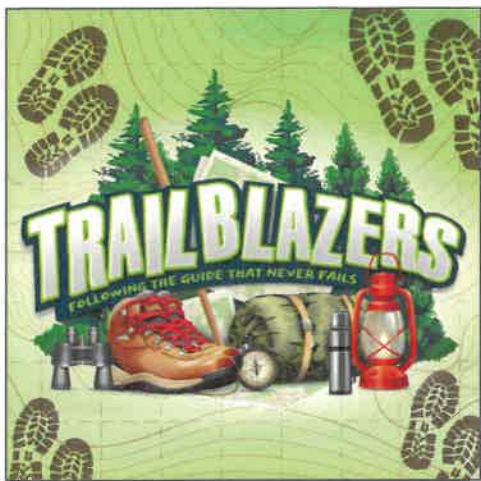




THE SUN STOOD STILL

BIBLE PASSAGE: Joshua 10; 13

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

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



MONTHLY *Memory Verse*

For nothing will be impossible with God.

(LUKE 1:37)



God does what He says.

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



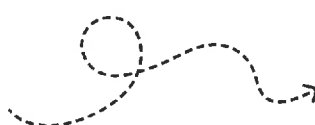
WHY DOES GOD KEEP HIS PROMISES?

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



HOW CAN WE KNOW WHAT GOD'S PROMISES ARE?

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



HOW IS GOD INVITING ME TO RESPOND?

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

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

Before Kids Arrive

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

Arrival

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

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

Big Group

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

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

After Big Group

Welcome the kids to your group.

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

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

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

Start With Prayer Requests – this builds relationship.

You will pray at the end of the service



Leader TRAINING

LEADER TRAINING TOPIC: BE PLAYFUL

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

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

NAVIGATING A BROKEN WORLD: DIVORCE

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

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

ELEMENTARY GLOSSARY

Infallible: never wrong, failing, or making a mistake

Promise: when someone agrees to something

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

Small Group ROADMAP

1

BELONG (10 MINUTES)

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

I PROMISE!

SUPPLIES: 4 jump ropes, 4 Hula Hoops, 4 balls, 4 baskets, timer

OR

HOLDING TIGHT

SUPPLIES: None

2

BELIEVE (10 MINUTES)

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

SUNS AND MOONS

SUPPLIES: Bibles, teaching slide, printable pages, scissors, painter's tape, chairs (1 per kid)

OR

GOD'S TRACK RECORD

SUPPLIES: Bibles, writing supplies, 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

STANDING ON HIS PROMISES

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

OR

FREEZE PRAYERS

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



SUNS AND MOONS

SUPPLIES:

Bibles, teaching slide, printable pages, scissors, painter's tape, chairs (1 per kid)

PREP:

Print or show the Memory Verse teaching slide. Print the printable pages and cut out. Tape a verse card underneath each chair.

LEADER TIP: For large groups, print multiple copies of the verse on different colored paper and divide kids into colored teams.

ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS: Assist struggling readers, by allowing them to pair up with a comfortable friend.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. *Lead kids to find Luke 1:37 in their Bibles. Read it aloud together.*
2. **Discuss:** What seemed impossible for the Israelites?
3. **Discuss:** How did God show that anything was possible for Him?
4. **Say:** Let's work on practicing our verse!
5. *Have everyone sit in a chair with a verse card taped underneath.*
6. *Instruct kids that when you start the game, they will reach under their chair and grab a verse card. Kids will divide into groups based on if their card has a sun or a moon on it. They will work in their groups to put their verse in order and sit down.*
7. *Start the game and cheer kids on! Assist as needed.*
8. *Once both groups have finished and are sitting down, recite the verse together several times.*
9. **Discuss:** Do you ever have a hard time keeping promises that you have made?
10. **Discuss:** Do you think God has a hard time keeping His promises? What does our memory verse have to say about that?
11. *Lead kids to find Numbers 23:19 in their Bibles. Read it aloud together.*
12. **Discuss:** Why does God keep His promises?
13. **Say:** God is completely good. He never lies or changes His mind.

