brite*
YOUNGER
SMALL GROUP

Elementary

NOVEMBER 1



ELIJAH AND MT. CARMEL

BIBLE PASSAGE: 1 Kings 18:16–45

FOCUS VERSES: 1 Corinthians 8:6, Jeremiah 10:10a, Psalm 18:6, Jeremiah 29:12

Summary: Elijah told King Ahab to send the prophets of Baal to Mt. Carmel. Elijah asked the prophets to call on their god to send fire to burn up a sacrifice. They cried and prayed and danced, but nothing happened. Elijah prepared his altar and even drenched it with water. He prayed to God, and the Lord sent down fire, burning up the sacrifice and everything around it. God showed all of the people that He was the one true God.

MONTHLY Memory Verse

Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised, and His greatness is unsearchable.

(PSALM 145:3)

BRITE Idea

The Lord is the one true God.

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

HE → **WE** → **ME**

IS GOD REAL?
The God of the Bible is the one true God. He is real and He is holy.

DOES GOD HEAR US?
God is real, so we can trust He hears us when we call to Him anytime, anywhere.

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

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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: PRAYER - BEING STILL

Today's kids are often overscheduled and constantly on the go. It is hard for them to grasp the discipline of being still and quiet. How are they ever to learn how to settle themselves and pray if they can't even be still?

- **Practice Still.** At the beginning of class or as a transition activity before the lesson, invite kids to find their own space in the room. Turn on some worship music and challenge kids to be still and quiet for one minute. As kids learn about stillness, you can extend this time to allow them to practice it further.
- **Return to Still.** After the lesson, take a moment to help kids return to a state of stillness and quietness as they reflect on what they learned. Invite kids to talk silently to God about things they understood, things they didn't understand and what they learned about Him.
- **Still Song:** Play a worship song and invite kids to sit still and listen for all the things they learn about God during the song.

NAVIGATING A BROKEN WORLD: PLURALISM

In a survey by Barna, 50 percent of adults indicated that they believe Muslims and Christians worship the same God.* Pluralism accepts that all religious beliefs can be true and coexist. Pluralism says that you can believe what you believe, and I can believe what I believe, and we can both be right. Kids in your group have likely been exposed to this messaging through social media, YouTube or the shows or movies they watch. Our world says there are many gods. Today's story can help kids understand that in a world that says any god is good enough, the Lord is the one true God. Be sensitive to kids who come from other backgrounds or who might have relatives who are of another religion. It is important that kids don't feel that you are being condescending or judgmental towards other faiths. Speak truth in love.

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

ELEMENTARY GLOSSARY

Holy: set apart; perfect

Omnipotent: having unlimited power; stronger than anything

Pray: to talk to God anytime, anywhere about anything

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

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Small Group ROADMAP

1 BELONG
(10 MINUTES)

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

STICKY NOTE CONTEST

SUPPLIES: Sticky notepads (1 per 2 kids), timer

OR

COLOR FEELINGS

SUPPLIES: 6 variously colored pom-poms, paper bag

2 BELIEVE
(10 MINUTES)

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

MEMORY VERSE ALTAR

SUPPLIES: Bibles, teaching slide, printable pages, painter's tape

OR

FIND THE PROOF

SUPPLIES: Bible, printable page, 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*

ROLL A PRAYER

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

OR

LAUNCHING PRAYERS

SUPPLIES: Bible, Take-Home page, coloring supplies, parachute, inflatable beach ball, permanent marker

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FIND THE PROOF

SUPPLIES:
Bible, printable page, coloring supplies

PREP:
Print the printable page (1 per kid).

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Discuss:** How did God show He is the one true God in today's story?
2. **Read:** 1 Corinthians 8:6 and Jeremiah 10:10a.
3. **Discuss:** What do these verses tell us about God?
4. **Discuss:** Is God real?
5. **Say:** The God of the Bible is the one true God. He is real and He is holy.
6. *Pass out supplies.*
7. **Say:** I will tell you a story from the Bible that shows God is the one true God, and you will find the picture on your paper that matches it and color it in.
8. *Read the following statements one at a time and help the kids find pictures on their printable pages.*
   - **Creation (Genesis 1):** God showed He is the one true God by making the world and everything in it just by speaking.
   - **Tower of Babel (Genesis 11:**1–9): God showed He is the one true God when He confused people's language so they couldn't communicate with each other and grow powerful.
   - **The Burning Bush (Exodus 3):** God showed He is the one true God by speaking to Moses from a burning bush. The bush was on fire, but it didn't burn up.
   - **The Sun Stood Still (Joshua 10; 13):** God showed He is the one true God by making the sun stand still so that the Israelites could win a battle.
   - **Elijah and Baal (1 Kings 18):** God showed He is the one true God by winning a contest against Baal.
   - **Jesus and the Resurrection (Matthew 28):** God showed He is the one true God by raising Jesus from the dead and defeating sin and death.
9. **Discuss:** Do you believe God is real? Why?

