

THE
GOSPEL
PROJECT
FOR PRESCHOOL

In the Beginning

Preschool Leader Guide

VOLUME I



THE GOSPEL

GOD'S PLAN for US

While preschoolers might not be ready to respond to the gospel, use this guide to help young minds begin to grasp big truths about Jesus and the kingdom of God.



GOD IS KING. Ask: "Who is in charge at home? Who is in charge over the whole world?" Explain that God made everything! He is King over everything, and He is in charge.



WE SINNED. Ask: "Have you ever done something wrong?" Tell preschoolers that everyone sins, or disobeys God. Our sin makes God sad.



GOD SENT JESUS. Explain that God is holy and must punish sin. God sent His Son, Jesus, to take the punishment we deserve. Read John 3:16.



JESUS LOVES. Ask: "Do you like presents?" Explain that Jesus gives us the best present. He never did anything wrong, but He was punished in our place. Jesus wants to take away our sin because He loves us.

Pray that God will save your preschoolers. As you faithfully teach the Bible, you are planting gospel seeds in children's hearts. Ask God to grow the preschoolers into children who love and trust in Jesus.

THE GOSPEL PROJECT[®] FOR PRESCHOOL

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Write the dates for each session here! —

*The Gospel Project for Preschool
Preschool Leader Guide*

Volume 1 In the Beginning

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Bible Study at a Glance

LEADER BIBLE STUDY

Familiarize yourself with the content and context of the Bible story and how it relates to God's plan of redemption.

Preparation

Pray for your preschoolers and contact families during the week. Gather and prepare session materials.

- Pray for your preschoolers
- Send a parent email
- Print/download printables
- Assemble supplies
- Prepare videos

Introduce the Story

Engage preschoolers and introduce the day's Bible story.

- Opening Activities
- Activity Page

Teach the Story

Communicate the day's Bible story and discover God's big story.

- Big Picture Question
- Giant Timeline
- Bible Story
- Missions Moment
- Key Passage
- Sing

Say what?

Use the suggested "Say" dialogue to easily move between segments.

Apply the Story

Reinforce the Bible Story by engaging in fun activities for multiple learning styles.

- Activities
- Snack & Transition

Suggested times

The times provided allow you to complete the session plan in an hour. Lengthen or shorten the session as needed.

Make it fit

Customize the session plan to fit the needs of your church or classroom.



- 1) Use “Introduce the Story” to welcome preschoolers to Bible study. Preschoolers may complete an activity together and/or work the activity page.
- 2) Transition to an area within your classroom that can be designated as the “Teach the Story” area. Watch the Bible story video or tell the Bible story. Incorporate any large group elements that fit your space and your time constraints.
- 3) Regroup to the “Experience the Story” area by using a countdown video. Set up activities in one of these ways: as a group, all at the same time; in small groups that rotate through each activity; set up as centers, allowing preschoolers to browse and choose.



- 1) Use “Introduce the Story” to welcome preschoolers to Bible study. Preschoolers may complete an activity together and/or work the activity page.
- 2) Use the countdown video or other transition signal as you move your small group to join the other small groups in the “Teach the Story” area. Watch the Bible story video or tell the Bible story. Incorporate any large group elements that fit your space and your time constraints.
- 3) Regroup to the “Experience the Story” rooms where you will reinforce what preschoolers learned from the “Teach the Story” leader. Set up activities in one of these ways: as a group, all at the same time; in small groups that rotate through each activity; set up as centers, allowing preschoolers to browse and choose.

Unit 1: God Created Everything

Unit Description:

In the beginning, God created everything for His glory. He made people in His image. When sin entered the world through Adam and Eve, God revealed His plan to bring people back to Himself through a descendant—His own Son.

Key Passage:

Colossians 1:16b

Big Picture Question:

Who is God? God is our Creator and King.

Session 1:

God Created the World

Genesis 1

Story Point: God created everything, and it was good.

Session 2:

God Created People

Genesis 1–2

Story Point: God created people in His own image, and He loves us.

Session 3:

Sin Entered the World

Genesis 3

Story Point: Adam and Eve broke God's one rule.

Session 4:

Noah and the Ark

Genesis 6–9

Story Point: God rescued Noah and his family.

Session 5:

The Tower of Babel

Genesis 11

Story Point: People wanted to build a tower to make themselves famous.

Session 6:

The Suffering of Job

Job

Story Point: Job learned that God is always good.



God Created the World

God created everything, and it was good.

God Created People

God created people in His own image, and He loves us.



Sin Entered the World

Adam and Eve broke God's one rule.

Noah and the Ark

God rescued Noah and his family.



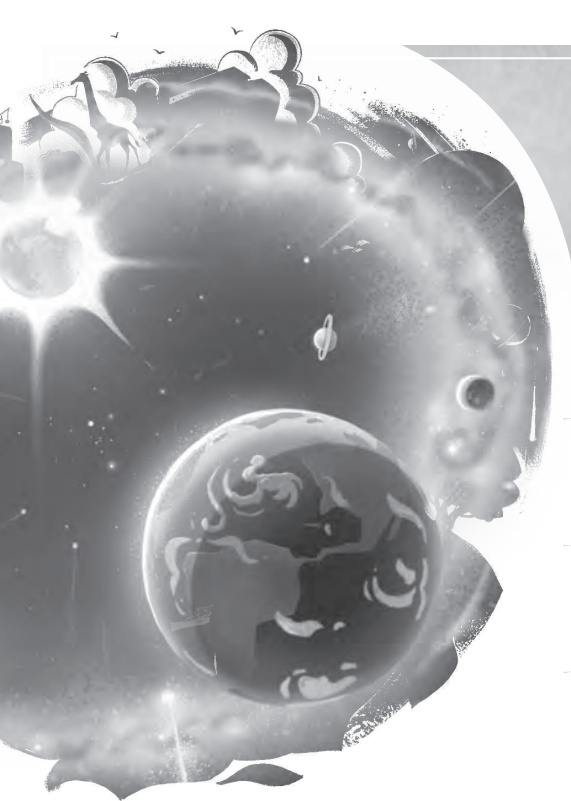
The Tower of Babel

People wanted to build a tower to make themselves famous.

The Suffering of Job

Job learned that God is always good.





Use Week of:

Unit 1 • Session 1

God Created the World

BIBLE PASSAGE:

Genesis 1

STORY POINT: God created everything, and it was good.

KEY PASSAGE:

Colossians 1:16b

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Who is God? God is our Creator and King.

INTRODUCE THE STORY
(15–20 MINUTES)
PAGE 10



TEACH THE STORY
(10–15 MINUTES)
PAGE 12



EXPERIENCE THE STORY
(20–25 MINUTES)
PAGE 14



Additional resources are available at gospelproject.com. For free training and session-by-session help, visit www.ministrygrid.com/web/thegospelproject.

LEADER Bible Study

In the beginning, God created everything. God created the universe *ex nihilo*, or “out of nothing.” All of creation began with a word. When God spoke, it happened: light, land, sky, stars, plants, and animals. God made them all, and they were good. Creation was perfect, just as God intended.

The first story—in fact, every story in the Bible—is a small piece of a much bigger story: God’s redemptive story. Sin would enter the world and affect everything, but God already knew. He already had a plan to show His grace to people through His Son (2 Tim. 1:9), to rescue and restore.

The Bible says that God’s plan existed before He created the world. (Eph. 1:4-6) The Bible tells the story of how a great God redeemed rebellious people by sending His Son, Jesus, to be the perfect sacrifice for sin.

The story of Jesus does not begin in a manger. God the Son has always existed, and He was present at creation. He is the Word through whom all things were created. (John 1:1-3) Colossians 1:16-17 says that everything was created by Him and for Him, and He holds everything together. Through creation, we see and understand God’s eternal power and divine nature. (Rom. 1:20)

As you begin teaching preschoolers about creation, help them discover who God is. Remind boys and girls that God created everything with a purpose: to bring Him glory. Psalm 19:1 says, “The heavens declare the glory of God, and the expanse proclaims the work of his hands.”

The Book of Genesis is the beginning of the greatest story ever told. It is a true story, and at the center of it all is the true hero: our Savior, Jesus Christ. This story changes everything.

The **BIBLE** Story

God Created the World

Genesis 1

In the beginning, there was nothing but God. There was no sun, no dirt, no creeks, no animals, and no people. God began to do something that no one else could ever do. **God began to make the world ... out of nothing!**

First, God made the heavens and the earth. The earth was covered with water, and it was dark. **God said, “Let there be light!”** And there was light. **God saw that the light was good. God called the light *day*, and He called the darkness *night*. That was Day 1.**

On Day 2, God made the sky.

On Day 3, God gathered the water on earth into oceans. Now there was dry land. God saw that it was good. He made all kinds of plants and trees. Every plant and tree had seed to grow more of the same kind of plant or tree. **And God saw that it was good.** Everything God makes is good.

On Day 4, God made lights in the sky for day and night. He made the sun for daytime and the moon and stars for night. God looked at what He had made, and **God saw that it was good.**

On Day 5, God made animals that live in the water and animals



that fly in the sky. He made fish and whales and seahorses and eels that move in the water. He made birds that fly in the sky. He made each kind of animal different, and **God saw that it was good.** So God blessed the animals and told them to have baby fish and baby birds so there would be more of them on earth.

On Day 6, God made animals that live on earth—all different kinds! He made wild animals, like lions and giraffes and foxes. He made animals that crawl on the ground, like alligators and caterpillars. He made animals that help people, like cows and camels and sheep. **And God saw that all of it was good.**

Christ Connection: Jesus is Lord over everything. The Bible says everything was created by Him and for Him. Jesus holds everything together.

Bible Storytelling Tips

• Draw the story:

Enlist an adult leader to draw images from the Bible story on a dry erase board as you tell it. He or she may scribble blue to represent water and black to represent the world before creation. Erase the darkness and scribble yellow for light. Scribble blue for the sky. Erase some of the water and use brown for land. Draw plants, trees, the sun, the moon and stars, fish, birds, and land animals.

- Use numbers:** For older preschoolers, write the numbers 1-6 on separate sheets of paper and post them around the room. Move to the number that represents each day as you come to it in the Bible story.

INTRODUCE the Story



SESSION TITLE: God Created the World

BIBLE PASSAGE: Genesis 1

STORY POINT: God created everything, and it was good.

KEY PASSAGE: Colossians 1:16b

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Who is God? God is our Creator and King.

Welcome time

- "My Father's World" song
- offering basket
- Allergy Alert download
- favorite toys related to the Bible story theme

Play a theme song in the background as you greet preschoolers and follow your church's security procedures. Set an offering basket near the door to collect at an appropriate time. Post an allergy alert, if necessary. Set out a few favorite theme-related toys, such as puzzles and blocks.

Activity page

- "God's Creation" activity page, 1 per child
- markers or crayons

Invite preschoolers to circle the creation or creature that is different from the others in its row.

SAY • Good job choosing the one that was different! The world is full of so many different plants, trees, fish, birds, and animals. What a good idea to make so many different things! Do you know who made all these things? God! In today's Bible story, we will hear how God created the world.

LOW PREP

Walk in an animal parade

Form a single-file line. Explain that you will call out the name of an animal. Preschoolers must follow the line leader while pretending to be that animal. When you call out "zoo" preschoolers may pretend to be any animal they choose. Play while periodically changing line leaders.

SAY • Did you know that God made all the animals? God

made animals that live in the water and animals that fly in the sky. God made animals that live on earth—all different kinds. God is so creative; He made so many different animals! We will hear how God made animals—and everything else—in today's Bible story.

Play in a seed sensory bin

Cover a table and the floor below with plastic tablecloths. Fill a large plastic tub with a few inches of bird seed. Set the tub on the table with sensory bin tools, such as measuring cups and spoons, funnels, tongs, and toy shovels. Invite preschoolers to play freely in the seeds. Consider placing items such as craft feathers, plastic animals, and nature items in the bin for preschool to hide and find as well. Use one tub for every three to four children.

- plastic tablecloths, 2
- large plastic tub
- bird seed
- sensory bin tools
- craft feathers (optional)
- plastic animals (optional)
- nature items (optional)

SAY • Did you know that we could plant these seeds and they might grow into plants? God made all the plants and trees. Every plant and tree has seeds to grow more of the same kind of plant or tree. God is so smart how He created plants and trees to make more plants and trees. We will hear about how God created everything in our Bible story today.

Transition to tell the story

To gain the attention of all the preschoolers to move them to Bible study, show the countdown video, flip off the lights, or clap a simple rhythm for the children to copy. Invite preschoolers to walk as their favorite animal as they move to Bible study.

- countdown video (optional)

TEACH the Story



SESSION TITLE: God Created the World

BIBLE PASSAGE: Genesis 1

STORY POINT: God created everything, and it was good.

KEY PASSAGE: Colossians 1:16b

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Who is God? God is our Creator and King.

Introduce the Bible story

- Bible
- bookmark
- Giant Timeline

Place a bookmark at Genesis 1 in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it. Reverently display the open Bible.

SAY • The Bible is the most important book. The Bible is God's Word, and God's Word is true. Today's Bible story comes from the very first book of the Bible, Genesis. Can you say *Genesis*? Genesis is in the first part of the Bible called the Old Testament.

Point to the Bible story picture on the giant timeline. Remind children that all the stories in the Bible fit together to tell an even bigger story. The Bible tells us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

Watch or tell the Bible story

- Story Point Poster
- "God Created the World" video (optional)
- Bible Story Picture Poster

Show the video or tell the Bible story using the provided storytelling tips. Use the bolded version of the Bible story for young preschoolers.

SAY • God did something that no one else could ever do. **God created everything, and it was good.** The sun, moon, oceans, plants, trees, animals that live in the water, animals that live in trees, animals that live on land—God made all of them and all that God made was good!

Practice the key passage

Cut out the “Key Passage Marker” and place it at Colossians 1:16b. Invite a volunteer to come up and open your Bible to the key passage. Read the key passage aloud. Create motions for preschoolers to use as they say the key passage. Use the key passage song video for inspiration.

SAY • Our key passage tells us that everything that was made was made by Jesus and for Jesus. Remember that Jesus is God. Jesus is God the Son. Jesus created everything, and Jesus is Lord over everything. Jesus holds everything together.

Sing the key passage song, “All Things,” and the theme song, “My Father’s World.”

- “Key Passage Marker” printable
- Key Passage Poster
- “All Things” song
- “My Father’s World” song

Learn the big picture question

SAY • Our big picture question asks, ***Who is God? God is our Creator and King.*** God created everything and He rules over everything. That makes Him our Creator and our King!

- Big Picture Question Poster



Missions moment

SAY • God created the whole universe, and everything God made is good! God made people, too, and God loves people in a special way. Watch this video about how much God loves people.

Show the “God’s Heart” video.

SAY • A lot of people on earth still don’t know that Jesus came to show us God’s love. Missionaries tell others about Jesus all over the world!

- “God’s Heart” video

Pray and transition to experience the story

EXPERIENCE The Story



SESSION TITLE: God Created the World

BIBLE PASSAGE: Genesis 1

STORY POINT: God created everything, and it was good.

KEY PASSAGE: Colossians 1:16b

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Who is God? God is our Creator and King.

LOW PREP

- masking tape
- walking rope (optional)

Follow your church's security procedures.

Make creation bracelets

Wrap a piece of masking tape around a child's wrist, sticky side out. If weather permits, lead preschoolers outside on a nature walk. Use a walking rope for younger preschoolers. If weather does not permit, bring nature items inside and set them around the room for preschoolers to discover. Invite preschoolers to stick nature items to their masking tape to create a nature bracelet. Encourage preschoolers to enjoy the things that God made as they are outside.

SAY • All these things you put on your bracelet are things that God made! God made the [*items preschoolers placed on bracelet*]. **God created everything, and it was good.** The Bible says everything was created by Jesus and for Jesus. So these things on your bracelet also show how amazing Jesus is! Jesus is Lord over everything.

- table lamp
- "My Father's World" song (optional)
- "All Things" song (optional)
- flashlights (optional)

Tip: Make sure preschoolers do not look directly into a light source.

Watch dance shadows

Place a table lamp where it will be out of reach of preschoolers but will cast light on a blank wall. Turn on the lamp and dim the other lights. Play the theme song or key passage song. Invite preschoolers to dance to the music and observe their shadows. Challenge older preschoolers to make their shadows connect. Consider using flashlights to

create additional shadows.

SAY • The earth was dark, but when God said, “Let there be light,” there was light. God called the light *day*, and He called the darkness *night*. **God created everything, and it was good.** Jesus is Lord over everything. He has power over the light and the darkness. Jesus holds everything together.

Form play dough animals

Set out play dough and play dough tools. Invite preschoolers to form animals out of play dough. Preschoolers may wish to flatten the dough and use cookie cutters or shape the dough into three-dimensional animals. As preschoolers work, comment on how God created animals.

SAY • Your play dough animals are great! God made so many different kinds of animals. God blessed the animals and told them to have baby animals so there would be more of them on earth, and they did! **God created everything, and it was good.** Jesus is Lord over everything. Jesus holds everything together.

- play dough
- play dough tools
- animal-shaped cookie cutters

Paint a sun with plastic wrap

Before the session, cut large circles from heavyweight paper. Cover a table with a plastic tablecloth. Put a smock on each child. Give a child a circle. Help him drop red, orange, and yellow washable paint onto his circle. Cover his circle with a piece of plastic wrap and fold it over the edges. Invite him to use his fingers to squish the paint around to create a sun. When he is finished “painting,” remove the plastic wrap and glue the sun to a sheet of blue construction paper for him. Consider allowing him to finger-paint rays around his sun.

- plastic tablecloth
- painting smocks
- heavyweight paper
- scissors (adult use)
- red, orange, yellow washable paint
- plastic wrap
- blue construction paper
- marker

Write the story point on each preschooler's artwork.

SAY • On Day 1, God said, "Let there be light!" And there was light. God called the light *day*. On Day 4, God made the sun for daytime. The Bible says everything was created by Jesus and for Jesus. When we see the sun in the sky or in our artwork, we can remember how wonderful Jesus is. **God created everything, and it was good.**

Explore God's big world



Tell preschoolers that you are going to explore God's big world! Sit in a circle and guide them to take turns spinning a globe. A preschooler will stop the spinning by placing her finger anywhere on the globe. Read the name of the nearest country and spend time "exploring" the surrounding geography by fingerwalking. Allow each child to have a turn. If a globe is unavailable, use a world map and invite preschoolers to spin around and place their finger on the map.

SAY • **God created everything, and it was good.** God loves the world, and He wants everyone to know Him as Creator and King.

• globe
• world map (optional)

Remind
preschoolers of the
"God's Heart" video
shown in "Tell the
Story."

Snack and review

Play the countdown video to signal the end of activities. Wash hands and gather preschoolers for snack time. Pray, thanking God for the snack.

Serve animal crackers for snack. Invite preschoolers to look at the crackers and name the animals. Point out that God made many different animals. Remind preschoolers that **God created everything, and it was good.**

Show the Bible story picture as you ask the following questions. Retell parts of the Bible story as needed.

1. What was there in the beginning? (*nothing but God*)
2. Did God use anything to make the world? (*No, He made the world out of nothing.*)
3. What did God call the light? the darkness? (*day, night*)
4. What did God put in the sky for daytime? for nighttime? (*sun, moon, and stars*)
5. What did God say when He saw everything He made? (*It was good.*)
6. ***Who is God? God is our Creator and King.***

Transition

When children finish their snack, preschoolers may color the Bible story coloring page, play a simple game to practice the key passage or big picture question, or sing along to the key passage or theme song.

If parents are picking up their children at this time, tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session. Distribute the preschool big picture cards for families.

- countdown video (optional)
- Allergy Alert download
- paper cups and napkins
- snack food
- animal crackers (optional)
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster

- Bible Story Coloring Page
- crayons
- Key Passage Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster
- "All Things" song
- "My Father's World" song
- Big Picture Cards for Families: Babies, Toddlers, and Preschoolers



Use Week of:

Unit 1 • Session 2

God Created People

BIBLE PASSAGE:

Genesis 1–2

STORY POINT: God created people in His own image, and He loves us.