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

It is good news that God doesn't ever change His mind. He keeps every promise because nothing is impossible with God.



Discipleship DISCUSSION

HOW CAN I KNOW THIS IS TRUE?

Discuss: What would you think if the sun stopped moving in the sky?

Say: The Bible says God made the sun stand still so Joshua could win the battle. An ancient Israelite record called the Book of Jashar (mentioned in Joshua) recorded this moment, showing the event was remembered in history. Scientists have studied ancient eclipse records and found that a solar eclipse in 1207 BC was visible in this region, which some link to this event. Archaeologists have uncovered cities like Gibeon and Lachish, where this battle took place, confirming the locations are real. At Gibeon, excavations revealed large stone-cut pools, wine cellars, and jar handles stamped with "GB'N" from the Late Bronze Age. At Lachish, digs found massive destruction layers with burned grain stores and collapsed walls from around 1200 BC. These discoveries show the story happened in real places and remind us that God has power even over the sun and sky.

Read Joshua 10:13 directly from the Bible: *And the sun stood still, and the moon stopped, until the nation took vengeance on their enemies.*

BUT WHAT ABOUT ... DIVORCE?

Discuss: What are some important promises that adults make?

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

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

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



STANDING ON HIS PROMISES

SUPPLIES:

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

PREP:

Print the Take-Home page (1 per kid). Print the printable pages (1 verse per 2 kids).

ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS: For kids needing more structure during the activity, buddy them with a calm friend and check in with them frequently to ensure on-task behaviors.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Discuss:** How did God keep His promise to Joshua?
2. **Discuss:** Does God keep promises to us?
3. **Discuss:** How can we know what God's promises are?
4. **Say:** We can learn the many promises God has made to His people by studying the Bible.
5. **Discuss:** Does God still keep His promises when things go wrong? What about if divorce happens, or when our friends are unkind to us? Does God still keep His promises when we feel sad or alone?
6. **Say:** Let's look at God's Word and dig into some of His promises that can help us in our times of need.
7. *Spread printable pages on the floor around your space.*
8. *Divide kids into pairs and have them stand by a printable page.*
9. **Say:** As a pair, you will look up the Bible verse you're standing on. Talk about what God is or has promised in that verse. Discuss how you can use the verse to be reminded of God's promises when you feel sad, lonely, unlovable, angry, etc.
10. *Give pairs time to look up their verse and discuss. Ask if any pairs want to share with the whole group what they talked about.*
11. **Discuss (as a whole group):** How can you hold onto that verse this week? How can you use what you learned today throughout the week?
12. **Pray:** God, thank You for all the promises that You give us in the Bible. Help us to remember Your promises and trust that You will do what You say. Amen.
13. **Say:** God does what He says. Let's take time to respond to Him.

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

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

Extra Time?

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

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

Hand each parent:

- Any craft/activity page

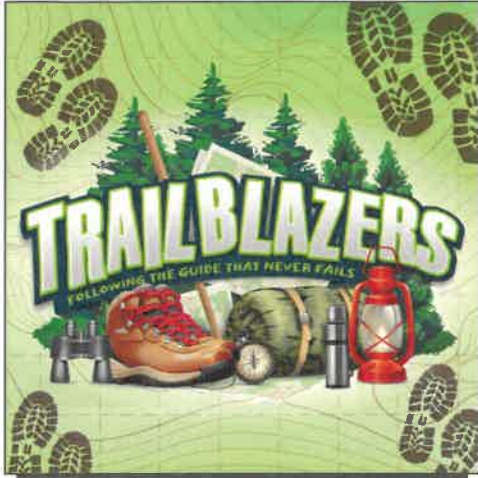
BEFORE YOU LEAVE:

After 10:00 Services:

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

After 11:45 Services:

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



DEBORAH LEADS

BIBLE PASSAGE: Judges 4–5

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

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



MONTHLY Memory Verse

For nothing will be impossible with God.