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

The God of the Bible is the one true God. He is real, and He is holy.

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Discipleship DISCUSSION

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR FOLLOWERS OF JESUS?

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

Say: God answered Elijah's prayer and showed His power to all of those who were following a false god. God is so good in His willingness to let us see who He is and know Him personally.

Read Psalm 27:13 directly from the Bible: *I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the* LORD *in the land of the living!*

BUT WHAT ABOUT ... PLURALISM?

Discuss: Have you ever heard of people who believe in different gods? What have you heard they might believe in?

Discuss: Some people say it doesn't matter what god you believe in, as long as you believe in something. What do you think about that?

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

Say: In our world, there are many other religions in which people believe in other gods. Some religions, like Hinduism, believe in multiple gods. The Bible is very clear that there is one true God. God has created one way for us to have a relationship with Him, and that is through His Son, Jesus. John 14:6 says: *Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."* We should always be respectful and kind to people, even if they believe differently than we do. But that doesn't mean all beliefs are the same. When we have the chance, we should share with others the truth of who the real God is and how much He loves them.

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ROLL A PRAYER

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

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

LEADER TIP: Use a large, inflatable die!

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Discuss:** What did Elijah ask God? Did God hear His prayers?
2. **Discuss:** How did God prove He is the one true God to everyone on Mt. Carmel?
3. **Read:** Jeremiah 29:12 and Psalm 18:6.
4. **Discuss:** What do these verses tell us about God?
5. **Discuss:** Does God hear us?
6. **Say:** God is real, so we can trust He hears us when we call to Him anytime, anywhere.
7. **Say:** Let's use a die to discuss the places, times and things we can pray about.
8. **Here are the discussion topics, based on each roll:**
   - **1 or 3:** When can you talk to God?
   - **2 or 5:** Where can you talk to God?
   - **4 or 6:** What can you talk to God about?
9. *Choose one kid to go first and roll the die.*
10. *Prompt them what to share according to the number they rolled. Ensure everyone has a turn to roll the die and discuss the corresponding question.*
11. **Discuss:** When did God hear your prayer and answer it?
12. **Discuss:** Why does God always hear our prayers?
13. **Pray:** God, You are the one, true God. You are real and powerful. Thank You for always hearing our prayers. Amen.
14. **Say:** The Lord is the one, true 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.

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Extra Time?

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

brite*
YOUNGER
SMALL GROUP

Elementary

NOVEMBER 8



JONAH

BIBLE PASSAGE: Jonah 1–4
FOCUS VERSES: Titus 2:11; Ephesians 2:8; 4:32; John 1:16

Summary: God called the prophet Jonah to warn Nineveh, but Jonah disobeyed and sailed in the opposite direction. A huge storm hit, and the sailors threw Jonah into the sea. God sent a big fish to swallow him. Inside the fish, Jonah prayed and admitted he was wrong. The fish spit him out, and this time Jonah went to Nineveh. He warned the people, and the people responded by believing in God. Jonah was upset that God showed grace, and God used a vine to remind him to have grace for others.

MONTHLY *Memory Verse*

Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised, and His greatness is unsearchable.

(PSALM 145:3)

BRITE *Idea*

God gives grace.

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

HE

WHAT IS GOD'S GRACE?
God's grace is His free gift of forgiveness and salvation that we don't earn, but He gives because He loves us.

WE

SHOULD WE SHOW GRACE TO OTHERS?
Because we recognize the grace God has shown us, we can show kindness and forgiveness to others.

ME

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

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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: PRAYING ALOUD

Not all kids are comfortable praying aloud. Some will be unsure what to do when called on to pray. Here are some ways for kids to practice praying so they become more comfortable praying aloud.

- **Fill in the Blank.** During prayer time, read a statement and invite kids to fill in the blank aloud together. For example: "God, today we thank You for _____. After today's lesson, would You help us to _____?"
- **All at Once.** Invite kids to spread out around the room and pray aloud at the same time. Remind kids that they are not listening to each other, they are all talking to God at once.
- **Praying Scripture.** Select a Scripture verse or passage from the day's lesson or the unit's theme and invite kids to fill in their name or pray that Scripture aloud.
- **Praying for Others.** Invite kids to call out the name of someone they need to pray for. For example: "God, we bring to You all these people who are sick." (Kids would then say someone's name aloud together.)

NAVIGATING A BROKEN WORLD: GUILT

One study revealed that as many as 40 percent of believers struggle with guilt because they are afraid they are displeasing God.* Guilt is a normal human emotion that the Holy Spirit often uses to convict of sin. Second Corinthians 7:10 says: *For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death.* The feeling of guilt is designed to bring us back to God, not to consume us with fear and take over our lives. Some kids struggle with guilt, especially kids who have experienced trauma. In today's lesson, kids will learn the grace God shows us when we mess up. Help kids understand that guilt can lead us to turn away from our sin and receive God's grace, like Jonah did. Instead of serving God out of guilt, we can serve Him out of gratitude for His grace.