KEY PASSAGE:

Colossians 1:16b

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Who is God? God is our Creator and King.

INTRODUCE THE STORY
(15–20 MINUTES)
PAGE 22



TEACH THE STORY
(10–15 MINUTES)
PAGE 24



EXPERIENCE THE STORY
(20–25 MINUTES)
PAGE 26



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LEADER Bible Study

On the sixth day of creation, God created man in His own image. God formed the man out of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature. (Gen. 2:7) Man was set apart as different from the rest of God's creation. God skillfully formed man out of dust as a potter forms a pot out of clay. (See Isa. 64:8.) He put His own breath into man.

God sustained and provided for the man. He planted a garden in Eden and put the man there to work it and keep it. (Gen. 2:8,15) Then God gave the man a command. God told the man, "You must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil." Then God explained the consequences, "For on the day you eat from it, you will certainly die" (Gen. 2:17).

Then God made woman from the man's rib. She was a suitable helper for him. Both man and woman were created in God's image. The first man, Adam, and the first woman, Eve, lived in the garden and enjoyed God's friendship.

As you teach preschoolers this week, help them understand what it means to be made in the image of God. It means we are made like Him, or patterned after Him. God does not have a physical body; He is Spirit, and He has given each of us a spirit. God gives people the ability to think and to feel emotions and to make choices. He gives us the ability to understand right and wrong.

God created people to know and love Him. We know that Adam and Eve's disobedience brought sin into the world. For that reason, God sent His Son, Jesus—"the image of the invisible God" (Col. 1:15) and "the exact expression of His nature" (Heb. 1:3). God the Son became fully man, acting as the second Adam, to bring life to those who are in Him. (See 1 Cor. 15:45-49.)

The **BIBLE** Story

God Created People

Genesis 1–2

God created the whole world. He made the sun, the sky, plants and trees, and many kinds of animals. But God was not finished yet. **On Day 6 of creation, God made people and He loved them most of all.**

God said, “Let us make man in our image.” So He made a body out of the dust on the ground.

Then He breathed into the man, and the man came to life. The man’s name was Adam. God gave Adam a home. He made a garden and put Adam in it. God gave Adam a job working in the garden and taking care of it.

God gave Adam food to eat. God said, “You may eat from any of the trees in the garden, except for one.” God warned him, “If you eat from that tree, you will die.”

Then God looked at Adam.

Adam was all alone. “It is not good for the man to be alone,”

God said. So God decided to make a helper for him. God brought to

Adam the animals He had created, and

Adam gave the animals special names. But these animals did not make good helpers for Adam.

So God made Adam fall fast asleep. God took one of Adam’s ribs, and He created a woman. When Adam woke up and saw the woman, he was happy! The woman was a perfect helper for Adam;



she was his wife. Adam named his wife Eve.

God put Adam and Eve in charge of the animals and gave them everything they needed. **God looked at everything He had made, and it was very good! So on Day 7 of creation, God rested from His work.**

Christ Connection: God created people in His own image. He loves us and gives us everything we need. People are special because God made us to know and love Him. Through Jesus, we can know and love God just as He planned.

Bible Storytelling Tips

- **Form dust:** Bring in a bowl of dirt or potting soil. Form the soil in a ball in your hands and breathe on it at the appropriate moment in the Bible story.
- **Pantomime the story:** Enlist a male and a female adult volunteer to play out the parts of Adam and Eve as you tell the Bible story. Eve may stand off from the focal area and enter the scene while Adam “sleeps.”

INTRODUCE the Story



SESSION TITLE: God Created People

BIBLE PASSAGE: Genesis 1–2

STORY POINT: God created people in His own image, and He loves us.

KEY PASSAGE: Colossians 1:16b

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Who is God? God is our Creator and King.

Welcome time

- “My Father’s World” song
- offering basket
- Allergy Alert download
- favorite toys related to the Bible story theme

Play a theme song in the background as you greet preschoolers and follow your church’s security procedures. Set an offering basket near the door to collect at an appropriate time. Post an allergy alert, if necessary. Set out a few favorite theme-related toys, such as puzzles and blocks.

Activity page

- “What Does Not Belong?” activity page, 1 per child
- markers or crayons

Invite preschoolers to circle the 10 things that do not belong in the Bible story picture.

SAY • Good job deciding what did not belong! Remember last week we talked about how God created everything: light, the sky, plants, trees, and animals. Today we are going to learn about God’s most special creation. Can you guess what it is from the picture?

LOW PREP

Breathe like animals

Lead preschoolers to breathe like different animals.

- Bunny: three quick sniffs through the nose and then one deep exhale through the nose
- Bear: pause and count to three between slowly inhaling and exhaling through the nose
- Elephant: dangle arms in front like an elephant trunk, breathe in through nose while holding arms

above head, breathe out through the mouth while swinging arms down

- Snake: inhale through the nose, exhale through the mouth while making a hissing sound

SAY • Was it fun to breathe like animals? Let's take a deep breath like the humans that we are. [*Lead preschoolers to breathe in and out.*] Remember last week we learned that God created everything just by using His words? Well, today we will hear how God made His most special creation and gave it life by using His own breath.

Decide between day and night

Post yellow and black sheets of paper on either side of the room. Explain to preschoolers that you will call out an object or action. Preschoolers should decide if the object or action is seen or done during the day or night. Preschoolers will move to the yellow sheet of paper for day and the black sheet of paper for night. Possible objects and actions include moon, sun, stars, bat, owl, play on a playground, eat lunch, read a bedtime story, or ride your bike. End the game by calling out "sleep."

SAY • Today we will hear about something very special God made while a man named Adam was sleeping. Listen to our Bible story to find out.

LOW PREP

- yellow paper
- black paper
- tape

Transition to Bible study

To gain the attention of all the preschoolers to move them to Bible study, show the countdown video, flip off the lights, or clap a simple rhythm for the children to copy. Guide preschoolers to move to Bible study after saying, "God made me, and my name is [*child's name*]."

- countdown video (optional)

TEACH the Story



SESSION TITLE: God Created People

BIBLE PASSAGE: Genesis 1–2

STORY POINT: God created people in His own image, and He loves us.

KEY PASSAGE: Colossians 1:16b

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Who is God? God is our Creator and King.

Introduce the Bible story

- Bible
- bookmark
- Giant Timeline

Place a bookmark at Genesis 1 in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it. Reverently display the open Bible.

SAY • The Bible is the most important book. God talks to us by using His words in the Bible. Everything God says is true. Our Bible story is from Genesis, the very first book of the Bible.

Point to the Bible story picture on the giant timeline. Remind children that all the stories in the Bible fit together to tell an even bigger story. The Bible tells us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

Watch or tell the Bible story

- Story Point Poster
- “God Created People” video (optional)
- Bible Story Picture Poster

Show the video or tell the Bible story using the provided storytelling tips. Use the bolded version of the Bible story for young preschoolers.

SAY • When God made Adam and Eve, He said what He made was very good. **God created people in His own image, and He loves us.** Each one of us is special because God made us to know and love Him.

Practice the key passage

- “Key Passage Marker” printable
- Key Passage Poster
- “All Things” song
- “My Father’s World” song

Cut out the “Key Passage Marker” and place it at Colossians 1:16b. Invite a volunteers to come up and open

your Bible to the key passage. Read the key passage aloud. Practice the motions you created for the verse. Say the key passage using different voices such as a high, low, loud, soft, and so forth.

SAY • Our key passage is talking about Jesus. Everything created, including you and me and all people, were made to show how amazing Jesus is.

Sing the key passage song, “All Things,” and the theme song, “My Father’s World.”

Learn the big picture question

SAY • Can you answer our big picture question? ***Who is God? God is our Creator and King.*** God created us. He loves us and gives us everything we need. People are special because God made us to know and love Him. Through Jesus, we can know and love God just as He planned.

• Big Picture Question Poster



Missions moment

SAY • The next few weeks we will learn about a family living on mission in London, England. Since England has a queen, let’s play a royal game!

Choose three volunteers: a “queen” or “king” and two “subjects.” Lead the queen to sit on her “throne” and explain that you will whisper a royal message into her ear. She will then whisper her message to one of the subjects who will whisper it to the other subject. That subject will share the message out loud with the group. If the message was incorrect, share with your group the original message. Continue until all the messages have been shared.

• chair

Suggested royal messages:

- Fred fed Ted bread.
- Three fluffy feathers.
- Many mice make music.
- Six socks sat in a sink.

Pray and transition to experience the story

EXPERIENCE the Story



SESSION TITLE: God Created People

BIBLE PASSAGE: Genesis 1–2

STORY POINT: God created people in His own image, and He loves us.

KEY PASSAGE: Colossians 1:16b

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Who is God? God is our Creator and King.

LOW PREP

- green paper
- red paper
- tape

Celebrate our differences

Post green and red sheets of paper on either side of the room. Explain to preschoolers that you will say a statement. Preschoolers should move to the green paper if that statement is true of them and the red paper if that statement is not true of them. Use the following statements or create your own.

- I am a boy.
- I am a girl.
- I like ice cream.
- I like broccoli.
- I like to play with trucks.
- I like to play with dolls.
- My favorite color is yellow.
- My favorite color is green.
- I like to look at books.
- I like to draw and color.

SAY • God made all of us different. We look different and we like different things, but we are all important to God. **God created people in His own image, and He loves us.** All people are special because God made us to know and love Him. Through Jesus, we can know and love God just as He planned.

Build with photo blocks

Print out a photo of each child. Trim the photo to fit on a block. Attach each photo to a block with tape. Set the photo blocks among other blocks and invite preschoolers to build. Encourage creativity.

SAY • Look at your pictures on the blocks. You are all so handsome and beautiful. God made you just the way He wanted you. When I look at you, I'm reminded of how wonderful God is. **God created people in His own image, and He loves us.** God wants us to know and love Him. Through Jesus, we can know and love God just as He planned.

- blocks
- photograph of each child
- tape

Tip: You may gather photos by taking them the week before, contacting parents before the session, or taking photos as preschoolers arrive and designating an adult leader to print and prepare the photo blocks.

Examine thumbprints

Invite a preschooler to press his thumb onto a washable ink pad and then press it onto an index card. Wipe his hand clean and write his name on his index card. Lead other preschoolers to do the same. Set out magnifying glasses and encourage preschoolers to compare their fingerprints. How are they alike? How are they different? Note that no two fingerprints are alike.

SAY • No two people have the exact same fingerprints. Wasn't that very clever of God to make us so unique? We are all different, but every single one of us is made in the image of God. **God created people in His own image, and He loves us.** People are special because God made us to know and love Him. Through Jesus, we can know and love God just as He planned.

- index cards
- washable ink pad
- wipes
- markers
- magnifying glasses

- magazines
- blunt-tipped scissors
- construction paper
- glue stick
- marker

Make a people collage

Gather magazines depicting people of various ethnicities including those of each child in your group. Invite preschoolers to look through the magazines and cut out images of people to glue to construction paper. Cut out images before the session for younger preschoolers. As preschoolers work, comment on God's creativity in making people to look so different while all being made in His image. Write the story point on each preschooler's artwork.

SAY • God made all the people in your pictures different, but He made each one of them to know Him and love Him. **God created people in His own image, and He loves us.** People are special to God because He made us to be like Him in many ways. Through Jesus, we can know and love God just as He planned.



- "The Gospel Plan Poster" printable

Say it loud

Say the different points of "The Gospel Plan Poster." Say the points again, inviting preschoolers to repeat each one after you. Then invite preschoolers use different voices as they repeat after you such as soft, loud, normal, and so forth.

SAY • **God created people in His own image, and He loves us.** He wants everyone to hear the good news of the gospel that we just repeated. The Rigney family are missionaries living in London, England. They are sharing the gospel with the people who live there. Did you know that we do not need to live in another country to share the gospel? You can tell people about Jesus wherever you are. Whom can you tell this week?

Snack and review

Play the countdown video to signal the end of activities. Wash hands and gather preschoolers for snack time. Pray, thanking God for the snack.

Serve a snack. Remind preschoolers that God gave Adam and Eve food to eat in the garden. God loved Adam and Eve and gave them everything they needed. He loves us and gives us everything we need too. People are special because God made us to know and love Him. **God created people in His own image, and He loves us.**

Show the Bible story picture as you ask the following questions. Retell parts of the Bible story as needed.

1. Whom did God love most of everything He created? (*people*)
2. How did God make Adam? (*He made a body out of dust and breathed into him.*)
3. Whom did God decide to make so Adam would not be alone? (*a helper for him, a woman/wife*)
4. What did God do on Day 7 of creation? (*God rested from His work.*)
5. ***Who is God? God is our Creator and King.***

Transition

When children finish their snack, preschoolers may color the Bible story coloring page, play a simple game to practice the key passage or big picture question, or sing along to the key passage or theme song.

If parents are picking up their children at this time, tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session. Distribute the preschool big picture cards for families.

- countdown video (optional)
- Allergy Alert download
- paper cups and napkins
- snack food
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster

- Bible Story Coloring Page
- crayons
- Key Passage Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster
- "All Things" song
- "My Father's World" song
- Big Picture Cards for Families: Babies, Toddlers, and Preschoolers



Use Week of:

Unit 1 • Session 3

Sin Entered the World

BIBLE PASSAGE:

Genesis 3

STORY POINT: Adam and Eve broke God's one rule.

KEY PASSAGE:

Colossians 1:16b

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Who is God? God is our Creator and King.

INTRODUCE THE STORY
(15–20 MINUTES)
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TEACH THE STORY
(10–15 MINUTES)
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EXPERIENCE THE STORY
(20–25 MINUTES)
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Additional resources are available at gospelproject.com. For free training and session-by-session help, visit www.ministrygrid.com/web/thegospelproject.

LEADER Bible Study

Adam and Eve enjoyed all that was good in the garden of Eden. The Lord gave them only one restriction: “You must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil,” and the punishment for disobeying was severe: “You will certainly die” (Gen. 2:17).

Before the fall, Adam and Eve enjoyed a loving, two-way relationship with God. The garden was a true paradise. God filled the garden with good gifts so that they might enjoy them and give thanks to God; this glorifies God. All of that changed when Adam and Eve gave in to the serpent’s temptation. Eve believed the lie that leads many of us to sin: Maybe God is holding out on me.

Adam and Eve desired something more: the wisdom the fruit offered. But when their eyes were opened, they were aware of their nakedness and they felt ashamed. Surely the Lord’s heart broke at their act of disobedience and rebellion. Because of their sin, He cast them out of the garden. Though they did not die right away, sin’s effect was immediate and thorough. Their lives and their children’s lives—and the lives of all of mankind—would be forever affected by their choice.

God did not leave Adam and Eve without hope. He promised that one of Eve’s descendants would strike the head of the serpent. (Gen. 3:15) Each generation after Eve hoped that one of their children would be the promised One—the One who would crush the head of the snake and put an end to the curse over creation.

Sin is a big problem that needs a big solution. At just the right time, God sent His Son into the world, born as a baby. Matthew 1:21 says, “You are to name Him Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins.” As the preschoolers you teach become increasingly aware of the bad news—that we are all sinners from birth—rejoice with them over the good news: “Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners” (1 Tim. 1:15).

The **BIBLE** Story

Sin Entered the World

Genesis 3

Adam and Eve—the two first people—lived in a beautiful garden. **God** put trees in the garden with fruit that they could eat. God gave Adam and Eve one rule. **God said, “You may eat from any tree in the garden, except for one. Do not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If you eat from that tree, you will die.”**

Now out of all the animals on the earth, the serpent was very sneaky. One day, the serpent asked Eve, “Did God really say, ‘Do not eat from any tree in the garden?’” The serpent was trying to trick Eve.

Eve said, “No, we can eat the fruit from the trees in the garden. God gave us just one rule: Do not eat from the tree in the middle of the garden. God said that if we eat the fruit from that tree or touch it, we will die.”

“No!” said the serpent. “You will not die. If you eat the fruit, you will be like God and know good and evil.”

Eve looked at the fruit. It did look delicious, and she wanted to be wise like God. So **Eve took some of the fruit and ate it. She gave some to Adam, who was with her, and he ate it too.**

Then Adam’s and Eve’s eyes were opened, and they knew they were



naked. They sewed together fig leaves and made clothes for themselves.

That evening, Adam and Eve heard God walking in the garden, so they hid. God called to Adam, "Where are you?"

Adam said, "I was afraid because I was naked, so I hid."

God said, "Who told you that you were naked? Did you eat from the tree that I told you not to eat from?"

Adam said, "Eve gave me some fruit, and I ate it."

Eve said, "The serpent tricked me."

Adam and Eve had disobeyed God. That is called *sin*. **God said that because of their sin, bad things would happen.** Life would be hard. God said that the serpent would crawl on its belly and be an enemy to people. **But God promised that someone would come from Eve's family to get rid of the serpent.**

God made Adam and Eve clothes out of animal skins and sent them out of the garden. God put angels and a sword of fire at the entrance of the garden to guard the way to the tree of life.

Christ Connection: Everything was different after Adam and Eve sinned. Since then, everybody has sinned. Sin keeps us from God, but God never stops loving us. He sent His Son, Jesus, to rescue people from sin and bring them back to God.

Bible Storytelling Tips

- **Circle a tree:** Set a potted tree, real or artificial, in the Tell the Story area. Consider taping some paper cutouts of fruit to the tree. Invite preschoolers to sit around the tree as you tell the Bible story.

- **Dramatic conversation:** During dialogue, stand in various places for each speaker.

INTRODUCE the Story



SESSION TITLE: Sin Entered the World

BIBLE PASSAGE: Genesis 3

STORY POINT: Adam and Eve broke God's one rule.

KEY PASSAGE: Colossians 1:16b

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Who is God? God is our Creator and King.

Welcome time

- "My Father's World" song
- offering basket
- Allergy Alert download
- favorite toys related to the Bible story theme

Play a theme song in the background as you greet preschoolers and follow your church's security procedures. Set an offering basket near the door to collect at an appropriate time. Post an allergy alert, if necessary. Set out a few favorite theme-related toys, such as puzzles and blocks.

Activity page

- "What Changed?" activity page, 1 per child
- markers or crayons

Invite preschoolers to look at the two pictures and circle the things that are different in the second picture.

SAY • We have been learning about the beautiful world God created and His most special creation—people. In today's Bible story, we will hear about something that changed the perfect world God made.

LOW PREP

Play "Simon Says"

Explain to preschoolers that you will be *Simon*. You will give them instructions to follow, but children should only obey those instructions that begin with "Simon says."

Gently correct preschoolers who did an action that *Simon* did not say rather than sitting them out. After a few rounds, choose a preschooler to be *Simon* and play again. Continue playing with new *Simons* as time allows.

SAY • Good job doing what Simon said! In today's Bible

story, God said Adam and Eve—the two first people—could eat from any tree in the garden except for one. God said they must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Do you think Adam and Eve did what God said or not? We will find out in today's Bible story.

Move like animals

Print and cut out the “Animal Movement Cube” printable. Assemble the cube and secure it with tape. Invite a child to toss the cube. Read the instructions aloud. Permit the child to lead the group to move like the selected animal. Mention today's Bible story each time the snake is selected.

- “Animal Movement Cube” printable
- scissors (adult use)
- tape

SAY • In today's Bible story, a serpent tricked Eve. A serpent is a snake. God loved Eve. He was angry that the serpent tricked her. God punished the serpent. God said that the serpent would crawl on its belly and be an enemy to people. God promised that someone would come from Eve's family to get rid of the serpent once and for all. Let's hear what happened in today's Bible story.

Transition to Bible study

To gain the attention of all the preschoolers to move them to Bible study, show the countdown video, flip off the lights, or clap a simple rhythm for the children to copy. Give preschoolers an instruction to follow as they move to Bible study. Examples include “Put your finger on your nose,” “Clap your hands,” or “Hop like a frog.”

- countdown video (optional)

TEACH the Story



SESSION TITLE: Sin Entered the World

BIBLE PASSAGE: Genesis 3

STORY POINT: Adam and Eve broke God's one rule.

KEY PASSAGE: Colossians 1:16b

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Who is God? God is our Creator and King.

Introduce the Bible story

- Bible
- bookmark
- Giant Timeline

Place a bookmark at Genesis 3 in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it. Reverently display the open Bible.

