



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

BE MY TWIN

SUPPLIES: Timer

OR

MEMORY MOVEMENT

SUPPLIES: None

2

BELIEVE (10 MINUTES)

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

COLOR RUN

SUPPLIES: Bibles, teaching slide, printable page, coloring supplies, painter's tape

OR

PASS THE PRESENT

SUPPLIES: Bibles, gift box, plastic wrap, 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

GOD'S MERCY

SUPPLIES: Bibles, Take-Home page, writing supplies, poster board, sticky notes (several per kid), painter's tape

OR

PRAYER WHEEL

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



PASS THE PRESENT

SUPPLIES:

Bibles, gift box, plastic wrap, printable pages, scissors

PREP:

Print the printable pages and cut out. Place the "God never changes!" page inside the box. Wrap the box multiple times in plastic wrap (1 layer per kid). As you wrap the box, place the "Attributes of God" cards in between the layers.

LEADER TIP: Attach small prizes or candy to the "Attributes of God" cards and wrap them up with the box. Remind kids that the prizes are reminders of God's goodness and love.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. *Gather kids in a seated circle.*
2. **Discuss:** What promise did God make to Abraham?
3. **Say:** There was a long time between God's promise to Abraham and His promise to Jacob.
4. **Discuss:** Abraham and his relatives didn't always follow God's plan. Why didn't God change His mind about the promises He made?
5. **Discuss:** Does God change over time?
6. *Lead kids to find Malachi 3:6a in their Bibles. Read it aloud together.*
7. **Say:** God is always the same. We can trust that He is always good, loving and in control.
8. **Say:** This box has a special message inside. Let's take turns unwrapping the box.
9. *Hand the box to the first kid and have them unwrap a layer and then pass it to the next kid. They will keep any cards that fell out.*
10. *Once the box is completely unwrapped, open it and show kids the piece of paper. Have kids hold up their cards and read them aloud.*
11. *Lead kids to find Hebrews 13:8 in their Bibles. Read it aloud together.*
12. **Say:** Every time we unwrapped a layer around this box, the box changed. But God never changes, no matter what else is going on! These truths about who He is never change!
13. **Discuss:** Which attribute of God do you find the most comforting?

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

God is unchanging! He will always keep His promises!



Discipleship DISCUSSION

HOW CAN I KNOW THIS IS TRUE?

Discuss: Why do you think the birthright and Isaac's blessing were such a big deal to Jacob and Esau? Was this a normal thing for families to do?

Say: In the days of Jacob and Esau, being the firstborn came with privileges such as being head of the family and inheriting a double portion of land and money. Ancient laws required that a father couldn't just give away his wealth to his favorite child. Instead, the oldest son received the birthright. Archaeologists have discovered ancient texts such as the Mari Tablets and the Nuzi Tablets, which record cultural rules that Isaac would have known and followed. Rules for birthrights and deathbed blessings appear in these ancient texts, showing us that this story from the Bible matches what was happening in Isaac's culture at the time. However, God showed this family that hope comes from Him, not from tradition or an inheritance.

Read Jeremiah 29:11 directly from the Bible: *For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.*

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.*



PRAYER WHEEL

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).

ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS: To support kids who have difficulty brainstorming, first make a list of a few ideas for each ring as a group.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Discuss:** Did Jacob's actions change God's love for him?
2. *Lead kids to find Romans 8:38–39 in their Bibles. Read it aloud together.*
3. **Discuss:** What does this verse tell us about God?
4. **Say:** Do our mistakes change God's love for us?
5. **Discuss:** No! God's love for us doesn't change. He loves us no matter what.
6. **Say:** It is not always easy to remember how much God loves us. Especially if we feel like we messed up or made a mistake.
7. **Say:** We will write some things on this paper we can pray about, and then we will write our reminder of God's love.
 - **On the outer ring:** Write something that tries to pull us away from God.
 - **On the middle ring:** Write something about God that never changes.
 - **On the inner ring:** Write a truth from Romans 8:38–39 (e.g., God always loves me, nothing can change God's love for me, God is always with me, etc.).
8. **Say:** When you are done writing, find an area in our space to be by yourself and pray about the things on your prayer wheel.
9. **Discuss:** How can we show others the same type of love that never gives up, just like the love that God shows us?
10. **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.
11. **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