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

ELEMENTARY GLOSSARY

Forgiveness: not holding someone's wrongs against them

Grace: giving what is not deserved

Omnipotent: having unlimited power; stronger than anything

Salvation: rescue from sin and separation from God

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Small Group ROADMAP

1 BELONG
(10 MINUTES)

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

MOVEMENT MEMORY

SUPPLIES: None

OR

GUARD AND STATUES

SUPPLIES: Upbeat worship music, music player

2 BELIEVE
(10 MINUTES)

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

TOSS THE VERSE

SUPPLIES: Bibles, teaching slide, ball (1 per kid)

OR

ON THE RIGHT PATH

SUPPLIES: Bible, printable pages, scissors, 20 pieces of colored paper, painter's tape, 2 paper bags

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*

SOAKED IN GRACE

SUPPLIES: Bible, Take-Home page, coloring supplies, printable page, water, large pitcher, cups (1 per kid), plastic container, plastic figurine, paper towels

OR

GIVING GRACE

SUPPLIES: Bible, Take-Home page, coloring supplies, red paper (1 per kid), scissors, self-adhesive bandages (2 per kid)

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TOSS THE VERSE

SUPPLIES:
Bibles, teaching slide, ball (1 per kid)

PREP:
Print or show the Memory Verse teaching slide.

LEADER TIP: Use any easy and safe supply you have on hand to toss back and forth.

ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS: Have the memory verse posted for kids to reference during the activity. You can erase a few words at a time as they get quicker!

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. *Lead kids to find Psalm 145:3 in their Bibles. Read it aloud together.*
2. **Discuss:** How did God show His greatness to Jonah? How did God show His greatness to the Ninevites?
3. **Say:** God showed grace to Jonah and the Ninevites. He gave them forgiveness when they did not deserve it.
4. **Discuss:** What is God's grace?
5. **Say:** God's grace is His free gift of forgiveness and salvation that we don't earn, but He gives because He loves us.
6. **Say:** Jonah was tossed into the sea, but God showed His greatness and grace.
7. **Say:** In pairs, you will toss a ball back and forth and alternate saying the words of our verse. For example, the first person will say "Great" and toss the ball to their partner. Their partner will say "is" and toss it back. You will go back and forth until you have said the entire verse.
8. *Divide kids into pairs and give each pair a ball. Encourage kids to practice tossing the ball back and forth and saying the verse. If anyone makes a mistake or drops the ball, remind kids that God is still great, even when we mess up.*
9. *If time allows, have kids say the verse again but change who begins the verse.*

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

Just like Jonah, we don't always get things right, but God is still great. God showed His greatness by giving grace and forgiveness even when Jonah and the people of Nineveh didn't deserve it. Because God is so great and full of grace, He is always worthy of our praise.

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Discipleship DISCUSSION

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR FOLLOWERS OF JESUS?

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

Say: God could have left Jonah in the belly of the fish. That's what he deserved! Instead, God showed His goodness by giving Jonah grace. Jonah got another chance, and God's goodness was displayed again when Jonah preached to Nineveh. The whole nation was spared when they turned to God.

Read Psalm 145:9 directly from the Bible: *The LORD is good to all, and His mercy is over all that He has made.*

BUT WHAT ABOUT ... GUILT?

Discuss: Have you ever felt guilty for doing something wrong?

Discuss: How can guilt be good? How can guilt be bad?

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

Say: Some people struggle with feeling guilty even after they've been forgiven. Some people struggle with guilt for things that aren't even their fault. God gave us the feeling of guilt to help us realize we should turn to Him and away from our sin. Once we are forgiven, we don't have to feel guilty anymore. Romans 8:1 says: *There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.* Once Jesus forgives us, we are no longer punished. There may be consequences for what we did, but God isn't mad at us for what we did. God forgives us and gives us a new start. God didn't create us to live in guilt. He sent Jesus so that we could live free of guilt, forgiven by Him.

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GIVING GRACE

SUPPLIES:
Bible, Take-Home page, coloring supplies, red paper (1 per kid), scissors, self-adhesive bandages (2 per kid)

PREP:
Print the Take-Home page (1 per kid). Cut large hearts out of the red paper (1 per kid).