SAY • God is so kind to give us His words in the Bible. The stories in the Bible happened in real life. Today's story is found in Genesis, the first book of the Bible.

Point to the Bible story picture on the giant timeline. Remind children that all the stories in the Bible fit together to tell an even bigger story. The Bible tells us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

Watch or tell the Bible story

- Story Point Poster
- "Sin Entered the World" video (optional)
- Bible Story Picture Poster

Show the video or tell the Bible story using the provided storytelling tips. Use the bolded version of the Bible story for young preschoolers.

SAY • **Adam and Eve broke God's one rule.** Breaking God's rules is sin. Everything was different after Adam and Eve sinned. Since then, everybody has sinned. Sin keeps us from God, but God never stops loving us. He sent His Son, Jesus, to rescue people from sin and bring them back to God.

- paper
- marker
- scissors (adult use)
- "Key Passage Marker" printable
- Key Passage Poster
- "All Things" song
- "My Father's World" song

Practice the key passage

Before the session, write the key passage on a sheet of paper.

Cut the paper into pieces. Hide the pieces around the room. Invite preschoolers to find the pieces and reassemble the verse. Read the verse pointing to each word as you say it.

Cut out the “Key Passage Marker” and place it at Colossians 1:16b. Invite a volunteer to come up and open your Bible to the key passage. Read the key passage aloud. Practice the motions you created for the verse.

SAY • Our key passage tells us that everything is made to show how amazing Jesus is. When we sin, we are not doing what we were made to do. But Jesus came to rescue us from sin and bring us back to God.

Sing the key passage song, “All Things,” and the theme song, “My Father’s World.”

Learn the big picture question

SAY • Our big picture question asks, ***Who is God? God is our Creator and King.*** When Adam and Eve sinned, they were not honoring God as King. Since then, every single one of us sins. We do not honor God as King either. Sin keeps us from God, but God never stops loving us. He sent His Son, Jesus, to rescue people from sin and bring them back to God.

• Big Picture Question Poster



Missions moment

SAY • Only Jesus can save people from sin. The Rigneys are a missionary family living in London, England. They tell people the good news of how God sent Jesus to save people from sin. Let’s watch how God is using them to tell the people in their city about Jesus.

• “Our London” video

Show the “Our London” video.

Pray and transition to experience the story

EXPERIENCE the Story



SESSION TITLE: Sin Entered the World

BIBLE PASSAGE: Genesis 3

STORY POINT: Adam and Eve broke God's one rule.

KEY PASSAGE: Colossians 1:16b

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Who is God? God is our Creator and King.

LOW PREP

- paper plates
- markers

Use the following
statements or
create your own.

- obey parents
- throw a fit
- pick up toys
- push
- be unkind
- help others
- smile
- have a happy attitude
- love brother or sister
- yell "No" at parents
- be mean to brother or sister
- toy fruits and vegetables
- baskets
- "Fruits and Vegetables" printable (optional)
- scissors (optional)

Identify sin

Give each preschooler a paper plate. Invite a preschooler to draw a happy face on one side of her plate and a sad face on the other. Define *sin* as "breaking God's rules." Explain that we sin when we *do* the things God says *do not do*. We also sin when we *do not do* the things God says *to do*. Tell preschoolers that you will call out an action, if the action is a sin, preschoolers will hold up their sad face. If the action is not a sin, preschoolers will hold up their happy face. Use the actions in the margin or create your own.

SAY • Sin came into the world when **Adam and Eve broke God's one rule.** Everything was different after Adam and Eve sinned. Since then, everybody has sinned—that includes you and me. Sin keeps us from God, but God never stops loving us. He sent Jesus to rescue people from sin and bring them back to Him.

Sort fruits and vegetables

Set out an assortment of toy fruits and vegetables. Invite preschoolers to name each item and sort it into a basket. Preschoolers may sort the items by fruit/vegetable, color, or size. If toy fruits and vegetables are not available, use the images from the "Fruits and Vegetables" printable instead.

SAY • God gave Adam and Eve all the food they needed in

the garden, but they ate from the one tree God said not to eat from. **Adam and Eve broke God's one rule.** Everything was different after Adam and Eve sinned. Since then, everybody has sinned. Sin keeps us from God, but God never stops loving us. He sent His Son, Jesus, to rescue people from sin and bring them back to God.

Stomp snakes

Cover a table and the floor below with plastic tablecloths. Add an inch or two of play sand to a large plastic tub and set it on the table. Hide small plastic snakes in the sand. Invite preschoolers to dig in the sand for snakes. When a preschooler finds a snake, he may shake it off, drop it on the floor, and stomp its head with his shoe. Then he may hide the snake in the sand for another preschooler to find.

SAY • The serpent tricked Eve. **Adam and Eve broke God's one rule,** but God never stopped loving them. God promised that someone would come from Eve's family to get rid of the serpent. God kept that promise when He sent His Son, Jesus, to rescue people from sin and bring them back to God.

- plastic tablecloths, 2
- large plastic tub
- play sand
- small plastic snakes
- toy sifters, rakes, and shovels (optional)

Tip: Warn preschoolers to not stomp real snakes in the wild.

Stamp a tree

Print a "Tree" printable on heavyweight paper for each child. Cut paper towel tubes into 3-inch lengths. Flatten one end of each tube so the edges form a leaf shape. Roll up sleeves and place a smock on each child. Squirt green paint onto a foam plate. Invite preschoolers to dip the flattened edge of the tube into the paint and then stamp it on their tree to create a leaf.

Encourage preschoolers to repeat the process until their

- "Tree" printable
- heavyweight paper
- paper towel tubes
- scissors (adult use)
- smocks
- washable green paint
- foam plates
- paint daubers
- marker
- wipes for cleanup

tree is full of leaves. Provide paint daubers in various colors for preschoolers to add fruit to their tree.

SAY • God filled the garden with many trees for Adam and Eve to eat from, but **Adam and Eve broke God's one rule** and ate from the tree God said not to. Their sin changed God's perfect world. Since then, everybody has sinned. Sin keeps us from God, but God never stops loving us. He sent His Son, Jesus, to rescue people from sin and bring them back to God.



Pray for the Rigney family

Distribute a "Rigney Family" prayer card to each child.

• "Rigney Family Prayer Card" printable

SAY • Do you remember the name of the missionary family living in London, England? The Rigney family moved to London so they could share the gospel with the many different people living there. Take this prayer card home and put it in a place where you will see it and remember to pray for the Rigneys and the people they tell about Jesus. Why don't we pray for the Rigneys and the people of London right now?

Snack and review

Play the countdown video to signal the end of activities. Wash hands and gather preschoolers for snack time. Pray, thanking God for the snack.

Serve fruit for snack. Talk about how God gave Adam and Eve everything they needed, but they chose to eat fruit from the one tree God said not to eat from. **Adam and Eve broke God's one rule.**

Show the Bible story picture as you ask the following questions. Retell parts of the Bible story as needed.

1. What did God put in the garden for Adam and Eve to eat from? (*fruit trees*)
2. What was the one rule God gave Adam and Eve? (*Do not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.*)
3. Who tricked Eve? (*the serpent*)
4. What happened after Adam and Eve ate the fruit? (*They knew they were naked.*)
5. What did God promise that someone from Eve's family would do to the serpent? (*get rid of it*)
6. What did God make for Adam and Eve? (*clothes out of animal skins*)
7. ***Who is God? God is our Creator and King.***

Transition

When children finish their snack, preschoolers may color the Bible story coloring page, play a simple game to practice the key passage or big picture question, or sing along to the key passage or theme song.

If parents are picking up their children at this time, tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session. Distribute the preschool big picture cards for families.

- countdown video (optional)
- Allergy Alert download
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster
- paper cups and napkins
- snack food
- fruit (optional)

- Bible Story Coloring Page
- crayons
- Key Passage Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster
- "All Things" song
- "My Father's World" song
- Big Picture Cards for Families: Babies, Toddlers, and Preschoolers



Use Week of:

Unit 1 • Session 4

Noah and the Ark

BIBLE PASSAGE:

Genesis 6–9

STORY POINT: God rescued Noah and his family.

KEY PASSAGE:

Colossians 1:16b

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Who is God? God is our Creator and King.

INTRODUCE THE STORY
(15–20 MINUTES)
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TEACH THE STORY
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EXPERIENCE THE STORY
(20–25 MINUTES)
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Additional resources are available at gospelproject.com. For free training and session-by-session help, visit www.ministrygrid.com/web/thegospelproject.

LEADER Bible Study

Adam and Eve left the garden to start a life out in the world. Despite the grief of their sins, imagine their joy as their family grew. With each birth, maybe Eve hoped this son would be the one to end the curse of sin, to crush the head of the snake. (Gen. 3:15) But Adam and Eve witnessed sin's effects on their own children: Cain murdered Abel. Cain was not the Promised One, and neither was Abel.

Some time later, Eve gave birth to another son, Seth. Seth lived 912 years. He saw the earth's population grow as God sustained generation after generation. Less than 20 years after his death, Seth's sixth-great-grandson, Noah was born.

By this time—10 generations after Adam—people had stopped following God. Scripture describes a deplorable situation: “Man’s wickedness was widespread on the earth ... every scheme his mind thought of was nothing but evil all the time” (Gen. 6:5).

God decided to send a flood to cleanse the earth. He was right to punish this sin. The waters would cover the earth and destroy everything. God graciously chose to save one man and his family, so He warned Noah about the flood and told him to build an ark.

Noah believed God's warning about the coming judgment. He obediently worked to build the ark. But the work took years, and Noah likely faced ridicule from his friends and neighbors. Was Noah crazy, building a boat where there was no water?

Finally, God's judgment came. Floodwaters covered the earth. Every living thing was destroyed, but Noah and his family were safe inside the ark. God rescued Noah's family—the family His own Son would be born into. Jesus would warn of God's coming judgment too, but instead of condemning the world, Jesus would give up His life to rescue sinners.

The BIBLE Story

Noah and the Ark

Genesis 6–9

Adam and Eve had children and grandchildren. Soon there were many people in the world. **All of them did just what Adam and Eve had done: they made wrong choices.** They chose to not do what God said.

God saw that the people did mean things and thought bad thoughts. God was very sad. He decided to send a big flood to clean up the world.

God showed favor to a man named Noah. Noah was a righteous man. **God told Noah** about His plan, and He told him **to build an ark—a really big boat—where Noah’s family and all kinds of birds and animals would be safe from the flood.**

Noah obeyed God. He began to build the ark just like God told him to. Noah worked for many years until the ark was finished. Then he filled it with food for his family and for the animals, just as God had told him to. **Every kind of animal came to the ark, males and females.**

Rain began to fall. Noah, his family, and the animals went into the ark and God closed the door. Rain came for 40 days and 40 nights. Water covered all the earth, even the highest mountains. The ark floated on the water, and everyone inside the ark was safe.

Finally, the rain stopped. God sent a wind to dry out the earth.



The water went down, and the ark rested on a mountaintop. **Then God told Noah to bring his family and all the animals out of the ark. Noah gave an offering to thank God.** God had saved Noah, his family, and the animals from the flood.

God told Noah's family to spread out and live in different places, to have children, and to take care of the world. **God promised Noah that He would never again send a flood to cover the whole earth. God put a rainbow in the clouds to be a reminder of His promise.**

Christ Connection: God sent a flood to punish the world for sin, but God rescued Noah and his family. Later, there was an even greater rescue! Jesus came to save people from sin. When we trust in Jesus, He saves us from the punishment for our sin.

Bible Storytelling Tips

• Sit in a boat:

Use tape to form the shape of a boat on the floor. Invite preschoolers to sit in the "boat" as you tell the Bible story.

• Play out parts of the story:

Invite preschoolers to pantomime during parts of the Bible story: 1) hammering and sawing as Noah builds the ark; 2) moving fingertips on knees as the ark is entered; 3) making "rain" fingers coming down from the sky as the rain falls.

INTRODUCE the Story



SESSION TITLE: Noah and the Ark

BIBLE PASSAGE: Genesis 6–9

STORY POINT: God rescued Noah and his family.

KEY PASSAGE: Colossians 1:16b

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Who is God? God is our Creator and King.

Welcome time

- “My Father’s World” song
- offering basket
- Allergy Alert download
- favorite toys related to the Bible story theme

Play a theme song in the background as you greet preschoolers and follow your church’s security procedures. Set an offering basket near the door to collect at an appropriate time. Post an allergy alert, if necessary. Set out a few favorite theme-related toys, such as puzzles and blocks.

Activity page

- “Two of Every Kind” activity page, 1 per child
- markers or crayons

Invite preschoolers to draw a line connecting the boy animal to the girl animal of the same kind.

SAY • Remember that God made many kinds of animals. In today’s Bible story, God planned to send a big flood, but God had a plan to rescue one family and some of all the animals He made.

LOW PREP

- blocks

Build a boat with blocks

Encourage preschoolers to build a large boat using blocks.

SAY • In today’s Bible story, God told a man named Noah to build an ark. An ark is a really big boat. We will discover why God wanted Noah to build an ark in our Bible story. Do you have any guesses?

Play with ice boats

Before the session, cut 1-inch triangles from foam sheets. Glue triangles to plastic straws cut to 3-inch lengths to form a sail. Fill an ice tray with water. Drip a few drops of food color in each compartment. Avoid using red food color as it is more likely to stain. Cover the ice tray tightly with plastic wrap. Add a sail to each compartment by punching the straw through the plastic wrap. Freeze the tray.

Cover a table and the floor below with newspaper or old towels. Set a large plastic tub with a few inches of water on the table. Set out the ice tray a few minutes before preschoolers arrive so the boats will dislodge with ease. Put a waterproof smock on each preschooler. Give each preschooler an ice boat to float on the water. Point out how the water in the tub changes colors as the ice boats melt.

SAY • In our Bible story today, God told a man named Noah to build ark—a really big boat. The ark God wanted Noah to build was not made of ice. It was made of wood. It needed to last a long time. God planned to use the boat to rescue Noah and his family from a flood. We will hear about that in our Bible story today.

- foam sheets
- scissors (adult use)
- plastic straws
- glue
- ice tray
- food color
- plastic wrap
- newspaper or old towels
- plastic tub
- water
- waterproof smock

Transition to Bible study

To gain the attention of all the preschoolers to move them to Bible study, show the countdown video, flip off the lights, or clap a simple rhythm for the children to copy. Suggest preschoolers pretend to jump in puddles of water as they move to Bible study.

- countdown video (optional)

TEACH the Story



SESSION TITLE: Noah and the Ark

BIBLE PASSAGE: Genesis 6–9

STORY POINT: God rescued Noah and his family.

KEY PASSAGE: Colossians 1:16b

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Who is God? God is our Creator and King.

Introduce the Bible story

- Bible
- bookmark
- Giant Timeline

Place a bookmark at Genesis 6 in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it. Reverently display the open Bible.

SAY • What book is this? The Bible! Whose words are in the Bible? God's! Is the whole Bible true? Yes! Today's story comes from Genesis, the very first book of the Bible.

Point to the Bible story picture on the giant timeline.

Remind children that all the stories in the Bible fit together to tell an even bigger story. The Bible tells us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

Watch or tell the Bible story

- Story Point Poster
- "Noah and the Ark" video (optional)
- Bible Story Picture Poster

Show the video or tell the Bible story using the provided storytelling tips. Use the bolded version of the Bible story for young preschoolers.

SAY • God sent a flood to punish the world for sin, but **God rescued Noah and his family.** Later, there was an even greater rescue! Jesus came to save people from sin. When we trust in Jesus, He saves us from the punishment for our sin.

Practice the key passage

- "Key Passage Marker" printable
- Key Passage Poster
- "All Things" song
- "My Father's World" song

Cut out the "Key Passage Marker" and place it at Colossians 1:16b. Invite a volunteer to come up and open

your Bible to the key passage. Read the key passage aloud. Practice the motions you created for the verse. Say the key passage leaving out a word and challenge preschoolers to say the word that is missing.

SAY • Our key passage tells us that all things have been created through Jesus and for Jesus. Jesus came to save people from sin. When we trust in Jesus, He saves us from the punishment for our sin.

Sing the key passage song, “All Things,” and the theme song, “My Father’s World.”

Learn the big picture question

SAY • Do you remember our big picture question? ***Who is God? God is our Creator and King.*** God created us to honor Him. When we do mean things and think bad thoughts, we do not honor Him like He created us to do. But God sent Jesus to save us from sin. Because of Jesus, we do not have to be afraid of God’s punishment. We are safe with God forever.

• Big Picture Question Poster



Missions moment

SAY • God rescues people from sin today by the gospel, and He uses us to tell the gospel to others. We can share the gospel wherever we live. Missionaries often do this in places that are not their home, like the Rigney family living in London, England. This is a map of London. We can support the Rigney family by praying they will meet and share the gospel with the many people living here. Let’s pray for the people of London, England.

• “Map of London” printable

Pray and transition to experience the story

EXPERIENCE the Story



SESSION TITLE: Noah and the Ark

BIBLE PASSAGE: Genesis 6–9

STORY POINT: God rescued Noah and his family.

KEY PASSAGE: Colossians 1:16b

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Who is God? God is our Creator and King.

LOW PREP

- books depicting various animals

Look at books about animals

Set out an assortment of books depicting various animals for preschoolers to browse. Read a book to a child as she shows interest.

SAY • God rescued Noah and his family from the flood. God rescued every kind of animal He made too. Later, there was an even greater rescue! Jesus came to save people from sin. When we trust in Jesus, He saves us from the punishment for our sin.

Experiment with prisms

- acrylic prisms
- large white sheet of paper
- colored pencils
- CDs (optional)
- flashlights (optional)

Gather several acrylic prisms. If prisms are not available, you may use CDs. This activity is best explored by a sunny window, but can also be performed with a flashlight. Cover a table with a large sheet of white paper. Show preschoolers how to adjust the prism to make the colors of the rainbow show up on the paper. Allow time for preschoolers to experiment with the prisms. Invite preschoolers to color over the rainbow on their paper with matching colored pencils.

SAY • Rainbows remind us of God's promise to never again send a flood to cover the whole earth. God sent a flood to punish the world for sin, but **God rescued Noah and his family**. Later, there was an

even greater rescue! Jesus came to save people from sin. When we trust in Jesus, He saves us from the punishment for our sin.

Make rain sticks

Give each preschooler an empty paper towel tube. Cover one end of the tube with duct tape. Invite a preschooler to fill his tube with wadded pieces of scrap construction paper. Help a preschooler spoon several spoonfuls of dry rice into his tube. Close off the open end of the tube with duct tape. Show a preschooler how to turn their rain stick over to make the sound of rain. Invite each preschooler to decorate his rain stick with colorful tape and stickers.

- empty paper towel tube, 1 per child
- colorful duct tape
- scrap pieces of construction paper
- bowl
- dry rice
- plastic spoon

SAY • In our Bible story, rain came for 40 days and 40 nights. Can you imagine what that sounded like? Water covered all the earth, even the highest mountains, but **God rescued Noah and his family.** Later, there was an even greater rescue! Jesus came to save people from sin. When we trust in Jesus, He saves us from the punishment for our sin.

Make cereal rainbows

Print a copy of the “Rainbow” printable for each preschooler. Wash hands or use hand sanitizer. Distribute one paper to each preschooler along with a bowl of multi-colored fruit-flavored O-shaped cereal. Invite a preschooler to fill each row of his rainbow printable with a different color of cereal to create a rainbow.

- “Rainbow” printable
- multi-colored, fruit-flavored O-shaped cereal
- bowls
- hand sanitizer

SAY • God sent a flood to punish the world for sin, but **God rescued Noah and his family.** God promised Noah that He would never again send a flood to cover the whole earth. God put a rainbow in the

clouds to be a reminder of His promise. Later, there was an even greater rescue! Jesus came to save people from sin. When we trust in Jesus, He saves us from the punishment for our sin.



Take a boat through London

- chairs
- "London Landmarks Cards" printable

Place chairs in rows of three or more to create a "boat." Invite preschoolers to sit in the boat and pretend to take a ride down the Thames (TEHMS) River. Explain that the Thames River flows through the city of London, where the Rigney family are missionaries. Hold up the different "London Landmark Cards" as preschoolers "ride." Read the provided description for each landmark.