(LUKE 1:37)



God is victorious.

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



CAN ANYTHING DEFEAT GOD?

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



HOW CAN WE FACE TOUGH TIMES IN LIFE?

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



HOW IS GOD INVITING ME TO RESPOND?

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

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

Before Kids Arrive

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

Arrival

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

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

Big Group

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

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

After Big Group

Welcome the kids to your group.

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

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

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

Start With Prayer Requests – this builds relationship.

You will pray at the end of the service



Leader TRAINING

LEADER TRAINING TOPIC: BIG EMOTIONS AND HELPFUL RESPONSES

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

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

NAVIGATING A BROKEN WORLD: VIOLENCE

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

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

ELEMENTARY GLOSSARY

Infallible: never wrong, failing, or making a mistake

Judge: a person chosen by God to lead His people

Omnipotent: having unlimited power; stronger than anything

Victorious: having won a challenge or battle

Small Group ROADMAP

1

BELONG (10 MINUTES)

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

CARD NINJA

SUPPLIES: 10 plastic cups, playing cards (5 per kid), table

OR

WHO WINS?

SUPPLIES: Printable pages, scissors

2

BELIEVE (10 MINUTES)

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

BALLOON BATTALION

SUPPLIES: Bibles, teaching slide, printable page, scissors, balloons (1 per kid)

OR

LEARN AND SHARE

SUPPLIES: Bibles, printable pages, scissors, 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

SONG OF PRAISE

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

OR

PRAISING IN THE PAIN

SUPPLIES: Bibles, Take-Home page, writing supplies, balloons (1 per 3 kids), permanent marker, upbeat worship music, music player



BALLOON BATTALION

SUPPLIES:

Bibles, teaching slide, printable page, scissors, balloons (1 per kid)

PREP:

Print or show the Memory Verse teaching slide. Print the printable page and cut out. Inflate the balloons.

ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS: For kids struggling with personal space, allow modified movement such as balloon between knees and not touching others.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. *Lead kids to find Luke 1:37 in their Bibles. Read it aloud together.*
2. **Discuss:** How were the Israelites overtaken at the beginning of our story?
3. **Discuss:** How did God do the impossible?
4. **Discuss:** Why is it important for us to remember that nothing is impossible with God?
5. **Discuss:** Can anything defeat God?
6. **Say:** No! God is all-powerful. There is nothing or no one anywhere who is more powerful than He is.
7. **Say:** Just as the Israelite army worked together to defeat the Canaanite army, we will work together to be victorious with our own challenge.
8. *Instruct kids to line up shoulder to shoulder in a line on one side of your space.*
9. *Place the memory verse cards on the opposite side of your space.*
10. *Pass out a balloon to each kid.*
11. *Show kids how to place a balloon between themselves and the person standing next to them (between elbows or shoulders).*
12. **Say:** The way to win this challenge is to walk as a group to the opposite side of our space without dropping a balloon. If a balloon drops, the entire group must go back to the beginning and start again.
13. **Say:** Once you get to the other side, you will work together to put the verse in the correct order.
14. *Start the game and cheer kids on! Help kids as needed.*
15. *Once assembled, recite the verse together several times.*

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

The Israelites were able to defeat the Canaanites because God who would give them victory! Nothing is impossible with God!



Discipleship DISCUSSION

HOW CAN I KNOW THIS IS TRUE?

Discuss: What would you think if God used someone unexpected to lead an army to victory?