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Discuss:** How did God show grace and forgiveness to Jonah?
2. **Discuss:** How much has God forgiven us?
3. **Read:** Ephesians 4:32.
4. **Discuss:** Should we show grace to others?
5. **Say:** Because we recognize the grace God has shown us, we can show kindness and forgiveness to others.
6. *Give each kid a red heart and a coloring supply.*
7. **Say:** Sometimes people do things that make us mad and hurt us and it breaks our friendships. Draw a person that you need to forgive. Maybe your brother, sister or friend hurt you. After you are done, tear your heart in half to show that your relationship with this person is broken.
8. *Give kids time to draw on their hearts and then tear them.*
9. **Say:** When we remember how much God has forgiven us, it can help us to forgive others. Let's pray and ask God to help us forgive this person.
10. **Pray:** God, thank You for forgiving us. Help us to forgive people in our lives. *Pause and encourage kids to pray quietly.* Thank You for helping us. Amen.
11. *Pass out two bandages to everyone.*
12. **Say:** Put your broken hearts together with these bandages. Remember that God can help you forgive others.
13. **Pray:** God, thank You so much for Your amazing grace! Help us to remember Your grace, so we can give grace to others. Amen.
14. **Say:** God gives grace. Let's take time to respond to Him.

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

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

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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 the 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**

brite*
YOUNGER
SMALL GROUP

Elementary

NOVEMBER 15



ISAIAH'S CALL

BIBLE PASSAGE: Isaiah 6

FOCUS VERSES: Exodus 15:11; Revelation 4:8b; 15:4; Romans 3:23

Summary: God gave Isaiah a vision of the heavenly temple. He saw God on His throne, high and lifted up. Angels called, "Holy, holy, holy!" The temple shook, and smoke filled the room. Isaiah realized he was sinful and said his lips were unclean. A seraph touched a coal to his lips, showing he was forgiven. Then God asked who He could send with His message. Isaiah said, "Here I am! Send me!" God chose Isaiah to be His prophet.

MONTHLY Memory Verse

Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised, and His greatness is unsearchable.

(PSALM 145:3)

BRITE Idea

God is holy.

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

HE

WHAT MAKES GOD HOLY?
God is completely perfect and right. He is only good and has no bad in Him.

WE

ARE PEOPLE HOLY?
We all sin and are separated from God's holiness. Only when we believe in Jesus can we be forgiven and made holy.

ME

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

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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: BEING RESPECTFUL DURING PRAYER

Until we begin to understand who God is, we can't grasp how respectful we should be as we approach Him in prayer.

- **Who You Are Praying To.** Before you pray, take time to list things you know about God on the board in your space (e.g., "He is holy," "Creator," "kind," "perfect," etc.). Ask kids how they would react to their pastor, the U.S. president or a famous person if they walked into the room. Explain to kids that God is greater than any of those people and He deserves our respect. While we may not see Him, He sees us, hears us and knows our every thought.
- **Prayer Positions.** Practice different prayer positions to demonstrate how we can approach a holy God. Start by having kids close their eyes and grasp their hands together to minimize distractions. Invite kids to lift their hands in praise as they praise God. Challenge kids to get down on their knees as they silently confess their sins to God. Lead kids to pray with their hands open as they pray for themselves.

NAVIGATING A BROKEN WORLD: RIGHT AND WRONG

Over half of American adults say that the situation can determine what is right or what is wrong.* Most people in today's world don't view right or wrong as absolute. However, the Bible is clear that right and wrong are decided by God. You may have kids in your group who have learned that it is judgmental to suggest that some behavior is right or wrong. It is important to help kids understand that we are called to live by God's standards, not the world's. Because He alone is holy, He is the One who determines right and wrong, not individuals. Because God loves us, He teaches us what sin is, but even more importantly, He gave us a Savior to forgive us of our sin.

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

ELEMENTARY GLOSSARY

Holy: set apart; perfect

Omnipotent: having unlimited power; stronger than anything

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

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

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Small Group ROADMAP

1 BELONG
(10 MINUTES)

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

SIT, STAND, SQUAT, SHARE

SUPPLIES: None

OR

PICTURE IT!

SUPPLIES: Paper (1 per kid), coloring supplies

2 BELIEVE
(10 MINUTES)

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

CALL-AND-RESPONSE VERSE

SUPPLIES: Bibles, teaching slide

OR

GOD IS HOLY BANNER

SUPPLIES: Bible, butcher paper, scissors, coloring supplies, painter's tape

3 DISCIPLESHIP DISCUSSION
(10 MINUTES)

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

4 BECOME
(10 MINUTES)

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

REPEL AND ATTRACT

SUPPLIES: Bible, Take-Home page, coloring supplies, 2 large, strong magnets

OR

MUSICAL WORSHIP

SUPPLIES: Bible, Take-Home page, coloring supplies, printable pages, music player, upbeat worship music

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CALL-AND-RESPONSE VERSE

SUPPLIES:
Bibles, teaching slide

PREP:
Print or show the Memory Verse teaching slide.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. *Lead kids to find Psalm 145:3 in their Bibles. Read it aloud together.*
2. **Discuss:** Name something that makes God great.
3. **Discuss:** What did the angels call out in Isaiah's vision?
4. **Discuss:** What makes God holy?
5. **Say:** God is completely perfect and right. He is only good and has no bad in Him.
6. **Say:** God called out to Isaiah, and Isaiah responded! Let's practice our verse with a call-and-response game. To play, I will divide you into two teams. If I point to your team first, you will say the first half of the verse: *Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised.* Then I will point to the other team and they will say the second half of the verse: *and His greatness is unsearchable. (Psalm 145:3)*
7. *Practice the whole verse together a few times.*
8. *Divide kids into two teams and have them stand on either side of your space.*
9. *Start the game by pointing to one team. Then point to the other team.*
10. *Continue the game until the kids are familiar with the verse.*
11. **Say:** God called out to Isaiah and Isaiah responded to God's call!
12. **Discuss:** What does it mean to you that God is holy?