SAY • Our boat was much smaller than the ark Noah built. God used the ark Noah built to rescue Noah and his family. God is using the Rigney family in London to rescue people too. The Rigneys share the good news of how Jesus came to rescue people from sin with the people of London. Maybe someday God will ask you go to London or another country to be a missionary. Remember you can be a part of God's mission all around the world now by praying people will hear the gospel. Let's pray now!

Snack and review

Play the countdown video to signal the end of activities. Wash hands and gather preschoolers for snack time. Pray, thanking God for the snack.

Serve multi-colored fruit-flavored O-shaped cereal for snack. Point out the rainbow of colors. Talk about how **God rescued Noah and his family**. God put a rainbow in the clouds to be a reminder of His promise to never again send a flood to cover the entire earth.

Show the Bible story picture as you ask the following questions. Retell parts of the Bible story as needed.

1. How did God feel about people doing mean things and thinking bad thoughts? (*He was very sad.*)
2. What did God tell Noah to build? (*an ark—a really big boat*)
3. Who closed the door to the ark? (*God*)
4. Who all stayed on the ark during the flood? (*Noah, his family, and every kind of animal*)
5. What did Noah do to thank God for rescuing them? (*gave an offering*)
6. ***Who is God? God is our Creator and King.***

Transition

When children finish their snack, preschoolers may color the Bible story coloring page, play a simple game to practice the key passage or big picture question, or sing along to the key passage or theme song.

If parents are picking up their children at this time, tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session. Distribute the preschool big picture cards for families.

- countdown video (optional)
- Allergy Alert download
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster
- paper cups and napkins
- snack food
- multi-colored fruit-flavored O-shaped cereal (optional)

- Bible Story Coloring Page
- crayons
- Key Passage Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster
- "All Things" song
- "My Father's World" song
- Big Picture Cards for Families: Babies, Toddlers, and Preschoolers



Use Week of:

Unit 1 • Session 5

The Tower of Babel

BIBLE PASSAGE:

Genesis 11

STORY POINT: People wanted to build a tower to make themselves famous.

KEY PASSAGE:

Colossians 1:16b

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Who is God? God is our Creator and King.

INTRODUCE THE STORY
(15–20 MINUTES)
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TEACH THE STORY
(10–15 MINUTES)
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EXPERIENCE THE STORY
(20–25 MINUTES)
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Additional resources are available at gospelproject.com. For free training and session-by-session help, visit www.ministrygrid.com/web/thegospelproject.

LEADER Bible Study

Following the flood, God commanded Noah in Genesis 9:1 to “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth.” This command echoes the one given to Adam and Eve in Genesis 1:28. God intended the paradise of the garden to spread into the whole world, but sinful people had other desires.

Genesis 10 accounts for the nations that spread out in the land after the flood (Gen. 10:32). The people moved east and settled in a valley. This story continues the cycle of distrust and disobedience to God. In Genesis 11:2, Scripture indicates that instead of filling the earth as God commanded, the people devised a plan to settle in one place and build a city and a large tower into the sky.

Read Genesis 11:4. The people’s motive was clear: “Let us make a name for ourselves.” The people didn’t want to be scattered. They didn’t believe God would give them what was good if they obeyed Him. They sought to obtain for themselves what they believed was good.

The people tried to build a monument with its top in the sky, but they succeeded only in separating themselves from God and from each other. God confused their language and scattered them over the earth. They were unable to finish building the city, so the city was called Babel—which sounds like the Hebrew word for “confused”—because there the Lord confused the people’s language.

This week you have the opportunity to tell the preschoolers you teach about God’s better plan: His plan not for people to reach up to Him, but His plan to reach down to people by sending His Son, Jesus, to live the perfect life we couldn’t live and die the death we don’t want to die. Through Jesus, God brings together people of every tongue, tribe, and nation; we are all one in Christ. That is the gospel. Pray that the preschoolers you teach would have open hearts to receive it.

The BIBLE Story

The Tower of Babel

Genesis 11

After the great flood, God told Noah's family to spread out and fill the whole earth. Noah's family grew. Soon, more and more people were on the earth. The people moved to a valley and decided to stay there.

They did not spread out and fill the whole earth; they did not obey God.

They said to one another, "We are great! Let's build a city together, and let's make a tower so tall that the top of the tower reaches to the sky. Then everyone will know how great we are!"

God created people to give Him glory, but the people did not want to give God glory. They wanted to give themselves glory. Instead of saying, "Look how great God is," they said, "Look how great we are!"

But no one is greater than God. While the people made bricks and started building, God came down to look at the tower. He was not happy about what they were doing.

God said, "If they are doing this, they will keep thinking of more bad things to do."

So God decided to mix up their words. When the people tried to make plans, they did not understand one another. If one workman said, "Hand me another brick," nobody else knew what he wanted.



The people had to stop building the city. People had to move away to live with people they could understand. God made it so the people did just what He had told them to do after the flood. They spread out all over the earth. The city with the unfinished tower was called Babel (BAY buhl).

Christ Connection: People chose to make themselves famous instead of God. God mixed up their language and the people spread out over the earth. One day, Jesus will bring His people back together. People from every group and every language will worship Him together. (Revelation 7:9-10)

Bible Storytelling Tips

- **Build and tell:** Build a tower with blocks while you tell the Bible story. Knock the tower down when you come to the part where the people had to stop building.
- **Speak in another language:** Invite someone who speaks another language to tell the Bible story in a different language. Then retell the story in English.

INTRODUCE the Story



SESSION TITLE: The Tower of Babel

BIBLE PASSAGE: Genesis 11

STORY POINT: People wanted to build a tower to make themselves famous.

KEY PASSAGE: Colossians 1:16b

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Who is God? God is our Creator and King.

Welcome time

- "My Father's World" song
- offering basket
- Allergy Alert download
- favorite toys related to the Bible story theme

Play a theme song in the background as you greet preschoolers and follow your church's security procedures. Set an offering basket near the door to collect at an appropriate time. Post an allergy alert, if necessary. Set out a few favorite theme-related toys, such as puzzles and blocks.

Activity page

- "The Tower of Babel" activity page, 1 per child
- markers or crayons

Invite preschoolers to draw a line connecting each brick on the ground with where it fits on the tower.

SAY • Good job deciding where each piece fits. In today's Bible story, the people decided to build a tower. Building a tower sounds like a good idea, but in this story it was a wrong idea. The people's reason for building the tower was not good. Listen to our Bible story to find out why the people wanted to build a tower and why it was wrong.

LOW PREP

Speak in funny voices

Invite preschoolers to practice saying the key passage or big picture question and answer using funny voices such as the voice of a baby, robot, gorilla, chipmunk, someone who is very happy, someone who is very tired, someone who has a cold, and so forth. Allow preschoolers to suggest different

voices to use. Continue as time allows.

SAY • Hearing you all speak in different voices was funny! Even though you used a different voice, I still understood what you said. In today's Bible story, God mixed up the people's words. They could not understand what others were saying. Listen to our Bible story to find out why God mixed up their words.

Play out moving

Set out a variety of cardboard boxes. Tell preschoolers to pretend that you all are moving to a different classroom and ask them to help pack classroom items. Invite preschoolers to gather items from around the room to pack in the boxes.

Help a preschooler tape the box shut and draw what is inside the box on the outside. Several minutes before Bible study, tell preschoolers to pretend they are in their new classroom and unpack. Guide them to return all items to their previous location.

SAY • Thanks for your help with our pretend move! In our Bible story last time, God told Noah's family to spread out and live in different places. God wanted them to fill the whole earth. In today's Bible story, we will find out if Noah's family obeyed God and moved or not.

- cardboard boxes
- masking tape
- markers
- existing classroom items

Transition to Bible study

To gain the attention of all the preschoolers to move them to Bible study, show the countdown video, flip off the lights, or clap a simple rhythm for the children to copy. Invite preschoolers to pretend to carry a heavy brick as they walk to Bible study.

- countdown video (optional)

TEACH the Story



SESSION TITLE: The Tower of Babel

BIBLE PASSAGE: Genesis 11

STORY POINT: People wanted to build a tower to make themselves famous.

KEY PASSAGE: Colossians 1:16b

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Who is God? God is our Creator and King.

Introduce the Bible story

- Bible
- bookmark
- Giant Timeline

Place a bookmark at Genesis 11 in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it. Reverently display the open Bible.

SAY • There is no other book like the Bible. The Bible is the only book with God's words in it, and all God's words are true! Today's Bible story is from the first book of the Bible, Genesis.

Point to the Bible story picture on the giant timeline. Remind children that all the stories in the Bible fit together to tell an even bigger story. The Bible tells us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

Watch or tell the Bible story

- Story Point Poster
- "The Tower of Babel" video (optional)
- Bible Story Picture Poster

Show the video or tell the Bible story using the provided storytelling tips. Use the bolded version of the Bible story for young preschoolers.

SAY • **People wanted to build a tower to make themselves famous**, but God created people to make Him famous. We were not made to say, "Look how great we are." We were made to say, "Look how great God is!" God was right to mix up the people's words. One day, Jesus will bring His people back together. People from every group and every language will worship Him together.

Practice the key passage

Cut out the “Key Passage Marker” and place it at Colossians 1:16b. Invite a volunteer to come up and open your Bible to the key passage. Read the key passage aloud. Practice the motions you created for the verse.

Write the words or phrases of the key passage on masking tape placed on individual blocks. Read the words and stack the blocks in order to form a key passage tower.

SAY • Our key passage tells us that everything was created for Jesus. That means everything was made to give Him glory. Only Jesus deserves to be made famous. Sing the key passage song, “All Things,” and the theme song, “My Father’s World.”

- “Key Passage Marker” printable
- Key Passage Poster
- blocks
- masking tape
- marker
- “All Things” song
- “My Father’s World” song

Learn the big picture question

SAY • Do you remember the answer to our big picture question? ***Who is God? God is our Creator and King.*** God made everything and He rules over all of it. The things He created are meant to give Him glory, or show how great He is.

- Big Picture Question Poster



Missions moment

SAY • The Rigneys are a missionary family living in London, England. People in London speak many different languages, so the Rigneys work on a team with people who can share the gospel in different languages. Aden and Addison Rigney are kids like you. They tell friends and neighbors about God’s love. Hear them share the gospel in this video. Show the “Our Gospel” video.

- “Our Gospel” video

Pray and transition to experience the story

EXPERIENCE the Story



SESSION TITLE: The Tower of Babel

BIBLE PASSAGE: Genesis 11

STORY POINT: People wanted to build a tower to make themselves famous.

KEY PASSAGE: Colossians 1:16b

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Who is God? God is our Creator and King.

LOW PREP

- blocks
- books
- toys
- “All Things” song (optional)
- “My Father’s World” song (optional)
- timer (optional)

Gather toys

Scatter blocks, books, and various toys around the room. Play the key passage song or theme song. Invite preschoolers to gather the scattered objects in a designated place. Scatter the items and play again as time allows. Consider timing how long it takes preschoolers to gather the items. Challenge preschoolers to beat their time each round.

SAY • People wanted to build a tower to make themselves famous. God mixed up their language and the people finally spread out over the earth like God had commanded them to do. One day, Jesus will gather all His people in one place. But for now, we are to go to the ends of the earth to make God famous everywhere.

Play with building tools

- toy tools
- child-safe tools
- cardboard boxes

Set out toy tools, such as plastic hammers, mallets, saws, shovels, drills, screwdrivers, wrenches, pliers, squares, clamps, and tool boxes. Add hard hats, goggles, aprons, tool belts, soft tape measures, paintbrushes, plastic levels, and plastic cones if available. Place cardboard boxes beside the tools. Invite preschoolers to “work on” the cardboard boxes.

SAY • The people in today’s Bible story made God sad with how they used their tools. **People wanted to build**

a tower to make themselves famous. Instead of saying, “Look how great God is,” they said, “Look how great we are!” One day, people from every group and every language will worship Jesus together.

Sort nuts and bolts

Set out an assortment of nuts and bolts. Provide shallow baskets or bowls for preschoolers to sort the nuts and bolts into. Show a preschooler how to thread a nut onto a bolt as he or she shows interest.

- nuts
- bolts
- shallow baskets or bowls

SAY • These nuts and bolts are used for building. The people in our Bible story probably did not have nuts and bolts like these when they were building their tower. God was not happy about what they were doing. **People wanted to build a tower to make themselves famous,** but God created people to make Him famous. Only He deserves to be worshiped because *God is our Creator and King.*

Experiment with block shadows

Weather permitting, lead preschoolers outside with a large sheet of paper and blocks. Find a flat area where the sun casts a clear shadow. Lay the paper on the flat surface. Invite preschoolers to build on the paper with blocks. Point out the shadow the blocks create. Allow preschooler to observe the different shadows created by stacking blocks in different heights and patterns.

- walking rope (optional)
- large sheet of paper
- blocks

Tip: Follow your churches security procedures for leaving the classroom.

SAY • The shadow cast by the tower the people in today’s Bible story were building would have been enormous! **People wanted to build a tower to make themselves famous.** God mixed up their language and the people spread out over the earth. One day,

Jesus will bring His people back together. People from every group and every language will worship Him together.



Say “Jesus is Lord” in different languages

LOW PREP

Lead preschoolers in practicing saying “Jesus is Lord” in different languages. Use the provided translations below. Use an online translating tool to hear the proper pronunciations.

- Spanish: *Jesus es el Señor.*
- French: *Jésus est Seigneur.*
- Portuguese: *Jesus é senhor.*
- Swahili: *Yesu ni Bwana*
- German: *Jesus ist der Herr.*

Invite any children or leaders in your class who speak other languages to teach the class a few words.

SAY • These are some of the languages the Rigney family often hears as they serve as missionaries in London, England. The Rigney family tells the people of London the good news about Jesus. One day, people from every group and every language will worship Jesus together. Let’s pray that many people in London will believe the good news about Jesus.

Snack and review

Play the countdown video to signal the end of activities. Wash hands and gather preschoolers for snack time. Pray, thanking God for the snack.

Serve vanilla-flavored wafers for snack. Invite children to stack the wafers to make a tower. Remind preschoolers that **people wanted to build a tower to make themselves famous**, and God mixed up their language. One day, Jesus will bring His people back together. People from every group and every language will worship Him together.

Show the Bible story picture as you ask the following questions. Retell parts of the Bible story as needed.

1. What did God tell Noah's family to do after the flood? (*spread out and fill the whole earth*)
2. Did the people obey God? (*no*)
3. What did the people want to build to make themselves famous? (*a tower to reach to the sky*)
4. What did God do about the people building the tower? (*He mixed up their languages.*)
5. Why did the people have to stop building the tower? (*because no one could understand each other*)
6. ***Who is God? God is our Creator and King.***

Transition

When children finish their snack, preschoolers may color the Bible story coloring page, play a simple game to practice the key passage or big picture question, or sing along to the key passage or theme song.

If parents are picking up their children at this time, tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session. Distribute the preschool big picture cards for families.

- countdown video (optional)
- Allergy Alert download
- paper cups and napkins
- snack food
- vanilla-flavored wafers (optional)
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster

- Bible Story Coloring Page
- crayons
- Key Passage Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster
- "All Things" song
- "My Father's World" song
- Big Picture Cards for Families: Babies, Toddlers, and Preschoolers



Use Week of:

Unit 1 • Session 6

The Suffering of Job

BIBLE PASSAGE:

Job

STORY POINT: Job learned that God is always good.

KEY PASSAGE:

Colossians 1:16b

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Who is God? God is our Creator and King.

INTRODUCE THE STORY
(15–20 MINUTES)
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TEACH THE STORY
(10–15 MINUTES)
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EXPERIENCE THE STORY
(20–25 MINUTES)
PAGE 74



Additional resources are available at gospelproject.com. For free training and session-by-session help, visit www.ministrygrid.com/web/thegospelproject.

LEADER Bible Study

Why would we hear the story of Job while studying stories from Genesis? Most biblical authorities believe, based on subject matter and language, that Job was a contemporary to the patriarchs. Job fits chronologically into this period in history.

Job was a wealthy man who loved God. At the beginning of the book, God allows Satan to test Job's faithfulness. Job lost everything, and he asked God why these things were happening. God answered Job, and His response reveals that God alone is all-powerful, sovereign, and good.

"Have you ever in your life commanded the morning or assigned the dawn its place?" (Job 38:12). God has. He is all-powerful. "Does the eagle soar at your command?" (Job 39:27). It does at God's. He is sovereign. "Who provides the raven's food when its young cry out to God?" (Job 38:41). God provides. He is good.

Everyone suffers—those who follow God and those who don't. While the Book of Job speaks volumes to the problem of human suffering, it is also an important picture of how a suffering person should relate to God. Job didn't understand his suffering and he even doubted God, but Job's suffering ultimately brought him closer to God. God is always in control, even when His people can't see the reason behind the suffering God allows.

Job reminds us that following Jesus is worth it. God is good, present, and in control. We can trust Him even when we don't understand the pain we have to endure. At the cross, God used the ultimate pain to bring about the ultimate good: our future and final salvation from sin.

Before you teach, pray that the Holy Spirit would help preschoolers understand God's truth. Point preschoolers to the Suffering Servant, Jesus, who was truly innocent yet suffered greatly so that we could be brought closer to God in both our suffering and our joy.

The BIBLE Story

The Suffering of Job

Job

Job (JOHB) was a man who loved God. But sad things began to happen to Job, and Job did not know why. Robbers stole the animals on his farm. Job's children died in a storm, and Job became sick with bad sores all over his body. He felt terrible!

Job did not understand why these things happened. Job had been kind to people and had helped poor people. People in the city respected him, and he had given good advice to others. But after all these things happened to him, people made fun of Job and were mean to him.

Three friends visited Job.

They told Job to obey God and tell Him he was sorry for doing wrong things. **They said God was punishing Job for his sin.**

"But I did not do anything wrong," Job said. Job was tired and angry. **"I wish I could ask God some questions** and prove to Him that I have done what is right," he said.

Then another friend came along. His name was Elihu (ih LIGH hyoo). Elihu told Job's three friends that they were wrong. He said Job was wrong to complain that God was not treating him fairly.

Then God came in a whirlwind to talk to Job. God asked Job a lot of questions: "Where were you when I created the earth? Can you



measure how big it is? Can you send out lightning bolts? Do you make horses strong? Does an eagle build its nest where you say?"

God said, "I made the most powerful animal in the world. Can you capture it? Can you catch a crocodile?"

Job realized that God is much greater than people. God is mighty and strong and wise. He knows how the world works best. He is more powerful than anything scary. **People cannot always understand what God is doing, but people can always trust God. God is good.**

Job's story had a happy ending. **God healed Job, and Job became richer than he had been before. Job had more children. He lived a long and happy life and saw his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren grow up.**

Christ Connection: The story of Job reminds us of Jesus. Jesus is the only person who never sinned, but He suffered to take the punishment for our sin. Jesus comforts us when we suffer, and we can trust Him.

Bible Storytelling Tips

- **Invite a guest:**
Invite a male guest to dress in Bible times clothing and tell the Bible story as a monologue from Job's perspective.
- **Use your voice:**
Pause and allow for silence between paragraphs or scenes to emphasize the intensity of Job's situation.

INTRODUCE the Story



SESSION TITLE: The Suffering of Job

BIBLE PASSAGE: Job

STORY POINT: Job learned that God is always good.

KEY PASSAGE: Colossians 1:16b

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Who is God? God is our Creator and King.

Welcome time

- "My Father's World" song
- offering basket
- Allergy Alert download
- favorite toys related to the Bible story theme

Play a theme song in the background as you greet preschoolers and follow your church's security procedures. Set an offering basket near the door to collect at an appropriate time. Post an allergy alert, if necessary. Set out a few favorite theme-related toys, such as puzzles and blocks.

Activity page

- "Finish the Pattern" activity page, 1 per child
- markers or crayons

Invite preschoolers to look at the images in each row and circle the image that comes next.