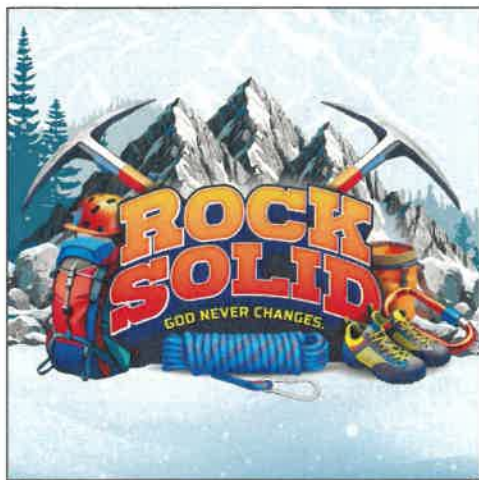
BEFORE YOU LEAVE:

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](https://www.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

UPS AND DOWNS

SUPPLIES: Printable pages, scissors

OR

IT COULD BE WORSE!

SUPPLIES: None

2

BELIEVE (10 MINUTES)

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

DOMINO VERSE

SUPPLIES: Bibles, teaching slide, 44 dominos

OR

GOD COMMERCIALS

SUPPLIES: Bibles, 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

ROLL-A-SITUATION

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

OR

WATER PRAYER

SUPPLIES: Bibles, Take-Home page, writing supplies, large bowl, pitcher, water, paper towels



DOMINO VERSE

SUPPLIES:

Bibles, teaching slide, 44 dominos

PREP:

Print or show the Memory Verse teaching slide.

LEADER TIP: Print copies of the Memory Verse teaching slide for each group.

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:** What tough times did Joseph go through?
4. **Discuss:** Did God change because of what was happening to Joseph? How did God show that Joseph could trust Him?
5. **Discuss:** Have you ever been through a tough time while trusting that God was in control and loved you?
6. *Divide kids into groups of four. Give each group some dominos and make sure they have a surface where they can set them up.*
7. *Instruct kids to take turns saying one word of the verse, and as they do, stand up one domino. The next kid will say the next word and set up a second domino next to the first one. Kids will continue until they have said the whole verse and created a line of dominos.*
8. **Discuss:** Does God change when bad things happen? How do you know?
9. **Say:** Knock over your first domino and see what happens!
10. **Discuss:** Why can God be trusted?
11. **Say:** Because He is completely good, everything God does is right and good. He is completely faithful.
12. **Say:** Just like these dominos all reacted the same every time, God always responds the same way, with goodness, faithfulness and love. He never changes, so we can trust Him completely.

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

The same God who was faithful, good, loving and in control during Joseph's hardest moments never changes. The same God can be trusted in our lives today and forever.



Discipleship DISCUSSION

HOW CAN I KNOW THIS IS TRUE?

Discuss: What have you learned about ancient Egypt in school?

Say: Isn't it cool to think that Joseph was living in the middle of the culture you've learned about in school? Historians have not yet found much in Egyptian history that talks about Joseph, but scientists and historians are making new discoveries all the time. In fact, archaeologists have discovered evidence of a massive drought in Egypt and the surrounding areas. While there is disagreement about the date, it is possible that this was the cause of the famine mentioned in Joseph's story. We can always trust that God's Word is true.

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.*



WATER PRAYER

SUPPLIES:

Bibles, Take-Home page, writing supplies, large bowl, pitcher, water, paper towels

PREP:

Print the Take-Home page (1 per kid).
Fill the pitcher with water.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Discuss:** What bad things happened in Joseph's life? How did Joseph respond? What plan did God have for him?
2. *Lead kids to find Proverbs 21:1 in their Bibles. Read it aloud together.*
3. **Discuss:** What does this verse tell us about what God controls?
4. **Discuss:** What do you think it means?
5. **Say:** This verse compares God's control over a king's heart to how a stream of water is directed. Let's do an experiment and see how water is directed. Look what happens as I pour water over my hand into the bowl. I can move my hand and direct the water to any side of the bowl.
6. *Allow each kid to direct the water with their hands.*
7. **Say:** If God can control and direct the hearts of a king, then He can definitely control and help us! Let's pray and ask God to help us with any difficult situations we are facing in our lives.
8. *Invite kids to share prayer requests. After each kid shares, have someone in the group pray for them, either aloud or silently. Continue until you have prayed for everyone who has a prayer request to share.*
9. **Say:** God is in control! He loves you, knows what is best and has a plan for you. But because we live in a broken world full of sin, we still experience hard situations, sickness and pain. We can ask God for help and remember that He is always with us.
10. **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.
11. **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
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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
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- 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.

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Arrival

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

Big Group

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

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

After Big Group

Welcome the kids to your group.