Say: The Bible tells how God used Deborah to lead Israel against Sisera. Archaeologists have uncovered the ancient site of Hazor, Sisera's ally, showing it was a powerful Canaanite city with large gates and palaces, just as Judges describes. Excavations there also reveal a violent destruction layer, showing the city was suddenly defeated. In the nearby Kishon River Valley, where the battle took place, the ground can quickly turn muddy after heavy rain, matching Judges 5, which says the river swept the enemy away. These discoveries show Deborah's story happened in real places and real conditions, and God used them to bring victory.

Read Judges 5:21 directly from the Bible: *The torrent Kishon swept them away, the ancient torrent, the torrent Kishon. March on, my soul, with might!*

BUT WHAT ABOUT ... VIOLENCE?

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

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

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

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



SONG OF PRAISE

SUPPLIES:

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

PREP:

Print the Take-Home page (1 per kid). Print the printable page (1 per 3 kids).

ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS: Strategically divide kids into groups with stronger peers who could naturally assist.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Discuss:** How did God give the Israelites victory?
2. **Discuss:** What did Deborah and Barak do after God gave them the victory?
3. **Say:** Deborah and Barak sang a song of praise to the Lord.
4. **Discuss:** How can we face tough times in life?
5. **Say:** We can worship God even when life is hard. We can praise Him for who He is because He is always victorious.
6. *Lead kids to find 1 Corinthians 15:7 in their Bibles. Read it aloud together.*
7. **Say:** We can always praise God because we have victory in Jesus!
8. *Divide kids into groups of three and give each group a printable page and writing supplies.*
9. **Say:** Your group will use your printable page to write your own song of praise. Work together to fill in the blanks and then put it to a tune, or you could recite it like a poem. You could even add motions if you want!
10. *Give groups time to create their song of praise.*
11. *Invite groups to share their songs.*
12. **Discuss:** Why can we praise God even when we've had tough times?
13. **Say:** We have so much to praise God for! He is victorious over everything, and we can praise and trust Him because He is bigger than anything we face.
14. **Pray:** God, we praise You for always being victorious. Help us to trust You even during tough times and remember that nothing is impossible for You. Amen.
15. **Say:** God is victorious. Let's take time to respond to Him.

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

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

Extra Time?

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

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

Hand each parent:

- Any craft/activity page

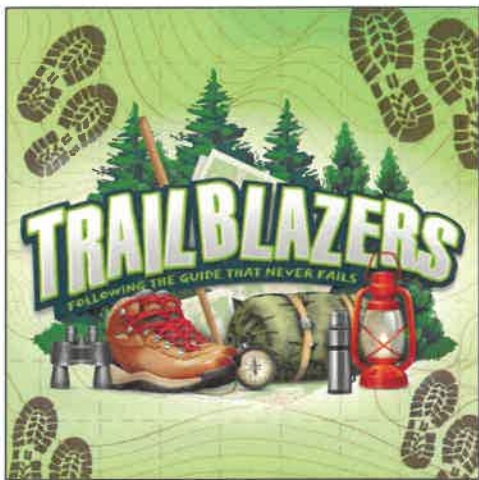
BEFORE YOU LEAVE:

After 10:00 Services:

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

After 11:45 Services:

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



HANNAH AND SAMUEL

BIBLE PASSAGE: 1 Samuel 1–3

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

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



MONTHLY *Memory Verse*

For nothing will be impossible with God.

(LUKE 1:37)



God cares about us.

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

HE

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

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

WE

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

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

ME

HOW IS GOD INVITING ME TO RESPOND?

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

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

Before Kids Arrive

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

Arrival

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

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

Big Group

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

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

After Big Group

Welcome the kids to your group.

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

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

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

Start With Prayer Requests – this builds relationship.

You will pray at the end of the service



Leader TRAINING

LEADER TRAINING TOPIC: REMEMBER IT'S NOT ABOUT YOU

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

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

NAVIGATING A BROKEN WORLD: FOSTER CARE

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

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

ELEMENTARY GLOSSARY

Infallible: never wrong, failing, or making a mistake

Omniscient: all-knowing

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

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

Small Group ROADMAP

1

BELONG (10 MINUTES)

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

LISTEN FOR THE CALL!