SAY • We will hear about the earth, lightning bolts, horses, eagles, and crocodiles in today's Bible story. Do you know who made all those things? Do you know who is in charge of all those things? God! In today's Bible story, a man named Job learned that God is much greater than people. We need to learn that too. Let's listen to how God taught Job in our Bible story.

LOW PREP

- items already in your room

Decide what is missing

Gather six to ten items from around the room and place them on a table. Invite preschoolers to observe the items. Instruct children to turn around while you remove and hide one item. Ask preschoolers to guess the missing item. Continue removing items and guessing until all the items

are gone. Replace the items and play again as time allows.

SAY • In today's Bible story, a man named Job did not just have one thing taken away, he had many things taken away! When you hear everything that was taken away from Job, I think you will agree that he had a good reason to be sad. But God used all the sad things that happened to Job to help Job understand more about what God is like.

Make wind art

Cover a table with newspaper or a plastic tablecloth. Fill the cups of a muffin tin halfway full with water. Mix a few drops of food color in each cup. Give each preschooler a sheet of paper. Help a preschooler use a dropper to drop colored water onto his or her paper. Show a preschooler how to blow through a straw to move the colored water around. Provide direction to preschoolers on how to blow out rather than in.

- newspaper or a plastic tablecloth
- muffin tin
- water
- paper
- food color
- eyedroppers
- straws, 1 per child

SAY • Wow! Your art looks like it has been in a windstorm! In today's Bible story, God came to talk to a man named Job in a whirlwind. Listen to our Bible story to hear what God said to Job.

Transition to Bible study

To gain the attention of all the preschoolers to move them to Bible study, show the countdown video, flip off the lights, or clap a simple rhythm for the children to copy. Invite preschoolers to decide what they think is the most powerful animal and move to Bible study pretending to be that animal.

- countdown video (optional)

TEACH the Story



SESSION TITLE: The Suffering of Job

BIBLE PASSAGE: Job

STORY POINT: Job learned that God is always good.

KEY PASSAGE: Colossians 1:16b

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Who is God? God is our Creator and King.

Introduce the Bible story

- Bible
- bookmark
- Giant Timeline

Place a bookmark at Job in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it. Reverently display the open Bible.

SAY • We call the Bible God’s Word because the Bible is God’s words to us. Everything in the Bible is true. Today’s Bible story is from the Book of Job.

Point to the Bible story picture on the giant timeline. Remind children that all the stories in the Bible fit together to tell an even bigger story. The Bible tells us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

Watch or tell the Bible story

- Story Point Poster
- “The Suffering of Job” video (optional)
- Bible Story Picture Poster

Show the video or tell the Bible story using the provided storytelling tips. Use the bolded version of the Bible story for young preschoolers.

SAY • Many sad things happened to Job, and he did not understand why. Job did not learn why the sad things happened, but **Job learned that God is always good.** People cannot always understand what God is doing, but people can always trust God. He is mighty and strong and wise.

- “Key Passage Marker” printable
- Key Passage Poster
- “All Things” song
- “My Father’s World” song

Practice the key passage

Cut out the “Key Passage Marker” and place it at

Colossians 1:16b. Invite a volunteer to open your Bible to the key passage. Read the key passage aloud. Practice the motions you created for the verse. Allow preschoolers to take turns saying the key passage from memory.

SAY • Everything—all that our eyes can see and all that our eyes can't see—was created by Jesus and for Jesus. Everything that happens happens because Jesus made it so. All of it is meant to show how wonderful He is.

Sing the key passage song, "All Things," and the theme song, "My Father's World."

Learn the big picture question

SAY • Can you answer our big picture question? ***Who is God? God is our Creator and King.*** God asked Job a lot of questions: "Where were you when I created the earth? Can you measure how big it is? Can you send out lightning bolts? Do you make horses strong? Does an eagle build its nest where you say?" Job learned that God is much greater than people. ***God is our Creator and King.*** We can trust Him.

• Big Picture Question Poster



Missions moment

Display the "Rigney Family Prayer Card" printable.

SAY • Like Job, missionaries also face hard times and need to be reminded of God's goodness. When missionaries like the Rigney family move to a new country, they leave behind things that are very important to them. They may have to leave a favorite pet or move far away from family. Let's pray for the Rigneys as they get used to their new home.

• "Rigney Family Prayer Card" printable

Pray and transition to experience the story

EXPERIENCE the Story



SESSION TITLE: The Suffering of Job

BIBLE PASSAGE: Job

STORY POINT: Job learned that God is always good.

KEY PASSAGE: Colossians 1:16b

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Who is God? God is our Creator and King.

LOW PREP

Sing “My God Is So Big”

Lead preschoolers in singing and performing the motions for the song “My God Is So Big.” If you are unfamiliar with the tune, lyrics, or motions, look them up online before the session.

SAY • God showed Job that He is much greater than people. God is mighty and strong and wise. He knows how the world works best. People cannot always understand what God is doing, but people can always trust God. **Job learned that God is always good.**

Draw and erase Job’s sores

- “Job” printable
- clear contact plastic
- scissors (adult use)
- dry erase markers
- dry erasers or paper towels

Print several copies of the “Job” printable. Seal each printable between two pieces of clear contact plastic. If you have access to a laminating machine, consider laminating the printables. Place the sealed Job images on a table with dry erase markers. Invite preschoolers to use the markers to draw sores on Job’s body. Then they may erase the sores to represent God’s healing Job.

SAY • Job became sick with bad sores all over his body. Later God healed Job. **Job learned that God is always good.** Job’s story reminds us of Jesus. Jesus is the only Person who never sinned, but He suffered

to take the punishment for our sin. Jesus comforts us when we suffer, and we can trust Him.

Look at books about friendship

Set out books about friendship for preschoolers to look through. Read a book to a child as she shows interest.

· books about
friendship

SAY • Three friends visited Job, but they were not being good friends. They said God was punishing Job for his sin, but they were wrong. Just because something bad happens to you doesn't mean you did something wrong. Sometimes bad things happen and God is the only One who knows why. We cannot always understand what God is doing, but we can always trust God. **Job learned that God is always good.**

Assemble activity bags

Invite preschoolers to assemble activity bags to deliver to a local children's hospital or women and children's shelter.

· ziplock bags
· items for bags
· cards (optional)
· paper (optional)
· markers (optional)

Gather items, such as stickers, sticker pages, safety scissors, tape, activity books, coloring sheets, word search puzzles, crayons, markers, colored pencils, glue sticks, craft sticks, watercolor paints, and bead kits with instructions. Form an assembly line where each preschooler places a certain item in each ziplock bag. Consider adding a drawing or card from your preschoolers in each bag.

Option: Contact preschool families before the session and encourage them to bring items for the activity bags.

SAY • Job suffered in our Bible story today. The children who will receive these bags are suffering too. The story of Job reminds us of Jesus. Jesus is the only Person who never sinned, but He suffered to take the punishment for our sin. Jesus comforts us when we suffer, and we can trust Him. **Job learned that God is always good.**

- Allergy Alert
download
- scones
- paper plates
- napkins
- plastic knife



Taste scones

Give preschoolers time to enjoy tasting scones (a traditional English bread-cake).

SAY • Missionaries often have to get used to different foods when they move to a new country. This is not always easy! Snake is a favorite food in the country of Cambodia. In the country of China, many people enjoy bird's nest soup. Grub worms are often eaten in many countries in Africa. These foods probably sound very different to you, but they are delicious to people living in those countries. The Rigney family eats food that is a lot like what they were used to in the United States. You might enjoy some of it too!

Snack and review

Play the countdown video to signal the end of activities. Wash hands and gather preschoolers for snack time. Pray, thanking God for the snack.

Serve a snack. Remind preschoolers **Job learned that God is always good.** As they eat, ask preschoolers to tell you how they know God is good. Show the Bible story picture as you ask the following questions. Retell parts of the Bible story as needed.

1. What did Job's three friends say when they visited him? (*told Job to say he was sorry for doing wrong things, said God was punishing Job for his sin*)
2. Who is greater: God or people? (*God*)
3. What did Job learn in this Bible story? (**Job learned that God is always good.**)
4. Would God still be good if He didn't heal Job and give him back everything he lost? (*yes*)
5. How does Job remind us of Jesus? (*Jesus is the only Person who never sinned, but He suffered to take the punishment for our sin.*)
6. **Who is God? God is our Creator and King.**

Transition

When children finish their snack, preschoolers may color the Bible story coloring page, play a simple game to practice the key passage or big picture question, or sing along to the key passage or theme song.

If parents are picking up their children at this time, tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session. Distribute the preschool big picture cards for families.

- countdown video (optional)
- Allergy Alert download
- paper cups and napkins
- snack food
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster

- Bible Story Coloring Page
- crayons
- Key Passage Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster
- "All Things" song
- "My Father's World" song
- Big Picture Cards for Families: Babies, Toddlers, and Preschoolers

Unit 2: God Formed a Nation

Unit Description:

God's plan to save people through Jesus began to take shape when God chose to bless Abraham's family by grace. He made a covenant with Abraham and promised him a new home and a large family. God also promised Abraham that one day all the people of the world would be blessed through his family—a promise that points to Jesus.

Key Passage:

Galatians 3:29

Big Picture Question:

Why can we trust God? We can trust God because He is faithful.

Session 1:

God's Covenant with Abraham

Genesis 12; 15; 17

Story Point: God promised to bless all the world through Abraham.

Session 4:

God's Promise to Isaac

Genesis 25–26

Story Point: God reminded Isaac about His promises.

Session 2:

Abraham and Isaac

Genesis 22

Story Point: Abraham trusted God.

Session 3:

Isaac and Rebekah

Genesis 24

Story Point: God gave Isaac a wife.



God's Covenant with Abraham

God promised to bless all the world through Abraham.

Abraham and Isaac

Abraham trusted God.



Isaac and Rebekah

God gave Isaac a wife.

God's Promise to Isaac

God reminded Isaac about His promises.



Use Week of:

Unit 2 • Session 1

God's Covenant with Abraham

BIBLE PASSAGE:

Genesis 12; 15; 17

STORY POINT: God promised to bless all the world through Abraham.

KEY PASSAGE:

Galatians 3:29

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Why can we trust God? We can trust God because He is faithful.

INTRODUCE THE STORY
(15–20 MINUTES)
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TEACH THE STORY
(10–15 MINUTES)
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EXPERIENCE THE STORY
(20–25 MINUTES)
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Additional resources are available at gospelproject.com. For free training and session-by-session help, visit www.ministrygrid.com/web/thegospelproject.

LEADER Bible Study

Since the beginning, God wanted to bless and provide for His people. Genesis 11 records the generations between Noah and Abram. Noah's son Shem had a family. Through Shem's line, God would keep His promise to send a Savior. Shem's seventh-great grandson was named Abram. Abram was born in Ur of the Chaldeans.

Abram was in his homeland when God spoke to him. God told Abram: "Go out from your land, your relatives, and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make you into a great nation, I will bless you, I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, I will curse anyone who treats you with contempt, and all the peoples on earth will be blessed through you" (Gen. 12:1-3).

By faith, Abram obeyed God. He traveled toward the land of Canaan with his wife, Sarai; his father, Terah; and his nephew, Lot. They settled in Haran, about 600 miles from their home. When Abram was 75 years old, he left Haran with his wife, his nephew, and all their possessions.

Genesis 15 records the Abrahamic covenant. The word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision. God made a covenant with Abram and promised to give him offspring as numerous as the stars in the sky and to give his family the land of Canaan. At 99 years old, Abram was still childless. How would God keep His promise if Abram didn't have any children? But God was serious about the covenant; He always keeps His promises. God even changed Abram's name to Abraham, which means "father of a multitude."

God promised to bless all the earth through Abraham. At just the right time, Jesus was born into Abraham's family. (Gal. 4:4-5) Jesus fulfilled God's promise to Abraham. (See Gal. 3:8.) Jesus came into the world to save sinners. Through Him, all the nations of the earth are blessed.

The **BIBLE** Story

God's Covenant with Abraham

Genesis 12; 15; 17

Abram and his wife Sarai (SEHR igh) lived long ago. Abram was part of Noah's family. One day, something amazing happened to Abram: God chose Abram out of all the people in the world and made a covenant—a very special promise—with him.

God told Abram to move to a place he had never been. God said Abram would have many descendants. That meant

Abram would have many children and grandchildren and great-grandchildren. So many people would be born into Abram's family that they would become a whole nation of people. They would have land to live on, and everyone would know who Abram was.

Abram obeyed God.

Abram and his wife were old and they did not have any children. Abram did not know how God was going to give him a big family, but Abram trusted God to keep His promise.

Later, God spoke to Abram again. **God promised to give Abram a great reward.**

Abram asked God, "Who will get that reward when I die? I have no children."

God took Abram outside. **"Look at the sky and count the stars, if you can," said God. "That is how many descendants you will have**



someday.” Abram and his wife were getting old. How would they have a baby? But Abram believed it would happen because God said it would.

God promised to give Abram the land, too. **God made a special ceremony to show Abram that He would keep His covenant.** First, God told Abram to bring some animals: a cow, a goat, a ram, a turtledove, and a pigeon. Abram followed God’s instructions.

When the sun had set and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch appeared and passed between the animals. **God showed that keeping the covenant was His job, not Abram’s job.**

When Abram was 99 years old, God talked to him again. “I am changing your name to Abraham. You will be the father of many children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren,” God said. “They will become many nations, and some of them will be kings. I will give them the land where you are living, and I will be their God. My promises will last forever.”

Christ Connection: God promised to bless all the people in the world through Abraham. God sent Jesus to earth as part of Abraham’s family. God blesses all the people on earth through Jesus because Jesus saves people from their sins.

Bible Storytelling Tips

• Vary your voice:

Use different voices for the times in the Bible story when God speaks and when Abraham speaks. You may use a booming voice for God and a voice like an old man for Abraham.

• Use the “Genealogy of Christ” poster:

Point to Abraham on the “Genealogy of Christ” poster (005802967). Gesture toward Abraham’s descendants on the timeline when they are mentioned in the Bible story.

INTRODUCE the Story



SESSION TITLE: God's Covenant with Abraham

BIBLE PASSAGE: Genesis 12; 15; 17

STORY POINT: God promised to bless all the world through Abraham.

KEY PASSAGE: Galatians 3:29

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Why can we trust God? We can trust God because He is faithful.

Welcome time

- "You Are God" song
- offering basket
- Allergy Alert download
- favorite toys related to the Bible story theme

Play a theme song in the background as you greet preschoolers and follow your church's security procedures. Set an offering basket near the door to collect at an appropriate time. Post an allergy alert, if necessary. Set out a few favorite theme-related toys, such as puzzles and blocks.

Activity page

- "Find the Baby" activity page, 1 per child
- markers or crayons

Invite preschoolers to circle the baby that belongs to the parents in each row.

SAY •Did you notice anything unusual about the parents of the human baby? They are a little old, aren't they? Most of the time people who are very old do not have new babies. But in today's Bible story, God promised a man named Abram that he would have a big family even though he and his wife were old and did not have any children. Let's listen to what all God promised Abram.

LOW PREP

Go on a journey

Invite preschoolers to follow you on a journey around the room. While on your "journey," pretend to swim through a river, climb up a mountain, crawl under some branches in a forest, and take a moment to rest.

SAY • Thanks for going with me on that long journey! We pretended to travel a long way! In today's Bible story, God told a man named Abram to go on a journey to a place he had never been before. How would you feel if you were asked to go on a journey somewhere you have never been?

Decide between happy and sad

Invite preschoolers to draw a happy and sad face on either side of a paper plate. Then attach each plate to a large craft stick so that preschoolers can flip between a happy face or a sad face. Read the following scenarios. Invite preschoolers to show the happy face if it would make them happy and to show the sad face if it would make them sad.

- Eating ice cream after dinner
- Breaking your favorite toy
- Going camping
- Shopping at the mall
- Putting broccoli on your pizza
- Getting a new toy

SAY • In today's Bible story, something very happy happened to a man named Abram. God chose Abram out of all the people in the world and made a covenant—a very special promise—with him. This promise is happy news for you and me, too!

Transition to tell the story

To gain the attention of all the preschoolers to move them to Bible study, show the countdown video, flip off the lights, or clap a simple rhythm for the children to copy. Invite preschoolers to march and chant “God keeps His promises!” together as they move to Bible study.

- paper plates,
1 per child
- large craft sticks,
1 per child
- crayons or markers
- glue or tape

- countdown video
(optional)

TEACH the Story



SESSION TITLE: God's Covenant with Abraham

BIBLE PASSAGE: Genesis 12; 15; 17

STORY POINT: God promised to bless all the world through Abraham.

KEY PASSAGE: Galatians 3:29

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Why can we trust God? We can trust God because He is faithful.

Introduce the Bible story

- Bible
- bookmark
- Giant Timeline

Place a bookmark at Genesis 12 in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it. Reverently display the open Bible.

SAY • The Bible is called “the Word of God” because it contains God’s words to us. Everything that God says is true, and all the words of the Bible are true. Today’s story is from the first book of the Bible called Genesis.

Point to the Bible story picture on the giant timeline. Remind children that all the stories in the Bible fit together to tell an even bigger story. The Bible tells us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

Watch or tell the Bible story

- Story Point Poster
- “God’s Covenant with Abraham” video (optional)
- Bible Story Picture Poster

Show the video or tell the Bible story using the provided storytelling tips. Use the bolded version of the Bible story for young preschoolers.

SAY • God made a covenant, or a very special promise, to Abraham. God planned to give Abraham a big family, land, and a reward. **God promised to bless all the world through Abraham.** He kept that promise by sending God’s Son, Jesus, who was a part of Abraham’s family.

Practice the key passage

Cut out the “Key Passage Marker” and place it at Galatians 3:29. Invite a volunteer to come up and open your Bible to the key passage. Read the key passage aloud. Create motions for preschoolers to use as they say the key passage. Use the key passage song video for inspiration.

SAY • God promised to bless all the world through

Abraham, and He did when He sent Jesus. Our key passage tells us that when we trust in Jesus, we get to be part of Abraham’s family, too!

Sing the key passage song, “If You Belong to Christ” and the theme song, “You Are God.”

- “Key Passage Marker” printable
- Key Passage Poster
- “If You Belong to Christ” song
- “You Are God” song

Learn the big picture question

SAY • Our big picture question is, *Why can we trust God? We can trust God because He is faithful.* Abraham did not know how God was going to give him a big family, but he trusted God to keep His promise.

- Big Picture Question Poster



Missions moment

Display a world map. Place a sticky note on India. Show DJ’s family prayer card.

SAY • Missionaries share the gospel with people from many nations. DJ’s family is sharing the gospel with people from South Asia who live in Canada, a country in North America. Many people from South Asia are moving to Canada.

Instruct preschoolers to look at the world map and point to India, the largest country in South Asia. Remove the sticky note and place it on Canada.

- “DJ’s Family Prayer Card” printable
- world map
- sticky note

Pray and transition to experience the story

EXPERIENCE The Story



SESSION TITLE: God's Covenant with Abraham

BIBLE PASSAGE: Genesis 12; 15; 17

STORY POINT: God promised to bless all the world through Abraham.

KEY PASSAGE: Galatians 3:29

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Why can we trust God? We can trust God because He is faithful.

LOW PREP

· walking rope
(optional)

Follow your
church's security
procedures.

Visit a place you've never been

Line up preschoolers and explain that you will lead them on a journey outside of the classroom. Lead preschoolers to a part of the church building that they have likely never been to, such as a pastor's office, a choir room, or a storage area. Share what the purpose of the room is and point out any interesting things along the way. Then return to the classroom.

SAY • God asked Abraham to follow Him to a place he had never been, just like I asked you to follow me to a new place that you had never been! You trusted me to keep you safe and to lead you where you needed to go. Abraham trusted God to lead him, and we can trust God, too! ***Why can we trust God? We can trust God because He is faithful.*** He kept His promise to Abraham to bless the whole world by sending Jesus to save us from our sins.

- sponges
- scissors (adult use)
- plastic tablecloth
- clothespins
- washable glow paint
- black paper
- white crayon
- painting smocks

Stamp stars

Cut sponges into star shapes. Attach clothespins to the back of the sponge stars to make stamps. Cover a table with a plastic tablecloth. Lead preschoolers to dip the star sponges into washable glow paint and press the sponge onto black paper. Write the story point, **God promised to bless all the**

world through Abraham, on each child's paper in white crayon. Dim the lights so that preschoolers can see their stars glow.