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

The angels knew that God is greatly to be praised! God is holy, holy, holy!

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Discipleship DISCUSSION

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR FOLLOWERS OF JESUS?

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

Say: Isaiah got a glimpse of the awesomeness and holiness of God. He heard the angels crying out that God is holy. Because God is holy, we can know that He is good. There is nothing bad in Him. Everything He does is right. Even when Isaiah realized his own sin, God offered him forgiveness. He is a good and holy God!

Read 1 Samuel 2:2a directly from the Bible: *There is none holy like the LORD: for there is none besides You.*

BUT WHAT ABOUT ... RIGHT AND WRONG?

Discuss: Who decides what things are right and what things are wrong?

Discuss: Are there things that people in the world think are okay to do that are different from what God says?

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

Say: You may have heard someone say, "This is my truth." Or sometimes people believe they can decide what is right for them. God gives people a lot of freedom, and He has a unique plan for every person's life. However, He doesn't have different sets of right and wrong for each person. What if a really bad guy decided murder was okay? That wouldn't make sense. Isaiah 5:20a says: *Woe to those who call evil good and good evil.* Because God is holy, He sets the standard for right and wrong. He knows how life works best. He sets right and wrong because He loves us. If people decide right or wrong on their own, they make those decisions selfishly, trying to do what they want most. God is right and perfect in all He does. He decides right and wrong for our good and His glory.

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REPEL AND ATTRACT

SUPPLIES:
Bible, Take-Home page, coloring supplies, 2 large, strong magnets

PREP:
Print the Take-Home page (1 per kid). Practice with the magnets, marking how they repel and attract.

LEADER TIP: Give each kid a set of magnets to follow you in the demonstration.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Discuss:** The angels in today's story cried out, "Holy, holy, holy." What does it mean that God is holy?
2. **Discuss:** Are people holy?
3. **Say:** We all sin and are separated from God's holiness. Only when we believe in Jesus can we be forgiven and made holy.
4. **Say:** Sin is anything we think, say or do that disobeys God.
5. **Read:** Romans 3:23.
6. **Say:** The Bible tells us that we all sin and need a Savior.
7. **Say:** It's like these magnets. Imagine one magnet is God and one magnet is people. Look what happens when God comes in contact with sin.
8. *Put the magnets together so they repel each other.*
9. **Say:** Because God is holy and perfect, He can't be connected to us in our sin. But God loves us so much, He didn't want that sin to separate us from Him.
10. **Discuss:** What did God do to fix our sin problem?
11. **Say:** He sent Jesus to die on the cross and take the punishment for our sins. When we believe in Jesus, He forgives us and fixes our relationship with God.
12. *Put the magnets together the opposite way so they attract.*
13. *Allow kids to take turns trying to repel and attract the magnets.*
14. **Pray:** God, You are holy and perfect! Thank You for loving us so much that You didn't want our sin to separate us from You. Thank You for sending Jesus to take the punishment for our sin. Amen.
15. **Say:** God is holy. Let's take time to respond to Him.

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

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

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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 the 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**

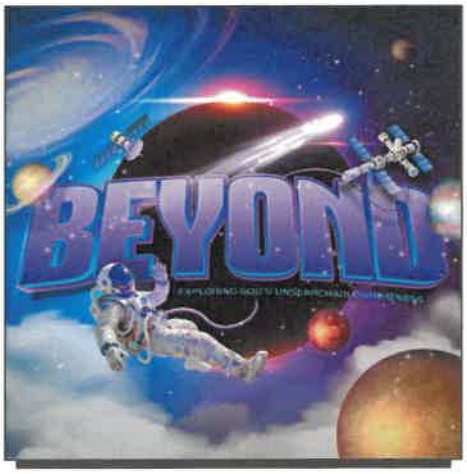
After 11:45 Services:

- **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**

brite*
YOUNGER
SMALL GROUP

Elementary

NOVEMBER 22



THE FIERY FURNACE

BIBLE PASSAGE: Daniel 3
FOCUS VERSES: Psalm 95:6; Revelation 4:11; Hebrews 12:28; Romans 1:16

Summary: When Babylon captured Israel, young men like Daniel and his friends were taken to serve the king. King Nebuchadnezzar built a gold statue and commanded all to worship it or be thrown into a fiery furnace. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego refused, choosing to honor God. Even when given another chance, they stood firm. They were thrown into the furnace, but the king saw a fourth figure with them, protecting them from harm.