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

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

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

Start With Prayer Requests – this builds relationship.

You will pray at the end of the service



Leader TRAINING

LEADER TRAINING TOPIC: 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

I NEED A RESCUE!

SUPPLIES: None

OR

WHOSE SHOE?

SUPPLIES: None

2

BELIEVE (10 MINUTES)

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

ORDER THE VERSE

SUPPLIES: Bibles, teaching slide, printable pages, scissors

OR

BEGINNINGS AND ENDINGS

SUPPLIES: Bibles, paper (1 per 2 kids), writing 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

THE MOST IMPORTANT DECISION

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

OR

CHAT WITH GOD

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



BEGINNINGS AND ENDINGS

SUPPLIES:

Bibles, paper (1 per 2 kids), writing supplies

PREP:

None

LEADER TIP: Prepare a list of things that have a beginning and end to help kids brainstorm.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Discuss:** How did God talk to Moses?
2. **Discuss:** What did God tell Moses that His name is?
3. **Say:** God told Moses to tell the Israelites His name is "I AM that I AM." He was saying that He is eternal.
4. *Lead kids to find Revelation 22:13 in their Bibles. Read it aloud together.*
5. **Say:** With a partner, you will brainstorm something that has a beginning and an end—like a song, a movie, a story or even a school day. You will then come up with a way to present that thing to the group. You can draw a picture of it, write words to describe it or even act it out.
6. *Divide kids into pairs. Give pairs time to work on their presentation.*
7. *Invite pairs to share what they come up with.*
8. **Discuss:** How long has God existed?
9. **Say:** God has always existed and will always exist. He was before everything, and He has no end. All the things you all came up with have an ending, but praise God—He does not!
10. *Lead kids to find Psalm 90:2 in their Bibles. Read it aloud together.*
11. **Discuss:** What does everlasting mean?
12. **Say:** It means that God has always existed and will last forever.
13. **Discuss:** What is comforting about knowing that God will forever be God?

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

It is great news that God will forever be God and His love for us will never ever end! We can hide God's Word in our hearts to remind us of these important truths.



Discipleship DISCUSSION

HOW CAN I KNOW THIS IS TRUE?

Discuss: Do you think scientists ever change their mind?

Say: Sometimes scientists' theories shift as they discover new things. Many scientists used to believe that the universe had existed forever. They didn't think it had any starting or ending point. But now, most believe that there was a start to the universe at some point in time. If the universe had a beginning, someone had to create it and exist before it. We can trust the Bible's explanation that God created the universe and that He existed before it was created. Because no one was around when the universe was created, whatever you believe about creation requires faith—believing without being able to see. Science points to the universe having a beginning. Faith allows us to trust that God is the One who created it and the One who has always existed.

Read Hebrews 11:3 directly from the Bible: *By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.*

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.



CHAT WITH GOD

SUPPLIES:

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

PREP:

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

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Discuss:** What did the Israelites need saving from?
2. **Discuss:** Whom did the Israelites have to trust to save them?
3. **Discuss:** What do we need saving from? Whom do we have to trust?
4. **Discuss:** Can we live forever?
5. *Lead kids to find John 3:16 in their Bibles. Read it aloud together.*
6. **Say:** When we trust in Jesus as our Savior, we can have eternal life.
7. **Say:** Let's use a model to pray and chat with God. We don't always have to pray this way, but it is a good tool to help us.
8. *Explain the "CHAT" prayer method. Tape up the matching printable page where kids can see it.*
 - C—Confession (confess your sins to God)
 - H—Honor (show God honor and respect by praising Him)
 - A—Ask (make requests of God for yourself and others)
 - T—Thank (thank God for who He is and what He's done for you)
9. *Spend time praying for each point, pointing to the matching page. Give time in between for kids to quietly pray. After a minute, pray aloud for that point. Continue until you have prayed through all the CHAT points.*
10. **Say:** Because we know that God is eternal, we can also know we can live forever with Him when we trust in Jesus as our Savior. Not only can we talk to God during our life on Earth, but we can also spend forever with Him!
11. *Distribute a prayer card to everyone.*
12. **Say:** Have a CHAT with God this week. He always wants to hear from you!
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

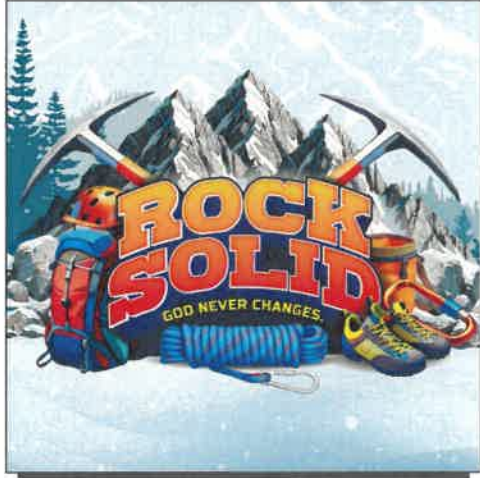
BEFORE YOU LEAVE:

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:

HE

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.