SAY • God promised Abraham that his family would have as many people as there are stars in the sky. **God promised to bless all the world through Abraham** and his family. One day much later, Jesus was born as part of Abraham's family. All the world is blessed through Jesus, who died for our sin and rose again.

Hunt stars

Print and cut out 10 star shapes from the "Stars" printable. "Hide" these stars around the room, making sure that preschoolers will be able to find them without much trouble. Invite children to work together to find the stars, counting up to 10 together. Play again as time allows.

- "Stars" printable
- scissors (adult use)
- tape

SAY • That was fun to find and count 10 stars together! God promised that Abraham would have a family with as many people as there are stars in the sky, and He kept His promise. God always keeps His promises! ***Why can we trust God? We can trust God because He is faithful.***

Fluff Abraham's beard

Print out an "Abraham's Beard" printable for each child. Show preschoolers how to use a glue stick to cover Abraham's beard with a light layer of glue. Then guide them to pull apart cotton balls and place them onto the beard.

- "Abraham's Beard" printable, 1 per child
- glue sticks
- cotton balls

SAY • Abraham was very old when God promised that his family would have as many people as stars in the sky. **God promised to bless all the world through Abraham**, and He planned to keep that promise

first by giving Abraham a son named Isaac. Abraham trusted that God would give him a son even when he was very old. Isaac was a very special baby to Abraham and Sarah. Many years later, another very special baby would be born. This baby's name was Jesus, and He was born to save God's people from their sins.



Pray for missionaries

• "DJ's Family Prayer Card" printable,
1 per child

Sit in a circle and place a "DJ's Family Prayer Card" in the center. Read the names of DJ's family members. Select a preschooler to pray for each person. Give each child a prayer card to take home. Mention that prayer is a big way we can help missionaries around the world.

SAY • God promised that Abraham would have a large family. DJ also has a large family. DJ is a missionary kid in Ontario, Canada. DJ's parents were missionaries in South Asia. Now they share the gospel with the many South Asians living in Canada.

Snack and review

Play the countdown video to signal the end of activities. Wash hands and gather preschoolers for snack time. Pray, thanking God for the snack.

Serve a small snack. Promise preschoolers that if they finish all of their snack and ask kindly, that you will give them another portion of snack up to three portions. Each time that a preschooler asks for more snack and you keep your promise, remind children ***we can trust God because He is faithful.*** God always keeps His promises. **God promised to bless all the world through Abraham.** Show the Bible story picture as you ask the following questions. Retell parts of the Bible story as needed.

1. Who chose to make a covenant with Abram? (*God*)
2. What did Abraham do when God asked him to go to a place he had never been? (*Abraham obeyed God.*)
3. God said Abraham's family would have as many people as what? (*stars in the sky*)
4. What did God change Abram's name to? (*Abraham*)
5. ***Why can we trust God? We can trust God because He is faithful.***

Transition

When children finish their snack, preschoolers may color the Bible story coloring page, play a simple game to practice the key passage or big picture question, or sing along to the key passage or a theme song.

If parents are picking up their children at this time, tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session. Distribute the preschool big picture cards for families.

- countdown video (optional)
- Allergy Alert download
- paper cups and napkins
- snack food
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster

- Bible Story Coloring Page
- crayons
- Key Passage Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster
- "If You Belong to Christ" song
- "You Are God" song
- Big Picture Cards for Families: Babies, Toddlers, and Preschoolers

Use Week of:

Unit 2 • Session 2

Abraham and Isaac

BIBLE PASSAGE:

Genesis 22

STORY POINT:

Abraham trusted God.

KEY PASSAGE:

Galatians 3:29

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Why can we trust God? We can trust God because He is faithful.

INTRODUCE THE STORY
(15–20 MINUTES)
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TEACH THE STORY
(10–15 MINUTES)
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EXPERIENCE THE STORY
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Additional resources are available at gospelproject.com. For free training and session-by-session help, visit www.ministrygrid.com/web/thegospelproject.

LEADER Bible Study

God kept His promise to give Abraham and Sarah a son, and they named him Isaac. Isaac was the child chosen by God to carry the family line—to follow God, to lead the family, and to teach the next generation to follow God too. When Abraham was well over 100 years old, God tested Abraham. God instructed him to sacrifice Isaac on a mountain. How could this be? Abraham had waited so long for this child!

But Abraham obeyed. He got up early the next day and left on his trip. Instead of waiting around to see if God would change His mind, he saddled the donkey, took the wood, two servants, and his son, and left on the journey as God commanded.

As Isaac walked with his father, he noticed something was missing. They had the wood and the fire, but “Where is the lamb?” Isaac asked. Abraham answered that God Himself would provide. Abraham had supreme faith that God was able to do anything. Before going up the mountain, Abraham told the servants, “Stay here ... we’ll come back” (Gen. 22:5). Hebrews 11:19 also gives us a peek inside Abraham’s mind: “He considered God to be able even to raise someone from the dead.”

God did provide. He provided a ram in place of Isaac, who was spared. After what we might imagine was quite a worship service, Abraham and Isaac returned home.

In the New Testament, God brings through John the Baptist the final answer to Isaac’s inquiry, “Where is the lamb?” “Here is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!” (John 1:29). Abraham showed his love for God by being willing to sacrifice his son Isaac. This is how God showed His love for us: He sent His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross so that we could have eternal life through Him. He was the sacrifice made in our place so we can live.

The **BIBLE** Story

Abraham and Isaac

Genesis 22

Abraham and Sarah were very old when God gave them a son. They named him Isaac. God said all of the people on earth would be blessed because of Abraham and Sarah's family, so their son Isaac was very special.

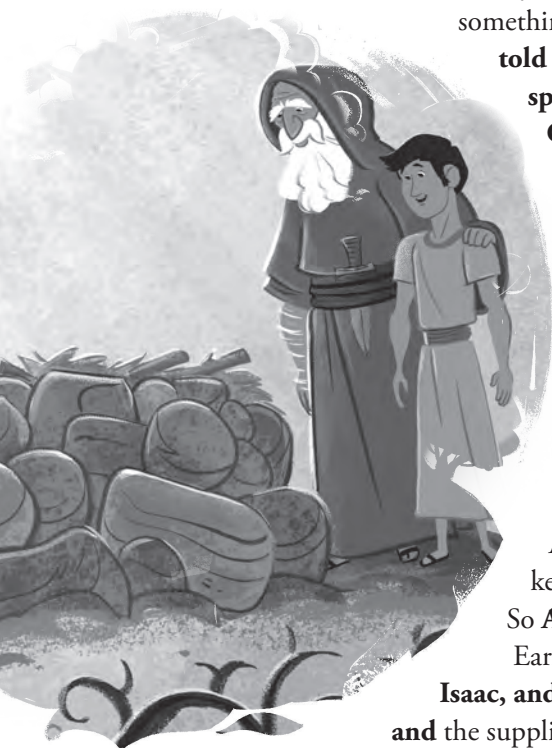
One day, God told Abraham to do something that sounded strange. God told Abraham to take Isaac to a special mountain and give him to God as a sacrifice.

Abraham loved Isaac very much. God had promised that Isaac would have a family. How could that happen if Abraham gave Isaac as a sacrifice?

Abraham believed that God would make things turn out right. He did not know how God would do it, but Abraham believed God would keep His promise about his family. **So Abraham obeyed.**

Early in the morning, **Abraham, Isaac, and two helpers took a donkey and the supplies they needed. They walked for three days until they came to the mountain. Then Abraham and Isaac went up the mountain by themselves.**

Isaac saw that something was missing. **"Where is the lamb to sacrifice to God?" asked Isaac. Abraham said, "God will give us a**



lamb to sacrifice.”

Abraham built the altar and **got ready to offer Isaac to God. A voice called to them from heaven and said, “Abraham, I see that you were willing to do what I said. You do not have to offer your son Isaac.” Abraham looked up and saw a ram caught in the bushes. God had sent a ram to sacrifice instead of Isaac. God could see that Abraham loved God most of all.**

God said to Abraham, “You will have as many descendants as the stars in the sky and the sand on the seashore. All the world will be blessed.”

Christ Connection: Abraham trusted God. He was willing to give up his son Isaac when God asked him to. God provided a ram so Isaac could live. God was willing to give up His Son, Jesus, to save the world from sin. Jesus gave up His life as a sacrifice for our sin so we can live.

Bible Storytelling Tips

- **Move with the story:** Slowly move from one side of the room to the other as Abraham and Isaac go up the mountain.
- **Play out the story:** “Hide” a stuffed ram or lamb in the room, and “find” it when Abraham sees the ram.

INTRODUCE the Story



SESSION TITLE: Abraham and Isaac

BIBLE PASSAGE: Genesis 22

STORY POINT: Abraham trusted God.

KEY PASSAGE: Galatians 3:29

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Why can we trust God? We can trust God because He is faithful.

Welcome time

- "You Are God" song
- offering basket
- Allergy Alert download
- favorite toys related to the Bible story theme

Play a theme song in the background as you greet preschoolers and follow your church's security procedures. Set an offering basket near the door to collect at an appropriate time. Post an allergy alert, if necessary. Set out a few favorite theme-related toys, such as puzzles and blocks.

Activity page

- "Trace the Path" activity page, 1 per child
- pencils

Invite preschoolers to use a finger or a pencil to trace the path up the mountain.

SAY • Great job helping Abraham and Isaac up the mountain! Have you ever been on a hike? Abraham was taking his son Isaac up the mountain because God asked him to, and **Abraham trusted God.**

LOW PREP

Decide between easy and hard

Explain that you will say a task. If a child thinks that task would be easy to do, he should stand up. If he thinks the task will be hard to do, he should sit down. Use the following tasks or create your own.

- Eat your favorite ice cream. (*easy*)
- Clean up the whole house. (*hard*)
- Play with a good friend. (*easy*)
- Climb up to the top of a tall tree. (*hard*)

- Run across the room. (*easy*)
- Give away your favorite toy. (*hard*)

SAY • Looks like you all agreed that it would be hard to give away your favorite toy! It would be hard for me to give away my favorite thing, too. In today's story, God asked Abraham to give up something very special to him. We will listen to our Bible story to find out what that is!

Trust the teacher

Set out large toys or chairs across the room as obstacles. Explain to preschoolers that they will take turns being led across the room by you. They will not be able to see, but you will make sure they do not step on or run into anything. Blindfold children one at a time and lead each child safely across the room. Children who do not wish to be blindfolded may simply close their eyes.

- blindfolds (optional)
- chairs or large toys

Tip: Make sure only adults lead blindfolded preschoolers.

SAY • Today's story point is, **Abraham trusted God.**
 You had to trust me to get across the room safely.
 Abraham had to trust God when God asked him to give up something very special to him.

Transition to tell the story

To gain the attention of all the preschoolers to move them to Bible study, show the countdown video, flip off the lights, or clap a simple rhythm for the children to copy. Invite preschoolers to pretend to hike up a steep mountain as they move to Bible study.

- countdown video (optional)

TEACH the Story



SESSION TITLE: Abraham and Isaac

BIBLE PASSAGE: Genesis 22

STORY POINT: Abraham trusted God.

KEY PASSAGE: Galatians 3:29

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Why can we trust God? We can trust God because He is faithful.

Introduce the Bible story

- Bible
- bookmark
- Giant Timeline

Place a bookmark at Genesis 22 in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it. Reverently display the open Bible.

SAY • God wants us to know Him! He told us true words about Himself in the Bible. Today's story is from the first book in the Bible called Genesis.

Point to the Bible story picture on the giant timeline. Remind children that all the stories in the Bible fit together to tell an even bigger story. The Bible tells us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

Watch or tell the Bible story

- Story Point Poster
- "God's Covenant with Abraham" video (optional)
- Bible Story Picture Poster

Show the video or tell the Bible story using the provided storytelling tips. Use the bolded version of the Bible story for young preschoolers.

SAY • **Abraham trusted God.** God was happy that Abraham was willing to give his only son to Him. Though Abraham did not have to give up Isaac, God actually did give us His only Son, Jesus. John 3:16 says: "For God loved the world in this way: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life."

Practice the key passage

Cut out the “Key Passage Marker” and place it at Galatians 3:29. Invite a volunteer to come up and open your Bible to the key passage. Read the key passage aloud. Practice the motions you created for the verse. Invite preschoolers to repeat one phrase of the key passage at a time, first in a whisper and then in a shout.

SAY • Abraham trusted God, and God made Him a great promise. When we trust that God gave Jesus to die for us and rise again, He promises that we can be with Him forever!

Sing the key passage song, “If You Belong to Christ,” and the theme song, “You Are God.”

- “Key Passage Marker” printable
- Key Passage Poster
- “If You Belong to Christ” song
- “You Are God” song

Learn the big picture question

SAY • Abraham trusted God, and we can too. *Why can we trust God? We can trust God because He is faithful.* God was faithful to provide a ram in place of Isaac. God planned to keep His promise to give Abraham a big family through Isaac.

- Big Picture Question Poster



Missions moment

SAY • Do you remember praying for DJ last week? Check out this video with DJ.

Show the “Giving Matters” video.

SAY • DJ’s family moved to Canada to tell people there about Jesus. They trusted God had a plan for them there, and they were right! We can be a part of their work by praying for DJ’s family and giving to missions.

- “Giving Matters” video

Pray and transition to experience the story

EXPERIENCE the Story



SESSION TITLE: Abraham and Isaac

BIBLE PASSAGE: Genesis 22

STORY POINT: Abraham trusted God.

KEY PASSAGE: Galatians 3:29

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Why can we trust God? We can trust God because He is faithful.

LOW PREP

· favorite toys

Option: Contact preschool families before the session and ask them to send preschoolers to class with their favorite toy.

Tell about a favorite toy

Lead preschoolers to sit on the floor. Invite preschoolers to come up one at a time and tell about their favorite toy. Ask them if it would be hard to give up that toy forever.

SAY • Giving up your favorite toy would be really hard, wouldn't it? Abraham was asked to give up something way more important than a toy! But God did not take Isaac from Abraham, just like I am not going to ask you to give up your favorite toy. ***Why can we trust God? We can trust God because He is faithful.***

Look at books about stars

· books about stars

Set out books about stars or showing stars. Help preschoolers count the stars they see in the books.

SAY • God promised Abraham that he would have as many people in his family as stars in the sky. How could that happen if Abraham gave Isaac as a sacrifice? **Abraham trusted God.** He believed God would keep His promise no matter what. Abraham was willing to give up his son Isaac, and God provided a ram so Isaac could live. God kept His promise to give Abraham a big family and to bless all the world through Him.

Find the ram

Hide a stuffed ram or another stuffed animal somewhere in the room. You may also choose to print and hide the “Ram” printable instead. Invite preschoolers to find the ram. When preschoolers are near the ram, tell them that they are getting “warmer,” and when they are far from the ram, tell them they are getting “colder.” When they find the ram, lead them all to say, “Look, a ram!” together.

- stuffed ram or animal
- “Ram” printable (optional)

SAY • Great job using your eyes and ears to find that ram!

Abraham trusted God and was willing to give up his son, but God was faithful to provide a ram instead.

Why can we trust God? We can trust God because He is faithful.

Play in sand

Cover a table and the floor below with plastic tablecloths. Fill a plastic tub with a few inches of play sand and place it on the table. Set sand toys such as shovels, rakes, and sifters in the tub and allow preschoolers to play. Review the Bible story as preschoolers play.

- plastic tablecloths, 2
- plastic tub
- play sand
- sand toys

SAY • In our last Bible story, God promised Abraham that his family would have as many people as stars in the sky. In today’s Bible story, God promised that Abraham’s family would have more people than grains of sand on the seashore. **Abraham trusted God.** Can you count the number of grains of sand in this bucket? Of course not! God made a huge promise to Abraham!

- shoe box
- solid colored paper
- scissors (adult use)
- washable finger paint
- marker
- wipes (for cleanup)



Make a giving box

Wrap the bottom and top of a shoe box with solid colored paper. Cut a slit big enough to fit coins and paper money in the top of the box. Pour different colors of finger paint on foam plates. Take turns painting a preschooler's hand and helping her press it on the box. Continue until each preschooler has made a handprint on the box. Make additional boxes if there is not enough room for all the handprints on one box. When the paint is dry, write each child's name on their handprint and write *GIVING BOX* on the top of the box. Place the box in a prominent place in the room. Use the box to collect money for your church's global missions offering.

SAY • Abraham trusted God. He was willing to give up his son Isaac when God asked him to. God was willing to give up His Son, Jesus, to save the world from sin. We can give up our money and put it in this box. This money will go to help missionaries like DJ's family. When we give to missions, we help missionaries all over the world tell people about Jesus.

Snack and review

Play the countdown video to signal the end of activities. Wash hands and gather preschoolers for snack time. Pray, thanking God for the snack.

After serving a small snack, ask preschoolers if they would be willing to give their snack to you. Then assure them that they will get to keep their snack, and remind them that Abraham was asked to give something much more important than a snack. **Abraham trusted God.** Show the Bible story picture as you ask the following questions. Retell parts of the Bible story as needed.

1. What was the name of Abraham and Sarah's son?
(*Isaac*)
2. Why was Abraham willing to give up his son when God asked him? (**Abraham trusted God.**)
3. What did God provide for the sacrifice instead of Isaac? (*a ram*)
4. What did God say Abraham's family would have as many people as? (*stars in the sky, sand on the seashore*)
5. ***Why can we trust God? We can trust God because He is faithful.***

Transition

When children finish their snack, preschoolers may color the Bible story coloring page, play a simple game to practice the key passage or big picture question, or sing along to the key passage or a theme song.

If parents are picking up their children at this time, tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session. Distribute the preschool big picture cards for families.

- countdown video (optional)
- Allergy Alert download
- paper cups and napkins
- snack food
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster

- Bible Story Coloring Page
- crayons
- Key Passage Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster
- "If You Belong to Christ" song
- "You Are God" song
- Big Picture Cards for Families: Babies, Toddlers, and Preschoolers



Use Week of:

Unit 2 • Session 3

Isaac and Rebekah

BIBLE PASSAGE:

Genesis 24

STORY POINT:

God gave Isaac a wife.

KEY PASSAGE:

Galatians 3:29

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Why can we trust God? We can trust God because He is faithful.

INTRODUCE THE STORY
(15–20 MINUTES)
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TEACH THE STORY
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EXPERIENCE THE STORY
(20–25 MINUTES)
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LEADER Bible Study

After God tested Abraham, Abraham named the place “The LORD Will Provide” (Gen. 22:14). God repeated His promise to Abraham: “I will indeed bless you and make your offspring as numerous as the stars of the sky ... And all the nations of the earth will be blessed by your offspring” (Gen. 22:17-18).

God blessed Abraham’s life, and he was about 140 years old when he asked his most trusted servant to go to his relatives and find a wife for his 40-year-old son Isaac. Abraham believed God would keep His promise; he trusted that God had a wife for Isaac and that Isaac would have a family because he was the child chosen by God to carry the family line—to follow God, to lead the family, and to teach the next generation to follow God too.

Abraham’s servant asked God for a clear sign of who should be Isaac’s wife. When Rebekah appeared and agreed to give water to the servant—and also, she offered, to his camels—the servant knew God was at work. He responded with worship: “Blessed be the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who has not withheld his kindness and faithfulness from my master” (Gen. 24:27).

Rebekah introduced the servant to her family, including her brother Laban. The servant recounted the events, and everyone agreed the Lord had chosen Rebekah to be Isaac’s wife. She traveled with the servant hundreds of miles to Abraham’s house. When she saw Isaac, she covered herself with a veil. The servant told Isaac everything that had happened. Then Isaac married Rebekah and loved her.

God provided Rebekah as a wife for Isaac as part of His covenant to bless the whole world through Abraham’s family. One day, Jesus would be born into Abraham’s family as the promised Savior.