SUPPLIES: Painter's tape

OR

FIND SOMEONE

SUPPLIES: Printable page, writing supplies

2

BELIEVE (10 MINUTES)

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

BEACH BALL TOSS

SUPPLIES: Bibles, teaching slide, beach ball, permanent marker

OR

GOD KNOWS, GOD CARES

SUPPLIES: Bibles, 4 pieces of paper, writing supplies, timer

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

WILLING TO SERVE

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

OR

OVERFLOWING PRAYER

SUPPLIES: Bibles, Take-Home page, writing supplies, small cups (1 per kid plus 1), pan with raised edges, bottle of water, spoons (1 per kid)



BEACH BALL TOSS

SUPPLIES:

Bibles, teaching slide, beach ball, permanent marker

PREP:

Print or show the Memory Verse teaching slide. Inflate the beach ball and use the permanent marker to randomly write the words of the verse on the ball. Include the chapter and verse numbers as well.

ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS: For struggling kids, allow for a “phone a friend” option. They can try on their own, but if overwhelmed they can ask one friend on their team to help.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. *Lead kids to find Luke 1:37 in their Bibles. Read it aloud together.*
2. **Discuss:** What felt impossible to Hannah in our Bible story?
3. **Discuss:** What impossible thing did God do for Hannah? What about Samuel?
4. *Gather kids in a circle.*
5. **Say:** This beach ball has our memory verse written on it. Your challenge is to put the verse in order.
6. **Say:** We will toss the ball around the circle to each other. When you catch the ball, you will find the next word of the verse, say it and toss the ball to another person. I will toss the ball to you starting with the first word of the verse: “For.”
7. *Repeat the verse together as time allows.*
8. **Discuss:** What are some things that can happen in our lives that God knows about?
9. **Discuss:** Does God know what’s happening in people’s lives?
10. **Say:** God knows everything, including the details of every single person’s life. He knows us and cares about us.
11. *Lead kids to find Luke 12:6–7 in their Bibles. Read it aloud together.*
12. **Discuss:** What do these verses tell us about God?
13. **Discuss:** How can this verse and our memory verse help us this week?

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

God cares for you. He alone is God and knows what is happening in your life. Recite your verse each day and thank Him that nothing is impossible for Him!



Discipleship DISCUSSION

HOW CAN I KNOW THIS IS TRUE?

Discuss: Have you ever prayed so hard for something that you trusted God would answer?

Say: The Bible tells how Hannah prayed at the tabernacle in Shiloh, where Samuel later served. Archaeologists have uncovered the ancient site of Shiloh, including remains of storage rooms, pottery, and animal bones from sacrifices, matching the worship described in 1 Samuel. They've also found a large open area that could have held the tabernacle. Thousands of pottery pieces show people traveled there regularly to worship God. These discoveries confirm that Shiloh was a real place where people prayed, sacrificed, and met with God, just as Hannah did, and where Samuel learned to listen to God's voice.

BUT WHAT ABOUT ... FOSTER CARE?

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

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

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

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

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



WILLING TO SERVE

SUPPLIES:

Bibles, Take-Home page, writing supplies, printable pages, sticky notes (several per kid), painter's tape

PREP:

Print the Take-Home page (1 per kid). Print the printable pages. Tape the signs around your space.