MONTHLY *Memory Verse*

Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised, and His greatness is unsearchable.

(PSALM 145:3)

BRITE *Idea*

Only God is worthy of worship.

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

HE

WHY IS GOD WORTHY OF WORSHIP?
God is greater than anyone or anything. No one is like Him.

WE

HOW DO WE WORSHIP GOD EVEN WHEN THOSE AROUND US DON'T?
We can trust God is always with us, and He gives courage to honor Him no matter what is happening.

ME

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

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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: PRAYER REQUESTS

Kids are amazing intercessors, but sometimes can widen the prayer requests so wide that sometimes their prayer requests could benefit with more focus.

- **Whiteboard Requests.** Draw four circles on the board and label each accordingly: "Myself," "People Living at My House", "My Family" and "My Friends." As kids share their requests, explain that they must fit into one of the three circles.
- **Family Requests.** When taking prayer requests, ask kids to share requests for their immediate family, church family or mission's family.
- **20-Second Request.** When sharing prayer requests, explain to kids that each person gets 20 seconds to share their requests so all kids have time to share what they would like the class to pray for that day.
- **Answered Prayers Closing.** So often we bring request after request to God but never return to thank Him for how He answers our prayers. At the end of each week, circle back and ask the kids to share their answered prayers, then have a praise party thanking Him.

NAVIGATING A BROKEN WORLD: PERSECUTION

Over 360 million Christians experience significant persecution in the countries in which they live, including facing kidnapping, jail and even loss of life.* Just like Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, believers around the world risk their lives by following the one true God. Some kids in your group may have even encountered times when they were made fun of for being a Christian or for doing the right thing. In today's lesson, kids will see that Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego stayed true to their faith even when it made life much harder for them. You can help kids see that God uses persecution to point others toward Him. Around the world the church is growing in countries of persecution. Lead the kids in your group to pray for those around the world who are persecuted.

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

ELEMENTARY GLOSSARY

Omnipotent: having unlimited power; stronger than anything

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

Worship: celebrating God for who He is

Worthy: deserving of praise because of what one has done or who they are

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Small Group ROADMAP

1 BELONG
(10 MINUTES)

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

ITEM MISMATCH

SUPPLIES: Printable pages

OR

KING'S COMMANDS

SUPPLIES: None

2 BELIEVE
(10 MINUTES)

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

PASS THE VERSE

SUPPLIES: Bibles, teaching slide, ping-pong ball

OR

WORTHY WALK

SUPPLIES: Bible, printable pages, painter's tape

3 DISCIPLESHIP DISCUSSION
(10 MINUTES)

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

4 BECOME
(10 MINUTES)

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

STAND FIRM

SUPPLIES: Bible, Take-Home page, coloring supplies, plastic egg (1 per kid), small stickers (several per kid), modeling dough (1 handful per kid)

OR

COURAGE PRAYER

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

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PASS THE VERSE

SUPPLIES:
Bibles, teaching slide, ping-pong ball

PREP:
Print or show the Memory Verse teaching slide.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. *Lead kids to find Psalm 145:3 in their Bibles. Read it aloud together.*
2. **Discuss:** How did God show His greatness in the fiery furnace?
3. **Say:** The king commanded everyone to bow down and worship the statue. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego knew that only God is worthy of worship.
4. **Discuss:** Why is God worthy of worship?
5. **Say:** God is greater than anyone or anything. No one is like Him.
6. *Gather kids in a circle.*
7. *Have kids close their eyes and stick their hands out in front of them. Give one kid the ping-pong ball.*
8. *Have kids pass the ball around the circle and say the verse, one word at a time.*
9. *When the verse ends, have everyone keep their eyes shut and put their hands behind their backs.*
10. *Have kids open their eyes and guess who has the ping-pong ball.*
11. *Repeat as long as time allows.*
12. **Discuss:** You couldn't see where the ball was, but you knew it was still there. How did you know?
13. **Discuss:** In the fiery furnace, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego couldn't see how God would rescue them, but they knew that God was worthy of all their worship.

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego trusted God's greatness by going into the fiery furnace. God was with them in the furnace and the king believed in Him! God is great and worthy of our praise!

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Discipleship DISCUSSION

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR FOLLOWERS OF JESUS?

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

Say: Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were in a terrifying situation, but they were not alone. God was literally with them in the fire. God showed His goodness with His presence, but the three men also recognized that God was still good even if He didn't rescue them.

Read Isaiah 41:10a directly from the Bible: *Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God.*

BUT WHAT ABOUT ... PERSECUTION?

Discuss: Have you heard about countries where people are treated badly for believing in Jesus?

Discuss: Why would people mistreat Christians?