WE

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.

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: 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

GOD PROVIDES

SUPPLIES: Name tag label (1 per kid), marker (1 per kid), upbeat worship music, music player

OR

WHINING COMPETITION

SUPPLIES: Timer

2

BELIEVE (10 MINUTES)

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

GATHER THE VERSE

SUPPLIES: Bibles, teaching slide, printable pages, scissors

OR

GOD IS OUR PROVIDER

SUPPLIES: Bibles, printable pages, 4 pieces of paper, 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

PRAYING CARD

SUPPLIES: Bibles, Take-Home page, writing supplies, index cards (1 per kid)

OR

CANDY PRAYER

SUPPLIES: Bibles, Take-Home page, writing supplies, printable page, Skittles® (1 small bag per kid)



GATHER THE VERSE

SUPPLIES:

Bibles, teaching slide, printable pages, scissors

PREP:

Print or show the Memory Verse teaching slide.
Print two copies of the printable pages and cut them out.

LEADER TIP: Use two different colors of paper to help teams find their verse more easily. Divide kids into as many teams as will work best for you. Provide one set of verse cards per team.

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. **Discuss:** How is God able to give us what we need?
6. **Say:** God created everything, and everything belongs to Him. He is faithful to provide what we need.
7. *Review the verse together a few times.*
8. **Say:** Let's play a game to remember our Bible verse.
9. **Say:** God provided manna and quail for the Israelites. Every day God provided it from heaven, and they needed to gather it up.
10. **Say:** For our game, you will need to gather the words of our verse and put them in order! There will be one set of the memory verse for each team.
11. *Divide kids into two teams.*
12. *Spread out the verse cards in the middle of your space.*
13. *Start the game and assist kids as needed. Remind kids to work together in their teams and help each other put the verse in order.*
14. *Review the verse together one more time.*

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

This verse is a great reminder that God is unchanging. He is faithful and provides what we need.



Discipleship DISCUSSION

HOW CAN I KNOW THIS IS TRUE?

Go to britecurriculum.com/resources to see examples of maps you could use.

Discuss: Look at this map of the Middle East today. What country names do you recognize? What bodies of water do you see?

Discuss: Now look at this map of the Israelites' route through the wilderness. What modern-day countries did they go through?

Say: It's really cool to see the real places where these Bible stories took place. Though names of places are different and the world has changed a lot since then, when we hear the names of countries like Iraq or Egypt on the news or learn something in school about the Nile River, we know these are places where God provided for the Israelites as they made their way to the Promised Land.

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.*



PRAYING CARD

SUPPLIES:

Bibles, Take-Home page, writing supplies, index card (1 per kid)

PREP:

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

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Discuss:** How did the Israelites tell God what they needed?
2. **Say:** The Bible tells us over and over that they cried out to God.
3. **Discuss:** How do we ask God for what we need?
4. **Say:** We can talk to God through prayer, seeking His will and asking for what we need.
5. *Lead kids to find Philippians 4:19 in their Bibles. Read it aloud together.*
6. **Discuss:** Where can we pray to God?
7. **Discuss:** Do we have to use special words to talk to God?
8. **Say:** God doesn't care where we are when we pray or what we say to Him. He just wants us to pray! Is there a right time to pray?
9. *Lead kids to find 1 Thessalonians 5:17 in their Bibles. Read it aloud together.*
10. **Say:** You can pray anytime, anywhere and about anything!
11. **Discuss:** What do you need God to provide for you? It can be something physical or something you can't see like patience or kindness.
12. **Say:** On this card, write out a short prayer that you can take out and read anytime you feel you need God to help you. It can even just say, "God, help me."
13. *Hand out an index card and writing supplies to each kid.*
14. **Say:** Put this card in your pocket and take it out anytime you need it, at school, at home or even at church!
15. **Discuss:** Do you think we pray to change God's mind or to help us?
16. **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.
17. **Say:** God provides for us. Let's take time to respond to Him.

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

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- Take supply tub to Resource Room