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

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Discuss:** How did God show His goodness to Hannah?
2. **Discuss:** What did Hannah do to show her gratitude to God?
3. *Lead kids to find Colossians 3:17 in their Bibles. Read it aloud together.*
4. **Discuss:** How can we respond to God's goodness to us?
5. **Say:** We can respond to God with thankfulness and a willingness to serve Him.
6. **Discuss:** How has God shown His goodness to you?
7. **Say:** God has shown His goodness to us in many ways, especially in sending Jesus to die for our sins.
8. *Point to the signs around your space, reading each one: hands, feet, mouth.*
9. **Say:** I will give you some sticky notes. Think of ways that you can serve God using each of these parts of your body. Write one idea on each sticky note and then stick them by the sign it matches.
10. *Pass out supplies and give kids time to write on their sticky notes and stick them to the matching signs.*
11. *Read some of the sticky notes around each sign.*
12. **Say:** Now we will tell God that we are ready and willing to serve Him. Take one more sticky note and write your name on it. Then put your sticky note on the sign that represents how you want to serve God this week.
13. **Pray:** God, thank You for knowing the details of our lives and caring about us. We are so grateful for Your goodness and want to serve You. Amen.
14. **Say:** God cares about us. Let's take time to respond to Him.

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

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

Extra Time?

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

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

Hand each parent:

- Any craft/activity page

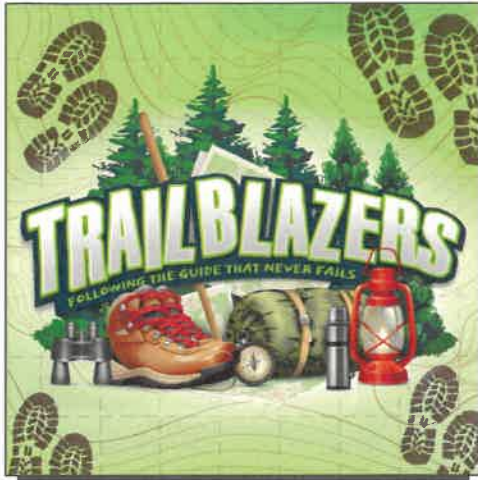
BEFORE YOU LEAVE:

After 10:00 Services:

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

After 11:45 Services:

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



DAVID AND JONATHAN

BIBLE PASSAGE: 1 Samuel 20

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

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



MONTHLY *Memory Verse*

For nothing will be impossible with God.

(LUKE 1:37)



God's plan comes first.

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



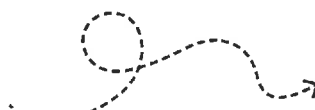
WHY SHOULD GOD'S PLAN COME FIRST?

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



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

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



HOW IS GOD INVITING ME TO RESPOND?

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

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

Before Kids Arrive

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

Arrival

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

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

Big Group

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

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

After Big Group

Welcome the kids to your group.

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

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

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

Start With Prayer Requests – this builds relationship.

You will pray at the end of the service



Leader TRAINING

LEADER TRAINING TOPIC: OUR WORDS ARE POWERFUL

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

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

NAVIGATING A BROKEN WORLD: CHOOSING FRIENDS

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

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

ELEMENTARY GLOSSARY

Anoint: chosen by God for a special job

Infallible: never wrong, failing, or making a mistake

Providence: God's active involvement in the world today

Small Group ROADMAP

1

BELONG (10 MINUTES)

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

FIND A FRIEND

SUPPLIES: None

OR

BETTER TOGETHER

SUPPLIES: Timer

2

BELIEVE (10 MINUTES)

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

HELP ME

SUPPLIES: Bibles, teaching slide, printable page, scissors, blindfold (1 per 2 kids)

OR

GOD'S PLAN IS UNSTOPPABLE

SUPPLIES: Bibles, paper, writing supply

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

BUILD A COMMUNITY

SUPPLIES: Bibles, Take-Home page, writing supplies, LEGO® bricks (several per kid), permanent markers (1 per kid)

OR

PRAYER SCRAMBLE

SUPPLIES: Bibles, Take-Home page, writing supplies, worship music, music player



GOD'S PLAN IS UNSTOPPABLE

SUPPLIES:

Bibles, paper, writing supply

PREP:

Write "God's Plan" on the paper.

ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS: For kids with mobility needs, allow extra space and time for specialized equipment or buddy them up with a familiar friend to assist.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. *Gather kids on one side of your space and stand on the other side holding up the "God's Plan" sign.*
2. **Discuss:** How easy would it be for you to walk to this sign?
3. **Say:** Looks easy to just walk right on the path to God's plan for your life. But let's consider David's life. God had a plan for David, but Saul tried to stop that plan.
4. **Discuss:** Did Saul stop God's plan? How did Saul try?
5. **Discuss:** Why should God's plan come first?
6. **Say:** God's plan is the most important, and He will make it happen.
7. **Say:** Let's put some obstacles in the way to get to God's plan.
8. *Choose a handful of kids to become obstacles in the path, e.g., one kid lays down so kids have to jump over them; two kids make a bridge that kids have to go under; two kids stand side by side that kids have to go around.*
9. *Have kids walk through the obstacle course one at a time. You can swap out the kids who create obstacles with others so all kids can walk the course.*
10. *Point to the "God's plan" sign.*
11. **Discuss:** Did God's plan change because there were obstacles?
12. **Say:** His plan isn't affected by all the things that might seem like obstacles in our life, because God's plan is most important and He will make it happen.
13. *Lead kids to find Jeremiah 29:11 in their Bibles. Read it aloud together.*
14. **Discuss:** What does this verse say about God's plan for our lives?
15. **Discuss:** How does knowing that God has a good plan for you help you?

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

God promises that He has a plan for us. His plan is most important and He will make it happen.



Discipleship DISCUSSION

HOW CAN I KNOW THIS IS TRUE?

Discuss: How can scholars prove that a person really existed long ago?

Say: One way scientists learn about people from long ago is through archaeology. Even though King David existed thousands of years ago, there is archeological evidence of his existence. Excavations in Jerusalem have uncovered many structures that date to the time when David was king, as well as artifacts that point to David and his family. For example, a rock fragment called the “Tel Dan” was found in 1993 with the inscription “House of David.” These archaeological discoveries give us strong support that what we read about David in the Bible is true.

BUT WHAT ABOUT ... CHOOSING FRIENDS?

Discuss: Share about how you met your best friend.

Discuss: What are some characteristics of true friends?

Discuss: What does God have to say about that?

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



PRAYER SCRAMBLE

SUPPLIES:

Bibles, Take-Home page, writing supplies, worship music, music player

PREP:

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

ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS: For kids who are sensitive to sound, headphones can be helpful during this activity.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Discuss:** Did David have to live out God's plan on his own? Who helped David?
2. **Discuss:** Do we have to live out God's plan on our own?
3. **Say:** God gives us other people who can encourage us, strengthen us, love us and help us.
4. *Lead kids to find Hebrews 10:24 in their Bibles. Read it aloud together.*
5. **Say:** This verse reminds us that it is so important to encourage each other!
6. *Invite kids to mingle around your space while you play the music. When the music stops, they will find a partner to pray through the prayer prompt. Continue starting and stopping the music until all the prompts have been prayed for with new partners each time.*
7. **Prayer prompts:**
 - Pray that your partner will feel the love of God.
 - Pray that your partner will trust God's plan even when it's hard.
 - Pray that your partner will have good encouraging friends.
 - Pray for any impossible situations your partner is facing.
8. **Discuss:** Why do we need to pray for others to follow God's plan? Who is someone that you know prays for you? How does prayer for others help them?
9. **Say:** Our church is filled with people who love you and want to help you put God's plan first. Just like David had Jonathan, God has given you friends and adults who can help you grow closer to God.
10. *Pray for the entire group, mentioning each kid by name.*
11. **Pray:** God, thank You for having a good plan for our lives. Help us remember that Your plan comes first. You will make it happen because You never fail. Amen.
12. **Say:** God's plan comes first. Let's take time to respond to Him.

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

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

Extra Time?

- Work on Books of the Bible
- Work on Memory Verse
 - 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