oven mitts, table

OR

PUZZLE RACE

SUPPLIES: Printable page, scissors

2

BELIEVE (10 MINUTES)

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

VERSE SCRAMBLE

SUPPLIES: Bibles, teaching slide, printable pages, scissors, writing supplies

OR

DESCRIBE IT

SUPPLIES: Bibles, printable pages, poster board, writing supplies, sticky notes (3 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

ALL WRAPPED UP

SUPPLIES: Bibles, Take-Home page, writing supplies, skein of yarn

OR

WHEN IN DOUBT, PRAY IT OUT

SUPPLIES: Bibles, Take-Home page, writing supplies, index cards (2 per kid), coloring supplies

5



SMALL GROUP WRAP-UP (5 MINUTES)

SUPPLIES: Take-Home page, writing supplies



VERSE SCRAMBLE

SUPPLIES:

Bibles, teaching slide, printable pages, scissors, writing supplies

PREP:

Print or show the Memory Verse teaching slide (Image 03). Print the printable pages and cut out (2 sets of verse cards).

ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS:

Allow kids to use their Bibles for spelling support.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. *Lead kids to find Psalm 46:1 in their Bibles. Read the verse aloud together.*
2. **Discuss:** What does this verse teach us about God?
3. **Discuss:** How does this verse remind us that God never gives up on us?
4. *Recite the verse together.*
5. **Discuss:** In our story, who is someone whom God did not give up on?
6. **Discuss:** How does God feel about sin?
7. **Say:** God is perfect and holy. He hates sin because it separates people from Him.
8. **Discuss:** In our story, who sinned against God? How was God a refuge for them?
9. **Say:** Let's have a competition and keep practicing our verse!
10. *Divide kids into two teams. Give each team a set of the cut-up verse and writing supplies.*
11. **Say:** Your team will unscramble the scrambled words from each verse card. Once they are unscrambled, write the correct word on the bottom of the card. Then work together to put the verse in the correct order. The first team to put their verse in order wins!
12. *Give kids time to unscramble the words and put the verse in order.*
13. *Have the winning team recite the verse out loud. Then have everyone recite it out loud together.*

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

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



Discipleship DISCUSSION

HOW CAN I KNOW THIS IS TRUE?

Discuss: Have you ever seen a group split because people couldn't agree?

Say: The Bible states that after Solomon died, Israel split into two kingdoms—Israel and Judah. Archaeology supports this. The Mesha Stele, a stone from around 840 B.C., shows Moab fighting a separate northern Israel. Also, the Kurkh Monolith, from 853 B.C., names King Ahab as Israel's ruler, proving Israel stood alone. Excavations in Judah have uncovered forts and buildings, different from Israel's, showing it was its own kingdom. These discoveries confirm two real kingdoms existed after Solomon, matching the Bible's account of the split with clear evidence from the past.

Read 1 Kings 12:20 directly from the Bible: *And when all Israel heard that Jeroboam had returned, they sent and called him to the assembly and made him king over all Israel. There was none that followed the house of David but the tribe of Judah only.*

BUT WHAT ABOUT... PEER PRESSURE?

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

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

Discuss: What does God have to say about that?

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



ALL WRAPPED UP

SUPPLIES:

Bibles, Take-Home page, writing supplies, skein of yarn

PREP:

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

LEADER TIP:

You can also use a roll of streamers and have kids break through them!

ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS:

For more active groups, give each kid a few small pieces of string to tangle together. They can switch with a partner to untangle.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Choose a volunteer to stand in the middle of your space.
2. **Say:** This yarn represents sin.
3. **Discuss:** What are some sins that everyone commits?
4. Choose a few volunteers to gently wrap the yarn around the volunteer (no higher than their shoulders). As they wrap, discuss the sins that were named.
5. **Discuss:** Does God still love us when we sin?
6. **Say:** God loves us no matter what. There are consequences when we sin, but we can always have hope. God wants us to turn to Him and seek His forgiveness, which is available through Jesus.
7. Lead kids to find Romans 5:8 in their Bibles. Read the verse aloud together.
8. Choose a volunteer to stand behind the wrapped kid and have the wrapped kid turn around to face them.
9. Have the volunteer unwrap them from the yarn.
10. **Say:** Sin is messy. It tangles us up and has consequences, but because of Jesus we can turn to Him and seek His forgiveness! He unwraps or untangles us from sin.
11. **Discuss:** When have you felt sin's consequences but had hope and turned to God?
12. **Discuss:** Whom can you share God's love and forgiveness with this week?



ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

Today we learned God never gives up on us. As we learn truths about God, we can respond to Him. We can tell Him our feelings, we can pray or we can decide to do something or change something. Lead kids to use the "Me Question" box on their Take-Home pages to choose a prompt and draw/write their response. Allow kids to volunteer to share their responses.



Wrap-Up

CHOOSE YOUR Challenge

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

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

SUPPLIES:

Take-Home page, writing supplies

PREP:

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



PRAYER

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



SAY GOODBYE!

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

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

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

Extra Time?

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

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

Hand each parent:

- Any craft/activity page

BEFORE YOU LEAVE:

After 10:00 Services:

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

After 11:45 Services:

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



ELISHA IS SURROUNDED

BIBLE PASSAGE: 2 Kings 6:8–23

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

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



MONTHLY *Memory Verse*

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

(PSALM 46:1)

BRITE *Idea*

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

HE

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

WE

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

ME

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

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

Before Kids Arrive

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

Arrival

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

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

Big Group

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

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

After Big Group

Welcome the kids to your group.

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

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

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

Start With Prayer Requests – this builds relationship.

You will pray at the end of the service



Leader TRAINING

LEADER TRAINING TOPIC: INCLUDE EVERYONE

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

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

NAVIGATING A BROKEN WORLD: FEAR

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

ELEMENTARY GLOSSARY

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

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

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

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

Small Group ROADMAP

1

BELONG (10 MINUTES)

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

CAPTURE THE SOLDIER

SUPPLIES: 2 toy soldiers, painter's tape

OR

GUESS THE WORD

SUPPLIES: None

2

BELIEVE (10 MINUTES)

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

INVISIBLE VERSE

SUPPLIES: Bibles, teaching slide, lemons (1 per 4 kids), bowls (1 per 4 kids), cotton swabs (1 per kid), paper (1 per kid), candle, lighter

OR

OBSTACLES

SUPPLIES: Bibles, blindfold (1 per 2 kids), items to create an obstacle course

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

WHAT DO WE DO?

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

OR

WALKING BY FAITH

SUPPLIES: Bibles, Take-Home page, writing supplies

5



SMALL GROUP WRAP-UP (5 MINUTES)

SUPPLIES: Take-Home page, writing supplies



OBSTACLES

SUPPLIES:

Bibles, blindfold (1 per 2 kids), items to create an obstacle course

PREP:

Use a variety of items to create an obstacle course for kids to walk through.

ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS:

Use a maze on paper in place of navigating the obstacle course for kids with physical limitations.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Say:** Let's play a game!
2. *Divide kids into pairs and give each pair a blindfold.*
3. **Say:** One partner will be blindfolded and go through the obstacle course. Your partner will help you by giving you directions.
4. *Have pairs navigate the obstacle course, then switch roles and repeat it.*
5. **Discuss:** How were you able to get through the obstacle course?
6. **Discuss:** Could you see your guide?
7. **Discuss:** How was your guide working?
8. *Lead kids to find 1 Timothy 1:17 in their Bibles. Read the verse aloud together.*
9. *Lead kids to find Romans 1:20 in their Bibles. Read the verse aloud together.*
10. **Discuss:** What is one way these verses both describe God?
11. **Discuss:** Why can't we see God?
12. **Say:** God is spirit. He is invisible, but He is real and always present. He is always working, and we can see the great things He does.
13. **Discuss:** What are some great things God has done for you?
14. **Discuss:** In our story, how was God working when Elisha couldn't see Him?

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

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



Discipleship DISCUSSION

HOW CAN I KNOW THIS IS TRUE?

Discuss: Have you ever been trapped but then found a way out?