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

Say: There are people all over the world who are hurt or put in jail because they believe in Jesus. Another word for this is "persecution." There are some countries, many in the Middle East and Central Asia, where Christians are harmed every day. Most of us do not have to live in fear because we follow Christ, but we may encounter times where we are treated differently because of our faith or when we have to make some hard choices to honor Jesus when no one else is. In Matthew 5:10, Jesus says: *"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."* He told the people that persecution happened to the Old Testament prophets and it would keep happening. We know people persecuted Jesus too. No matter our situation, we can remember that God is with us and He is with believers all over the world. Pray for those who are in scary situations because they follow Jesus.

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COURAGE PRAYER

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

PREP:
Print the Take-Home page (1 per kid). Print the printable pages and tape them on the walls around your space. Leave enough space between them.

LEADER TIP: Play quiet worship music as kids are praying.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Read:** Isaiah 41:10.
2. **Discuss:** Who is always with you?
3. **Discuss:** How did the three men in the story have the courage to honor God?
4. **Discuss:** How do we worship God even when those around us don't?
5. **Say:** We can trust God is always with us, and He gives courage to honor Him no matter what is happening.
6. **Say:** Let's pray and talk to God about times when we need to follow God even when it's hard and we feel alone. There are pictures around our space. These pictures represent places where we can have courage to honor and follow God.
7. *Review the places: school, soccer practice (after-school activity), friends' houses and playground. Discuss times in each of these places when kids might need to have courage to do things God's way.*
8. **Say:** Now I will give you a few minutes to pray. You can stand by each of the pictures and ask God to help you have courage. Think about times when you needed courage to stand for what is right and asked God to help you.
9. *Give kids time to pray at each picture.*
10. *End the prayer time by praying for everyone to remember that God is always with them. Ask God to give them courage to honor Him, no matter what is happening around them.*
11. **Discuss:** What can you remember to help you have courage?
12. **Pray:** God, You are worthy of our worship. Thank You for always being with us. Help us to have courage to honor You no matter what is happening. Amen.
13. **Say:** Only God is worthy of worship. Let's take time to respond to Him.

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

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

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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 the 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**

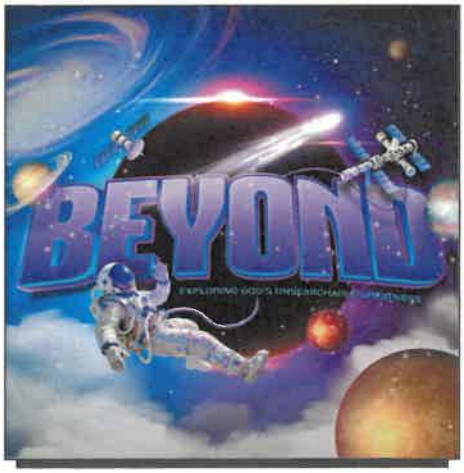
After 11:45 Services:

- **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**

brite*
YOUNGER
SMALL GROUP

Elementary

NOVEMBER 29



THE EXILES RETURN

BIBLE PASSAGE: Ezra 1–3; 7; Nehemiah 1–2
FOCUS VERSES: Colossians 3:23–24; Ephesians 2:10; 4:11–12

Summary: The Israelite people had been in exile for 70 years. King Cyrus was stirred by the Lord to let some of the people return to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple. Ezra later took a second group and encouraged all of the people to turn away from sin and turn to God. Nehemiah heard about how the walls of his home, Jerusalem, were destroyed. He received permission to go back and help rebuild the walls. God used His people to do His work to restore the city.

MONTHLY Memory Verse

Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised, and His greatness is unsearchable.

(PSALM 145:3)

BRITE Idea

God works through His people.

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

HE → **WE** → **ME**

DOES GOD NEED PEOPLE?
God doesn't need anyone or anything, but He loves us and chooses to involve us in His work.

HOW CAN GOD WORK THROUGH US?
God calls us to share His love and serve others—in our church, in our community and around the world.

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

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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 TOPIC: PATTERN OF PRAYER

Kids become more comfortable with prayer as they begin to understand the pattern of prayer. Practice stillness. Begin with praise. Confess your sins. Thank God. Pray for yourself and others. Practicing this pattern each week will help kids know what to expect and be prepared to pray.

- **Sitting Still.** Turn off the lights and invite kids to sit still and focus on God.
- **Popcorn Praise.** Call out a letter and invite kids to stand up and praise God for who He is, using a word that starts with that letter (e.g., "God, you are Amazing").
- **Confession.** Encourage kids to sit quietly and reflect on things they need to confess to God. Ask them to ask His forgiveness for those things silently.
- **Thanksgiving Together.** Set a timer and see how long your group can thank God for specific things.
- **Pray for You/Me.** Encourage kids to pray for themselves, asking God to help them live out the lessons they learn. Next, challenge them to pray for someone else.