The BIBLE Story

Isaac and Rebekah

Genesis 24

Abraham was old, and his son Isaac was grown up. **Abraham** wanted Isaac to get married, so he **told his servant, “Go to my family’s land and find a wife for Isaac.”**

The servant went to the land. He took camels and presents with him. **When he got there, he went to a well.** It was evening, and the women from the town were coming to the well to get water.

The servant prayed and asked God for help. **“God, help me find the right wife for Isaac. I will ask a girl for a drink of water. If you want her to be Isaac’s wife, let her give water to my camels too.”**

When the servant looked up, he saw Rebekah. She was beautiful and had never been married. **The servant asked her for a drink of water.**

“Drink this,” she said. “I will give water to your camels too.”

When the camels finished drinking, **Abraham’s servant gave Rebekah a gold ring and two bracelets.** “Who is your father?”

he asked. Rebekah said, “My father is Bethuel.” **The servant asked to stay the night at her father’s house.** Then he thanked God for providing a wife for Isaac.

Rebekah ran home and **told her family what had happened.**



Rebekah's brother invited Abraham's servant inside.

The family gave him a meal, but he did not want to eat.

"First, let me tell you why I am here," he said. **The servant told them about Abraham and Isaac. He explained how God showed him that Rebekah should be Isaac's wife. Rebekah's family agreed that God wanted Rebekah to be Isaac's wife.**

The servant gave gifts to Rebekah and her family. **The next day, Rebekah went with the servant back to the land of Canaan where Abraham and Isaac lived.**

In the evening, Isaac was walking in the field when he saw the camels coming. Rebekah got off her camel and covered up with her veil. **The servant told Isaac everything that had happened. Isaac married Rebekah, and he loved her.**

Christ Connection: God gave Isaac a wife. This was part of His promise to give Abraham a big family and bless the whole world. One day, Jesus would be born into Abraham's family.

Bible Storytelling Tips

- **Play it out:** Select a preschooler to play out being Isaac, and another to play out being Rebekah. Play out being the servant as you narrate the story.
- **Use props:** Place a toy camel, a present, a bottle of water, a bracelet or ring, and a veil in a box, and pull out the items at the appropriate place in the story.

INTRODUCE the Story



SESSION TITLE: Isaac and Rebekah

BIBLE PASSAGE: Genesis 24

STORY POINT: God gave Isaac a wife.

KEY PASSAGE: Galatians 3:29

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Why can we trust God? We can trust God because He is faithful.

Welcome time

- “You Are God” song
- offering basket
- Allergy Alert download
- favorite toys related to the Bible story theme

Play a theme song in the background as you greet preschoolers and follow your church’s security procedures. Set an offering basket near the door to collect at an appropriate time. Post an allergy alert, if necessary. Set out a few favorite theme-related toys, such as puzzles and blocks.

Activity page

- “A Wife for Isaac” activity page, 1 per child
- markers or crayons

Invite preschoolers to complete the maze to get Abraham’s servant to Rebekah.

SAY • Remember Abraham’s son Isaac? In today’s Bible story, Isaac was grown up. Abraham wanted Isaac to get married, so he told his servant, “Go to my family’s land and find a wife for Isaac.” The servant did, indeed, find a wife for Isaac. Let’s listen how God helped him in our Bible story today.

Tell who is in your family

**LOW
PREP**

Invite preschoolers to sit in a circle and take turns standing up and sharing who is in their family (mother, father, brothers, sisters, grandparents, and so on). Be sensitive to children who come from challenging home situations as you lovingly affirm God's plan for families.

SAY • God is good to give each of us a family! Today we will see how God brought two people together to make a new family.

Look at books about families

Provide books for the preschoolers to look through that have pictures of families. Be sure to include books that depict a variety of families including blended families, adopted families, and extended family members. As the children flip through books, point out the differences and similarities of the families. Remind children that not all families look alike, but God gives us families.

• books about families

Tip: Be sensitive to children's home situations.

SAY • Remember that God promised Abraham that he would have a big family. Abraham believed God would keep His promise. Abraham knew God wanted his son Isaac to be married and to have children and grandchildren and great-grandchildren. In today's Bible story, Abraham sent his servant to find a wife for Isaac.

Transition to tell the story

To gain the attention of all the preschoolers to move them to Bible study, show the countdown video, flip off the lights, or clap a simple rhythm for the children to copy. Invite preschoolers to pretend to be camels as they move to Bible study.

• countdown video
(optional)

TEACH the Story



SESSION TITLE: Isaac and Rebekah

BIBLE PASSAGE: Genesis 24

STORY POINT: God gave Isaac a wife.

KEY PASSAGE: Galatians 3:29

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Why can we trust God? We can trust God because He is faithful.

Introduce the Bible story

- Bible
- bookmark
- Giant Timeline

Place a bookmark at Genesis 24 in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it. Reverently display the open Bible.

SAY • The Bible is one big book made up of many smaller books put together. The Bible had many writers, but all the words in it are God's true words. Today's story is from the first book in the Bible called Genesis.

Point to the Bible story picture on the giant timeline. Remind children that all the stories in the Bible fit together to tell an even bigger story. The Bible tells us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

Watch or tell the Bible story

- Story Point Poster
- "God's Covenant with Abraham" video (optional)
- Bible Story Picture Poster

Show the video or tell the Bible story using the provided storytelling tips. Use the bolded version of the Bible story for young preschoolers.

SAY • God is faithful to keep His promises. He promised to give Abraham a big family. For Abraham's family to grow, Isaac needed a wife and children. When **God gave Isaac a wife**, He was keeping His promise to bless the whole world through Abraham's family. One day, Jesus would be born into Abraham's family.

Practice the key passage

Before class, cut an extra copy of the key passage poster into a puzzle. Cut out the “Key Passage Marker” and place it at Galatians 3:29. Invite a volunteer to come up and open your Bible to the key passage. Read the key passage aloud. Practice the motions you created for the verse. Invite preschoolers work the puzzle and then repeat the key passage. For older preschoolers, hide the puzzle pieces around the room for the children to find before assembling the puzzle.

SAY • “Belonging to Christ” means that we believe that Jesus saved us from our sins by dying in our place and rising again! When we do that, God promises to be with us forever.

Sing the key passage song, “If You Belong to Christ,” and the theme song, “You Are God.”

- “Key Passage Marker” printable
- Key Passage Poster, 2
- scissors (adult use)
- “If You Belong to Christ” song
- “You Are God” song

Learn the big picture question

SAY • Let’s review our big picture question, *Why can we trust God? We can trust God because He is faithful.* God showed His faithfulness when God gave Isaac a wife.

- Big Picture Question Poster



Missions moment

SAY • Missionaries obey God by going to tell people in other places about Jesus. In this video, DJ and his mom left home to help their friends share the gospel in South Asia.

Show the “They Matter to Jesus (Part 1)” video.

- “They Matter to Jesus (Part 1)” video

Pray and transition to experience the story

EXPERIENCE the Story



SESSION TITLE: Isaac and Rebekah

BIBLE PASSAGE: Genesis 24

STORY POINT: God gave Isaac a wife.

KEY PASSAGE: Galatians 3:29

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Why can we trust God? We can trust God because He is faithful.

LOW PREP

Play animal charades

Play out being an animal using motions and noises and invite preschoolers to guess what animal you are pretending to be. Invite preschoolers to play out animals of their choice. Play as long as preschoolers are interested. End the game by pretending to be a camel.

SAY • The servant knew that Rebekah was the woman God had chosen as Isaac's wife because she kindly offered to draw water for his camels. God was faithful to help the servant find Isaac a wife. ***Why can we trust God? We can trust God because He is faithful.***

Walk a water bucket relay

- clear containers, 4
- small cups, 1 per child
- towels

Prior to the session, gather four clear containers and one small cup per preschooler. Fill two of the containers with water and place them on one side of the room. Place the two empty containers on the other side of the room across from the full containers. Form two teams and invite each team to line up by the full buckets. One at a time, preschoolers will dip their cups into the full water bucket, carefully carry the cup across to the empty bucket, and dump it in. After all preschoolers have gone, the team with the most water in their container on the other side of the room wins. Keep towels handy for spills.

SAY • It was pretty hard to carry water all the way across the room without spilling it. Imagine how hard it must have been for Rebekah to carry enough water to give to all the camels! When she watered all the camels, the servant knew that **God gave Isaac a wife.**

Make a camel craft

Give each preschooler a sheet of construction paper. Help a preschooler paint one of her hands with washable brown paint. Show her how to gently press her palm onto her paper with fingers splayed and pointing down. Use a wipe to immediately remove any paint left on her hand. Provide markers and googly eyes for the preschooler to decorate her handprint to look like a camel. Write the story point on each child's paper and set it aside to dry.

- construction paper
- large paintbrush
- washable brown paint
- foam plate
- wipes
- googly eyes
- markers

SAY • Abraham's servant prayed that the girl whom God wanted Isaac to marry would offer water to him as well as his camels. Rebekah was the wife God chose for Isaac. **God gave Isaac a wife.** This was part of His promise to give Abraham a big family and bless the whole world. One day, Jesus would be born into Abraham's family.

Make a family

Invite preschoolers to use play dough or modeling clay to create members of a family, such as a father, a mother, and children. For an extra challenge, invite preschoolers to create a camel.

- modeling clay or play dough
- play dough tools

SAY • Good job forming families out of the play dough! When **God gave Isaac a wife**, He formed a new family. Only Isaac's family wasn't made out of clay, it was made out of real people!

- “Family in Canada” printable
- paper
- crayons and markers
- magazines (optional)
- scissors (adult use) (optional)
- glue stick (optional)



Talk about sharing the gospel

Print out the “Family in Canada” printable. Ask for four volunteers to hold up one of the pictures for the rest of the class to see. Read the captions under each photo.

Give each preschooler a blank piece of paper and instruct them to draw a picture showing how they can share the gospel with people they know. Consider providing people cutouts from magazines for younger preschoolers to glue on their paper.

SAY • In the missions video we watched earlier, we saw some ways God is using DJ’s family to share the gospel with South Asians living in Canada. We can also tell others about Jesus and His love right here where we live.

Snack and review

Play the countdown video to signal the end of activities. Wash hands and gather preschoolers for snack time. Pray, thanking God for the snack.

Ask for a volunteer to help carefully pass out the cups of water to all the other preschoolers one at a time. Remind preschoolers that Rebekah gave water to the servant, just like our volunteer gave water to all of them. Remind preschoolers that Abraham's servant knew that **God gave Isaac a wife** when he saw Rebekah give water to all the camels. Show the Bible story picture as you ask the following questions. Retell parts of the Bible story as needed.

1. What did Abraham want Isaac to do? (*get married*)
2. What did Abraham's servant ask God to help him do? (*find the right wife for Isaac*)
3. Who gave water to all the camels? (*Rebekah*)
4. Who thanked God for providing a wife for Isaac? (*the servant*)
5. ***Why can we trust God? We can trust God because He is faithful.***

Transition

When children finish their snack, preschoolers may color the Bible story coloring page, play a simple game to practice the key passage or big picture question, or sing along to the key passage or theme song.

If parents are picking up their children at this time, tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session. Distribute the preschool big picture cards for families.

- countdown video (optional)
- Allergy Alert download
- paper cups and napkins
- snack food
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster

- Bible Story Coloring Page
- crayons
- Key Passage Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster
- "If You Belong to Christ" song
- "You Are God" song
- Big Picture Cards for Families: Babies, Toddlers, and Preschoolers

Use Week of:

Unit 2 • Session 4

God's Promise to Isaac

BIBLE PASSAGE:

Genesis 25–26

STORY POINT: God reminded Isaac about His promises.

KEY PASSAGE:

Galatians 3:29

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Why can we trust God? We can trust God because He is faithful.



INTRODUCE THE STORY
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EXPERIENCE THE STORY
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LEADER Bible Study

In His covenant with Abraham, God promised land, descendants, and a blessing to all the nations of the earth. (Gen. 22:17-18) God would keep His promise through every generation, choosing one person to carry the line until one day, a child would be born into the family who would be the promised One. God reaffirmed the promise to Abraham's son Isaac. Isaac was the next child chosen to carry the family line.

After 20 years of marriage, Isaac and Rebekah still did not have children. Isaac prayed that God would give Rebekah a child, and God answered his prayer. Rebekah became pregnant with twins, but the pregnancy was difficult. The twins fought inside her, and Rebekah asked God, "Why is this happening to me?"

God explained His plan for the twins. The boys' families would become two nations (from Esau, the nation of Edom; from Jacob, the nation of Israel), one stronger than the other. And the older son would serve the younger. This was uncommon; the firstborn had a birthright—a double portion of the inheritance. But this prophecy showed God had chosen the younger twin to inherit the promise made to Abraham.

Jacob and Rebekah's boys were born and the older, Esau (EE saw), was unlike the younger, Jacob. Esau became a hunter, and Jacob stayed at home. One day, Esau agreed to give his birthright to Jacob in exchange for some bread and a bowl of stew.

Isaac may have perceived the conflict between brothers as a threat to the covenant. But God appeared to Isaac at Gerar and reaffirmed His promise of land, descendants, and a blessing to all the nations of the earth. (Gen. 26:4) He encouraged Isaac to be faithful like Abraham. God was at work in each generation. He showed grace by extending the promise to those who had no innate right to it, to those who did not deserve it.

The BIBLE Story

God's Promise to Isaac

Genesis 25–26

Abraham's son Isaac married Rebekah. After many years, they still did not have any children. **Isaac prayed and asked God to give them a baby.** God answered Isaac's prayer. **Rebekah became pregnant with twins**—two babies!—but the babies fought inside of her.

Rebekah was worried.

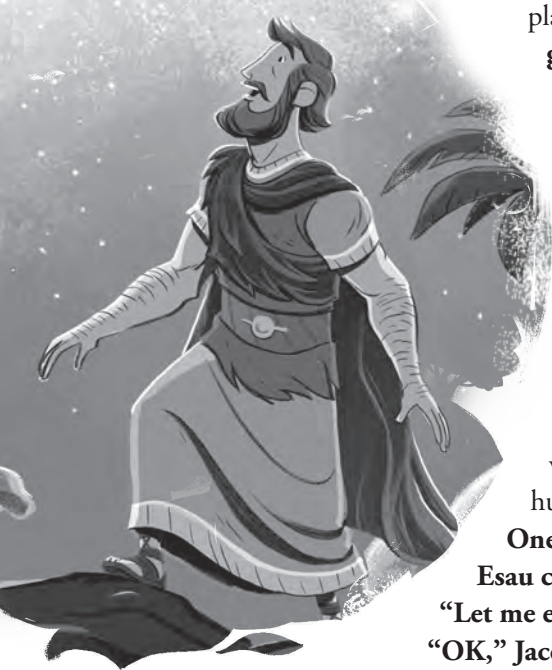
"Why is this happening?" she asked God. God told Rebekah part of His plan. **God said, "Your sons will grow up and their families will be two separate nations. One nation will be stronger than the other, and the older son will serve the younger."**

When Rebekah's babies were born, the older was called **Esau** (EE saw). He was red-looking and hairy. **The younger was named Jacob.**

When the boys grew up, they were very different. Esau was a hunter, and Jacob stayed at home.

One day, Jacob was cooking stew. Esau came in from the field and said, "Let me eat some of that."

"OK," Jacob said, "but first you have to sell me your birthright." A birthright was something only the firstborn son was supposed to get. Esau did not care about his birthright, so he **agreed to give it to Jacob** for some bread and stew.



Some time later, Isaac went to Gerar (geh RAHR) because there was not enough food in the land. **God appeared to him and said, “Live in the land I will tell you about. I will be with you and bless you. I will keep the promise I made to your father Abraham.”**

God said He would give Isaac a big family—as numerous as the stars—and land for his family. God would bless the earth through His family. God said, “I will do this because Abraham listened to Me and kept My commands.” So Isaac made his home in Gerar.

Christ connection: God’s promise for Abraham was for Isaac too. When Esau gave up his birthright, that meant Jacob would get the blessings God promised. One day, God would send Jesus to earth through Jacob’s family. He would bring blessing and salvation to the world.

Bible Storytelling Tips

- **Move with the story:** Move all the way across the room when Isaac goes to Gerar and tell the rest of the story from a new location.
- **Use props:** Use dolls, people figures, or other toys to play out the story of Jacob and Esau.

INTRODUCE the Story



SESSION TITLE: God's Promise to Isaac

BIBLE PASSAGE: Genesis 25–26

STORY POINT: God reminded Isaac about His promises.

KEY PASSAGE: Galatians 3:29

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Why can we trust God? We can trust God because He is faithful.

Welcome time

- “You Are God” song
- offering basket
- Allergy Alert download
- favorite toys related to the Bible story theme

Play a theme song in the background as you greet preschoolers and follow your church's security procedures. Set an offering basket near the door to collect at an appropriate time. Post an allergy alert, if necessary. Set out a few favorite theme-related toys, such as puzzles and blocks.

Activity page

- “Hidden Items” activity page, 1 per child
- markers or crayons

Invite preschoolers to use the key to find and circle items that do not belong in the stew.

SAY • Some of those things definitely did not belong in a pot of stew! In today's Bible story, one of Isaac's sons traded something very valuable for some bread and stew. Listen to discover what he traded in today's Bible story.

LOW PREP

- ball

Pass a ball

Invite preschoolers to stand in a line with a small amount of room between each person. Give the preschooler in the front of the line a ball and instruct him to pass it over his head to the next person. Instruct that person to pass the ball under her legs. Lead preschoolers to continue this over/under pattern until the ball reaches the end of the line. Time the preschoolers to see how fast they can move the

ball down the line.

SAY • Do you remember how God made a promise to Abraham? That promise passed down from Abraham to Isaac, kind of like you all passed the ball down the line. Listen to our Bible story to hear how **God reminded Isaac about His promises.**

Work food puzzles

Set out a variety of puzzles depicting food. Ask preschoolers to tell about their favorite foods as they work the puzzles. If food puzzles are unavailable, glue images of food cut out from grocery store circulars to paper plates. Cut the plates into pieces when the glue dries.

SAY • In today's Bible story, someone was so hungry that they made a foolish decision and traded something very important and valuable for just some stew and bread. Listen to our Bible story to discover what happened.

- puzzles depicting food
- paper plates (optional)
- grocery store circulars (optional)
- scissors (adult use) (optional)
- glue stick (optional)

Transition to tell the story

To gain the attention of all the preschoolers to move them to Bible study, show the countdown video, flip off the lights, or clap a simple rhythm for the children to copy. Invite preschoolers to pretend to look for wildlife as if they are on a hunt as they move to Bible study.

- countdown video (optional)

TEACH the Story



SESSION TITLE: God's Promise to Isaac

BIBLE PASSAGE: Genesis 25–26

STORY POINT: God reminded Isaac about His promises.

KEY PASSAGE: Galatians 3:29

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Why can we trust God? We can trust God because He is faithful.

Introduce the Bible story

- Bible
- bookmark
- Giant Timeline

Place a bookmark at Genesis 25–26 in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it. Reverently display the open Bible.

SAY • The Bible is God's true words to us. We can read it and see exactly what God wants to say. Today's story is from the first book in the Bible called Genesis.

Point to the Bible story picture on the giant timeline.

Remind children that all the stories in the Bible fit together to tell an even bigger story. The Bible tells us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

Watch or tell the Bible story

- Story Point Poster
- "God's Covenant with Abraham" video (optional)
- Bible Story Picture Poster

Show the video or tell the Bible story using the provided storytelling tips. Use the bolded version of the Bible story for young preschoolers.

SAY • The Bible stories we have heard these last several weeks show us God's faithfulness. God is faithful because He always does what He says He will do.

God reminded Isaac about His promises, showing that He would be faithful to keep those promises He made to Isaac's father, Abraham. God is good and powerful, and nothing will stop Him from doing what He promises.

Practice the key passage

Cut out the “Key Passage Marker” and place it at Galatians 3:29. Invite a volunteer to come up and open your Bible to the key passage. Read the key passage aloud. Practice the motions you created for the verse. Invite the boys to repeat the key passage after you one phrase at a time, and then invite the girls to do the same.

SAY • In this Bible story, we saw that the promise God made started with Abraham, and then it continued with Isaac. That same promise to bless all the world has now been passed all the way down to those of us who believe in Jesus today.