Say: The Bible tells us that Elisha and his servant were surrounded by an enemy army, but God opened their eyes to see His angelic army protecting them. Some wonder if events like this really happened, but archaeology confirms details from this time. The Tel Dan Stele, an ancient writing carved into stone, mentions wars between Israel and Aram, the very conflict described in this passage. Assyrian records also describe Israel's battles with Aram, proving these events fit real history. Elisha's story reminds us that God's protection is real, even when we can't see it.

Read 2 Kings 6:17 directly from the Bible: *Then Elisha prayed and said, 'O Lord, please open his eyes that he may see.' So the Lord opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw, and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.*

BUT WHAT ABOUT... FEAR?

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

Discuss: How do you react when you are scared?

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

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



WALKING BY FAITH

SUPPLIES:

Bibles, Take-Home page, writing supplies

PREP:

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

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Discuss:** What do we do when it doesn't feel like God is working?
2. **Say:** We can trust God and ask Him to help us have faith that He is working even though we can't see it.
3. *Lead kids to find 2 Corinthians 5:7 in their Bibles. Read the verse aloud together.*
4. **Discuss:** How can we walk by faith and not by sight?
5. **Discuss:** How did Elisha walk by faith and not by sight?
6. **Say:** Elisha prayed! He knew he could ask and trust God to work, even if he couldn't see how God was working.
7. **Say:** Let's spend some time in prayer using each other's shoes. Our shoes remind us that walking by faith requires action—like walking! Elisha had to do something to build his faith.
8. *Instruct kids to take off one shoe and put it in the middle of the space.*
9. *Instruct kids to grab one shoe from the pile and find space to pray.*
10. **Say:** Pray for the person whose shoe you have. Pray they would walk by faith.
11. *Give kids time to pray then put the shoe back.*
12. *Have kids grab a different shoe and pray the same prayer.*
13. *Put shoes back on and gather kids together.*



ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

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

Lead kids to use the "Me Question" box on their Take-Home pages to choose a prompt and draw/write their response. Allow kids to volunteer to share their responses.



Wrap-Up

CHOOSE YOUR Challenge

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

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

SUPPLIES:

Take-Home page, writing supplies

PREP:

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



PRAYER

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



SAY GOODBYE!

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

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

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

Extra Time?

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

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

Hand each parent:

- Any craft/activity page

BEFORE YOU LEAVE:

After 10:00 Services:

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

After 11:45 Services:

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



ESTHER

BIBLE PASSAGE: Esther 2–8

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

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



MONTHLY *Memory Verse*

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

(PSALM 46:1)

BRITE *Idea*

God always has a plan.

HE

HOW CAN GOD HAVE A PLAN FOR EVERYTHING?

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

WE

DOES GOD HAVE A PURPOSE FOR EVERYONE?

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

ME

HOW IS GOD INVITING ME TO RESPOND?

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

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

Before Kids Arrive

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

Arrival

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

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

Big Group

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

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

After Big Group

Welcome the kids to your group.

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

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

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

Start With Prayer Requests – this builds relationship.

You will pray at the end of the service



Leader TRAINING

LEADER TRAINING TOPIC: FOLLOW UP

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

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

NAVIGATING A BROKEN WORLD: DIFFERENT RACES AND RELIGIONS

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

ELEMENTARY GLOSSARY

Glory: magnificence, honor, high worth

Sovereign: supreme authority; in charge of everything

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

Small Group ROADMAP

1

BELONG (10 MINUTES)

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

FOLLOW THE PLAN

SUPPLIES: Printable page, painter's tape, wooden building blocks in a variety of shapes

OR

COOKIE FACE

SUPPLIES: Small cookies (1 per kid), timer

2

BELIEVE (10 MINUTES)

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

SCEPTER SORT

SUPPLIES: Bibles, teaching slide, printable pages, scissors

OR

PLAN FOR IT

SUPPLIES: Bibles

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'S PLAN AND ME

SUPPLIES: Bibles, Take-Home page, writing supplies, butcher paper, scissors, painter's tape

OR

PURPOSEFUL PRAYERS

SUPPLIES: Bibles, Take-Home page, writing supplies

5



SMALL GROUP WRAP-UP (5 MINUTES)

SUPPLIES: Take-Home page, writing supplies



SCEPTER SORT

SUPPLIES:

Bibles, teaching slide, printable pages, scissors

PREP:

Print or show the Memory Verse teaching slide (Image 03).
Print the printable pages and cut them out.