NAVIGATING A BROKEN WORLD: EARNING SALVATION

Almost half of U.S. adults believe that salvation is earned by doing good deeds in their lives.* Salvation by grace alone goes against our human instinct of working to get what we want. Kids' natural, default belief will be that they have to do good things to go to heaven or to earn God's favor. You may have kids in your group who feel they must do good things to earn God's love. In today's lesson kids will learn that God works through us and that we can serve Him by serving others and sharing His love. Listen carefully to kids' responses, pointing them toward the grace of God. Help them see that our works are a response to God's love and goodness, not an effort to try to earn His favor.

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

ELEMENTARY GLOSSARY

Omnipotent: having unlimited power; stronger than anything

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

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Small Group ROADMAP

1 BELONG
(10 MINUTES)

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

COME TOGETHER

SUPPLIES: Bucket, paper (1 per kid)

OR

REMAKE

SUPPLIES: Modeling dough, coloring supplies, paper, several cups

2 BELIEVE
(10 MINUTES)

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

PARTNER PASS

SUPPLIES: Bibles, teaching slide, ball (1 per 2 kids)

OR

GOD WORKS THROUGH PEOPLE

SUPPLIES: Bible, printable pages, scissors, painter's tape, 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*

I CAN DO THAT

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

OR

NEHEMIAH'S PRAYER

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

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GOD WORKS THROUGH PEOPLE

SUPPLIES:
Bible, printable pages, scissors, painter's tape, coloring supplies

PREP:
Print the printable pages and cut out (1 flower per kid). Tape the printable vase to the wall.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Discuss:** In our story today, how was the wall rebuilt?
2. **Discuss:** Could God have rebuilt the wall all by Himself? Why?
3. **Discuss:** Does God need people?
4. **Say:** God doesn't need anyone or anything, but He loves us and chooses to involve us in His work.
5. *Point to the vase on the wall.*
6. **Say:** Look at this vase. Someone took the time to create this beautiful vase.
7. **Discuss:** What is a vase used for?
8. **Discuss:** Imagine if this vase just sat in a closet instead of holding beautiful flowers in a room for everyone to see. Would that be good or bad? Why?
9. **Read:** Ephesians 2:10.
10. **Discuss:** What does this verse tell us about God?
11. **Say:** God created us and loves us! He created us to work with Him on His plan to save the world.
12. *Take out the printable flowers.*
13. **Say:** Each of these flowers describes a time when God worked through people. We will read them and then you will color them and put them in our vase.
14. *Read the words on each flower aloud and then pass out a flower for each kid to color. When kids are finished, have them tape the flowers in the vase.*

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

God could have accomplished all of these things on His own. He didn't need any of these people because He is all-powerful. But He loves us and chooses to involve us in His work.

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Discipleship DISCUSSION

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR FOLLOWERS OF JESUS?

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

Say: God didn't forget His promises to His people. He gave them leaders to bring them back from exile to Jerusalem. He provided what they needed. He never abandoned them, despite the many times they turned away from Him.

Read Deuteronomy 31:6b directly from the Bible: *It is the LORD your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you.*

BUT WHAT ABOUT ... EARNING SALVATION?

Discuss: Have you ever heard someone say that you have to do good things to get into heaven?

Discuss: Why do you think people might believe that they can earn entrance into heaven by doing good things?

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

Say: Many people in our world believe that they can go to heaven by doing more good things than bad things. Some of the major world religions believe this. But Ephesians 2:8–9 says: *For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.* In other words, heaven is a gift from God when we have faith in Jesus. There is absolutely nothing we can do on our own to earn it. In fact, the Bible says in Isaiah 64:6 that all of the good things we do are like dirty rags compared to God's holiness. God does want us to do good things, but we do those out of love and obedience toward Him, not to try to earn His love.

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NEHEMIAH'S PRAYER

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

PREP:
Print the Take-Home page (1 per kid). Print the printable pages and cut out. Write the following prayer on the whiteboard, leaving large spaces for the blanks: *Dear God, help me to ___. Give me ___ and ___ to live for You. Amen.*

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Say:** God worked through Nehemiah to lead the people to rebuild the city walls. Nehemiah served God, and God can work through you too!
2. **Discuss:** How can God work through us?
3. **Say:** God calls us to share His love and serve others—in our church, in our community and around the world.
4. **Discuss:** How can you serve God in your life? Maybe it is being a kind and loving friend, an obedient son or daughter, a hardworking student or an encouraging teammate.
5. **Say:** Let's complete a prayer to ask God to help you serve Him.
6. *Show kids the cards and review each one. Use the cards to complete the prayer on the board for yourself. Read it aloud, then have a kid volunteer to complete the prayer for themselves. Repeat until everyone has had a turn.*
7. **Say:** When Nehemiah realized that God wanted him to lead the rebuilding of the city walls, the first thing he did was pray! He knew he needed God's strength and direction to do the work. We each need God's strength, too, as we do what God is leading us to do.
8. **Pray:** God, You are worthy of praise. Thank You for loving us and using us to do Your work. Help us to serve You and show Your love to others. Amen.
9. **Say:** God works through His people. Let's take time to respond to Him.

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

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

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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 the 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**