LEADER TIP:

Print multiple sets of verse cards and have kids compete in groups to see which group can put the verse in order first!

ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS:

Have blanks representing each word of the verse posted for kids to see. This will give them a visual aid for the number of words in the verse.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. *Lead kids to find Psalm 46:1 in their Bibles. Read the verse aloud together.*
2. **Discuss:** How does knowing that God always has a plan comfort you in times of trouble?
3. **Say:** Let's keep practicing our verse!
4. **Say:** Your goal is to put your verse in the correct order. After each round, I will take two words away and you will put the verse in order again and leave space for the missing words. You will have to say the verse together—even the missing words!
5. *Give kids time to put their verses in order.*
6. *Play multiple rounds, taking two words out each time. Have kids repeat the verse after each round.*
7. *Play as many rounds as time allows or until there are no more words left.*
8. **Discuss:** Does God have a plan for everything?
9. **Discuss:** How can God have a plan for everything?
10. **Say:** God is sovereign. That means that He is the supreme authority in charge of everything. He loves us and knows what is best for the world.
11. **Discuss:** How did God's plan work out for Esther?

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

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



Discipleship DISCUSSION

HOW CAN I KNOW THIS IS TRUE?

Discuss: Why do we celebrate important events from history?

Say: The Bible tells about Esther, a queen who saved the Jewish people in the Persian kingdom. Archaeology confirms details from her time. The Persian king Ahasuerus was King Xerxes I, ruling in the fifth century BC. Also, archaeologists have found palace ruins and inscriptions in Susa, where Esther lived. The Jewish festival Purim, celebrated since around 400 BC, also honors her saving them from destruction. These discoveries confirm that Esther's story is real history during the time of Xerxes, with Susa as a key city in Persia, and aligns perfectly with the Bible's account!

Read Esther 4:14 directly from the Bible: *For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?*

BUT WHAT ABOUT... DIFFERENT RACES AND RELIGIONS?

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

Discuss: Why would some people treat other groups badly?

Discuss: What does God have to say about that?

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



PURPOSEFUL PRAYERS

SUPPLIES:

Bibles, Take-Home page, writing supplies

PREP:

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

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. *Lead kids to find Romans 8:28 in their Bibles. Read the verse aloud together.*
2. **Discuss:** Does God have a purpose for everyone?
3. **Say:** God made each of us for a purpose. He has a great plan for our lives and works through us for His glory.
4. **Discuss:** What was one of God's purposes for Esther's life?
5. **Say:** One way to grow in our relationship with God and others is through prayer. Let's spend some time doing that.
6. *Divide kids into pairs. Have kids take turns praying with and for one another using the prompts below.*
 - *Lead kids to pray that they would trust God's great plan for their lives.*
 - *Lead kids to pray that they would glorify God as He works in them.*
7. *Lead kids to find 1 Peter 2:9 in their Bibles. Read the verse aloud together.*
8. **Discuss:** How can you trust in God this week?
9. **Discuss:** How can you tell others about what He has done?



ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

Today we learned God always has a plan. As we learn truths about God, we can respond to Him. We can tell Him our feelings, we can pray or we can decide to do something or change something. *Lead kids to use the "Me Question" box on their Take-Home pages to choose a prompt and draw/write their response. Allow kids to volunteer to share their responses.*



Wrap-Up

CHOOSE YOUR Challenge

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

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

SUPPLIES:

Take-Home page, writing supplies

PREP:

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



PRAYER

God, thank You for the millions of ways You are working around us. You always have a plan and that plan is good, even when we don't see it. Help us to trust that Your plans are for our good and for Your glory. Amen.



SAY GOODBYE!

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

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

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

Extra Time?

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

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

Hand each parent:

- Any craft/activity page

BEFORE YOU LEAVE:

After 10:00 Services:

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

After 11:45 Services:

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