Sing the key passage song, “If You Belong to Christ,” and the theme song, “You Are God.”

- “Key Passage Marker” printable
- Key Passage Poster
- “If You Belong to Christ” song
- “You Are God” song

Learn the big picture question

SAY • Our big picture question is, *Why can we trust God? We can trust God because He is faithful.* God kept His promise to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. God sent Jesus to earth through Jacob’s family. Jesus brings blessing and salvation to the world.

- Big Picture Question Poster



Missions moment

SAY • God promised He would send His Son, Jesus, through Isaac’s family to save us from our sins, and He did! DJ’s friends, Auntie Hellen and Uncle Donald, are telling people in South Asia this good news. Watch the video to see how they are loving children from the slums.

Show the “They Matter to Jesus (Part 2)” video.

- “They Matter to Jesus (Part 2)” video

Pray and transition to experience the story

EXPERIENCE the Story



SESSION TITLE: God's Promise to Isaac

BIBLE PASSAGE: Genesis 25–26

STORY POINT: God reminded Isaac about His promises.

KEY PASSAGE: Galatians 3:29

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Why can we trust God? We can trust God because He is faithful.

LOW PREP

Mirror actions

Stand at the front of the classroom and invite preschoolers to mimic everything you do. Make simple motions like raising an arm or leg or leaning over.

SAY • You all did a great job following my example.

Abraham followed what God asked him to do, and God was pleased with Abraham. The promises that God made to Abraham were passed down to Isaac because God is faithful to keep His promises. ***Why can we trust God? We can trust God because He is faithful.***

Care for babies

- baby dolls
- doll beds
- blankets
- toy bottles
- other baby doll accessories

Set out baby dolls and baby doll accessories such as doll beds, blankets, toy bottles, and so forth. Encourage preschoolers to care for two babies at a time as if the babies were twins.

SAY • Isaac prayed and asked God to give him and Rebekah a baby. God answered Isaac's prayer and gave them two babies—twins! **God reminded Isaac about His promises.** God's promise for Abraham was for Isaac too. One day, God would send Jesus to earth through the family of Isaac's son, Jacob. Jesus would bring blessing and salvation to the world.

Play out making stew

Prior to the session, gather toy foods and hide them in various places around the room. Tell preschoolers that they will make stew by gathering all the foods from around the room and placing them in a pot. Once boys and girls place all the foods into the pot, hide them again and continue to play as time allows.

- toy food
- large pot

SAY • Esau gave up something called a birthright for the stew that his brother Jacob was making. This meant that when it came time to divide up all that Isaac owned, Jacob would get more than Esau. **God reminded Isaac of His promises**, promises that belonged to Jacob rather than Esau.

Count stars in the “sky”

Prior to the session, cover the underside of a table with glow-in-the-dark star stickers. Cover the table with a blanket or cloth. Allow preschoolers to take turns crawling under the table to look at the stars. Ask preschoolers to count the stars and tell you the number. Leave one side of the table uncovered so children are visible.

- table
- glow-in-the-dark adhesive stars
- blanket or large cloth

SAY • **God reminded Isaac about His promises.** God’s promise for Abraham was for Isaac too. God said He would give Isaac a big family—as numerous as the stars. God would bless the earth through His family. God did this when He sent Jesus to bring blessing and salvation to the world.

- opaque bag
- flip-flops
- ziplock bag
- uncooked rice
- plastic cup
- roll of bath tissue



Feel in a bag

Place flip-flops, a ziplock bag of uncooked rice, a plastic cup, and a roll of bath tissue into an opaque bag. Explain that many neighborhoods in South Asia are called slums. The houses in slums are very small. They have very little room, and the people living there own very little. Invite volunteers to take turns taking one item out of the paper bag. Invite a child to guess what the item has to do with the slums of South Asia. (Flip-flop: South Asians always take off their shoes when they enter a home; rice: a common food but many people have very little to eat; cup: clean water is hard to find; bath tissue: homes in the slums do not have bathrooms.)

SAY • Christian workers like DJ's friends Uncle Donald and Auntie Hellen help children from the slums get the things they need to lead healthier, happier lives. But the most important thing Uncle Donald and Auntie Hellen do for the children is tell them the good news about Jesus. Let's pray the children will want to know more about God and His promises.

Snack and review

Play the countdown video to signal the end of activities. Wash hands and gather preschoolers for snack time. Pray, thanking God for the snack.

Divide the snack into equal amounts, one serving for each preschooler. Prepare an additional snack serving, but make this one twice the size. Explain that getting a birthright meant that you got twice as much as your younger brothers and sisters. Esau gave up his birthright to Jacob, so that meant Jacob would get twice as much as Esau when it came time to divide up all that Isaac owned. Remind preschoolers that **God reminded Isaac of His promises**, and these promises would pass on to Jacob. Show the Bible story picture as you ask the following questions. Retell parts of the Bible story as needed.

1. What did Isaac ask God for? (*a baby*)
2. Who were Isaac and Rebekah's sons? (*Esau and Jacob*)
3. What did Esau give up his birthright for? (*stew and bread*)
4. What did God promise Isaac? (*to be with him*)
5. ***Why can we trust God? We can trust God because He is faithful.***

Transition

When children finish their snack, preschoolers may color the Bible story coloring page, play a simple game to practice the key passage or big picture question, or sing along to the key passage or theme song.

If parents are picking up their children at this time, tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session. Distribute the preschool big picture cards for families.

- countdown video (optional)
- Allergy Alert download
- paper cups and napkins
- snack food
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster

- Bible Story Coloring Page
- crayons
- Key Passage Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster
- "If You Belong to Christ" song
- "You Are God" song
- Big Picture Cards for Families: Babies, Toddlers, and Preschoolers

Unit 3: The Nation Grew

Unit Description:

God's promises for Abraham and Isaac were promises for Jacob too. God showed Jacob in a dream that He would bless Jacob's family, which would grow to be a whole nation as part of His plan to bring Jesus, the Savior of the world.

Key Passage:

Genesis 28:15a

Big Picture Question:

Does God keep His promises? God always keeps His promises.

Session 1:

Jacob and Esau

Genesis 27–28

Story Point: Jacob tricked Isaac.

Session 2:

Jacob and Rachel

Genesis 29–31

Story Point: Laban tricked Jacob.

Session 3:

Jacob's New Name

Genesis 32–33

Story Point: God changed Jacob's name to Israel.



Jacob and Esau

Jacob tricked Isaac.

Jacob and Rachel

Laban tricked Jacob.



Jacob's New Name

God changed Jacob's name to Israel.



Use Week of:

Unit 3 • Session 1

Jacob and Esau

BIBLE PASSAGE:

Genesis 27–28

STORY POINT: Jacob tricked Isaac.

KEY PASSAGE:

Genesis 28:15a

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Does God keep His promises? God always keeps His promises.

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TEACH THE STORY
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EXPERIENCE THE STORY
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LEADER Bible Study

1

Jacob and Esau were rivals before birth. They struggled in the womb, and Jacob was born grabbing onto Esau's heel. Even though he was younger, Jacob convinced Esau to sell him his birthright for some stew. When Isaac was old and blind, the time came for Isaac to bless Esau. With the blessing came the privilege afforded to the firstborn—leadership over the family. With Rebekah's guidance, Jacob deceived his father and stole his brother's blessing.

In his anger, Esau planned to kill Jacob. Rebekah sent Jacob away to her brother Laban until Esau calmed down. Isaac blessed Jacob before he left and told him to find a wife among his relatives.

Jacob had a 500-mile journey ahead of him. Along the way, he stopped and camped under the stars. He used a rock as a pillow and fell asleep. That night, Jacob dreamed and saw a stairway from the ground to the sky, and God's angels were going up and down on it.

The Lord stood beside him and said, "I am the LORD, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac" (Gen. 28:13). God promised to give Jacob's family land and numerous descendants, and He promised they would be a blessing to all the nations of the earth.

In the morning, Jacob set up the stone as a marker and poured oil on it. He named the place Bethel, which means "House of God." He vowed to follow God if God kept His promise to be with him and take care of him. Then Jacob continued on his journey.

Jacob was the child chosen by God to carry the family line—to follow God, to lead the family, and to teach the next generation to follow God too. The promises for Abraham and Isaac also became the promises for Jacob. At Bethel, God showed that His plan was to continue the covenant through Jacob's family and eventually a whole nation, leading to the birth of Jesus—the promised Savior.

The BIBLE Story

Jacob and Esau

Genesis 27–28

When Isaac was old and he could not see, he sent his older son, Esau, out to hunt. Isaac told him to bring home meat to make a delicious meal. Then Isaac would give Esau a blessing. Isaac's wife, Rebekah, heard what Isaac told Esau. She wanted her younger son, Jacob, to have the blessing, so she made a plan to trick Isaac.

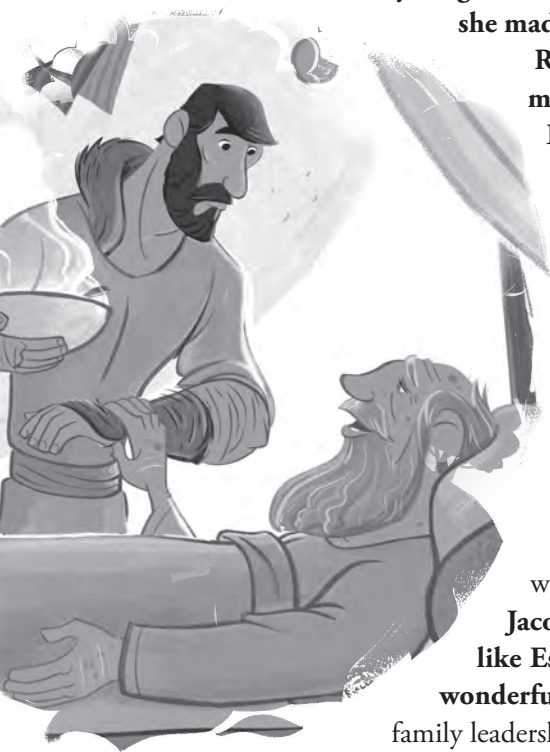
Rebekah made Isaac's favorite meal, and she dressed Jacob in Esau's clothing. She put goat skins on Jacob's hands and neck to make him seem hairy, like Esau. She told Jacob to pretend to be Esau.

Jacob took the meal to Isaac. Isaac wasn't quite sure that the person in the room was really Esau because the voice sounded like Jacob's.

"Who are you?" Isaac asked.

Jacob said, "I am Esau," which, of course, was not true. But Jacob smelled like Esau and felt like Esau, so Isaac blessed him with a wonderful blessing for wealth, success, and family leadership.

When Esau came home and learned what Jacob had done, he was angry. He wanted to hurt Jacob, so Isaac and Rebekah sent Jacob away. Isaac told him to go to his relatives and find a wife.



When night came, Jacob lay down on the ground. He used a rock for a pillow. Jacob dreamed of a giant stairway reaching from earth into the sky. Angels moved up and down the stairway. Jacob saw God standing there, and God promised Jacob the same things that He promised Abraham and Isaac. "I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go," God said.

Early the next morning, Jacob set up the stone near his head to remember where God had spoken to him. He poured oil on top of it and named the place Bethel. Jacob said, "If God will be with me and watch over me, then the Lord will be my God."

Christ Connection: God's promises for Abraham and Isaac were promises for Jacob too. God showed Jacob in a dream that He would bless Jacob's family and even a whole nation as part of His plan to bring Jesus, the Savior of the world.

Bible Storytelling Tips

- **Use props:** Provide faux fur, a bowl, and a large stone to display as you tell the story.
- **Make mind pictures:** Invite children to close their eyes and make pictures in their mind of the Bible story as you tell it.

INTRODUCE the Story



SESSION TITLE: Jacob and Esau

BIBLE PASSAGE: Genesis 27–28

STORY POINT: Jacob tricked Isaac.

KEY PASSAGE: Genesis 28:15a

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Does God keep His promises? God always keeps His promises.

Welcome time

- “You Are God” song
- offering basket
- Allergy Alert download
- favorite toys related to the Bible story theme

Play a theme song in the background as you greet preschoolers and follow your church’s security procedures. Set an offering basket near the door to collect at an appropriate time. Post an allergy alert, if necessary. Set out a few favorite theme-related toys, such as puzzles and blocks.

Activity page

- “Jacob and Esau” activity page, 1 per child
- markers or crayons

Help preschoolers draw a line connecting the Bible story items to the appropriate brother. Review last week’s Bible story as needed. (*Answers: Jacob: cooking items, tent, Rebekah; Esau: bow and arrow, bowl of stew, Isaac*)

SAY • Today’s Bible story is about Jacob and Esau again.

These brothers may have been twins, but they were very different. Esau was red and hairy. He was a hunter and enjoyed being outside, and Jacob liked to stay home in the tent. Their father, Isaac loved Esau best; and their mother, Rebekah loved Jacob best.

**LOW
PREP**

Guess who spoke

Choose a child to stand at the front of the room with his back to the class. Explain that you will tap a child in the group. That child will say “Hello, [child’s name]!” to

the child at the front. The child at the front will then try to guess who spoke to him. Give him a few tries before revealing the speaker. Choose another child and play again until each child who wishes to participate has a turn.

SAY • Was it easy or hard to tell who spoke to you since you couldn't see? In today's Bible story, Isaac was old and could not see. He thought his son Esau had come to bring him a meal, but the voice did not sound like Esau's. Let's listen to the Bible story to find out what happened.

Feel mystery items

Gather various items that will fit in a brown paper bag. Choose items that are readily available and vary in textures and sizes. Place each item in individual brown paper bags. Allow preschoolers to take turns feeling the item inside each bag without looking in the bag. Encourage children to guess what the item is. Reveal the item after a child has had several guesses.

• brown paper bags
• various items

SAY • Good job guessing what was in each bag. Was it easy or hard to tell what each thing was by feeling it? In today's Bible story, Isaac felt some hands that were hairy. He thought they belonged to his son Esau, but he was wrong. We will find out whose hands they were in today's Bible story.

Transition to tell the story

To gain the attention of all the preschoolers to move them to Bible study, show the countdown video, flip off the lights, or clap a simple rhythm for the children to copy. If you know preschoolers' birthdays, invite the children to move to Bible study from oldest to youngest.

• countdown video
(optional)

TEACH the Story



SESSION TITLE: Jacob and Esau

BIBLE PASSAGE: Genesis 27–28

STORY POINT: Jacob tricked Isaac.

KEY PASSAGE: Genesis 28:15a

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Does God keep His promises? God always keeps His promises.

Introduce the Bible story

- Bible
- bookmark
- Giant Timeline

Place a bookmark at Genesis 27–28 in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it. Reverently display the open Bible.

SAY • God speaks to us through the Bible. Everything God says in the Bible is true. Today's Bible story comes from the very first book of the Bible, Genesis.

Point to the Bible story picture on the giant timeline.

Remind children that all the stories in the Bible fit together to tell an even bigger story. The Bible tells us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

Watch or tell the Bible story

- Story Point Poster
- “Jacob and Esau” video (optional)
- Bible Story Picture Poster

Show the video or tell the Bible story using the provided storytelling tips. Use the bolded version of the Bible story for young preschoolers.

SAY • Jacob tricked Isaac. He stole his brother Esau's blessing. But Rebekah's and Jacob's trickery could not stop God's plan. God had planned all along that He would keep His promise to bless the whole world through Jacob's family, not Esau's. God was going to send His very own Son to rescue the world as part of Jacob's family.

Practice the key passage

Cut out the “Key Passage Marker” and place it at Genesis 28:15a. Invite a volunteer to come up and open your Bible to the key passage. Read the key passage aloud. Create motions for preschoolers to use as they say the key passage. Use the key passage song video for inspiration.

SAY • Our key passage comes from today’s Bible story. Jacob saw God in a dream, and God promised Jacob the same things that He promised Abraham and Isaac. “I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go,” God said.

Sing the key passage song, “Wherever, Wherever You Go,” and the theme song, “You Are God.”

- “Key Passage Marker” printable
- Key Passage Poster
- “Wherever, Wherever You Go” song
- “You Are God” song

Learn the big picture question

SAY • Our big picture question asks, *Does God keep His promises? God always keeps His promises.* God planned to keep the promises He made to Jacob’s grandfather Abraham. The promise was for Jacob’s family too. God would bless all people through this promise. God always does what He says He will do.

- Big Picture Question Poster



Missions moment

SAY • DJ is a kid missionary living in Ontario, Canada. He has four brothers, and unlike Jacob and Esau, these brothers work together. Along with their parents they tell people in Canada about Jesus, the Savior of the world. We can also work with their family through prayer.

Show the “Hey from Caleb” video and pray for DJ’s family.

- “Hey from Caleb” video

Pray and transition to experience the story

EXPERIENCE The Story



SESSION TITLE: Jacob and Esau

BIBLE PASSAGE: Genesis 27–28

STORY POINT: Jacob tricked Isaac.

KEY PASSAGE: Genesis 28:15a

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Does God keep His promises? God always keeps His promises.

LOW PREP

· Bible

Look at Jesus' family

Invite preschoolers to form a single-file line. Using the genealogy of Jesus in Matthew 1:1-17, tap the first child in line and say "Abraham." When you give a child a name, they must quickly move to the back of the line. Continue giving children names until you reach Jesus.

SAY • Did you recognize some of those names in Jesus' family? **Jacob tricked Isaac**, but God's promises for Abraham and Isaac were promises for Jacob too. God showed Jacob in a dream that He would bless Jacob's family and even a whole nation as part of His plan to bring Jesus, the Savior of the world.

Explore rocks

Set rocks and tools on a table. Invite preschoolers to explore the rocks. They may weigh the rocks, sort the rocks, or spray the rocks with water and look at them through a magnifying glass. Encourage creativity.

SAY • Jacob set up the rock he used as a pillow to remember where God spoke to him in a dream. He poured oil on top of the rock and named the place Bethel. **Jacob tricked Isaac**, but God's promises for Abraham and Isaac were promises for Jacob too. God planned to bless Jacob's family and even a whole

- rocks
- magnifying glasses
- scale
- spray bottles of water
- paper towels

Option: Take a class nature walk to collect rocks for this activity.

nation as part of His plan to bring Jesus, the Savior of the world.

Make hairy arm cuffs

Cut paper towel tubes to the length of preschoolers' forearms. Cut a slit along the length of the tube to form an arm cuff. Cut yarn into short lengths to serve as "hair." Show a preschooler how to glue yarn to his or her arm cuff. Set the cuffs aside to dry.

- paper towel tubes
- scissors (adult use)
- yarn
- glue

SAY • Rebekah put goat skins on Jacob's hands and neck to make him seem hairy, like Esau. She told Jacob to pretend to be Esau. **Jacob tricked Isaac**, but God's promises for Abraham and Isaac were promises for Jacob too. God planned to bless Jacob's family and even a whole nation as part of His plan to bring Jesus, the Savior of the world.

Play dress-up

Set out a variety of dress-up clothes. Invite preschoolers to try on different items. Challenge preschoolers to create a disguise.

- dress-up clothes
- button-up shirts
- coats
- hats
- glasses
- plastic jewelry

SAY • Rebekah dressed Jacob in Esau's clothing. She told Jacob to pretend to be Esau. **Jacob tricked Isaac**. But God had already planned to do His plan through Jacob's family. God would bless Jacob's family and even a whole nation as part of His plan to bring Jesus, the Savior of the world.



Make cards for DJ's family

Explain that preschoolers will make cards for DJ, Caleb, their family. Fold a piece of construction paper in half for each preschooler. Write *We appreciate you!* on the

- construction paper
- markers
- large envelope

front of each card and *Thank you for* on the inside. Help preschoolers finish the last sentence by writing down why they are thankful for DJ's family. Invite children to decorate their card. Mail cards to

680 Rayner Court

Milton, Ontario Canada L9T 0N9.

SAY • God promised to bless the whole world by sending Jesus to be the Savior of the world. ***Does God keep His promises? God always keeps His promises.*** Many people do not even know about this good promise God has made. Missionaries like DJ's family tell people about this promise so they can have the blessing of eternal life. We can encourage missionaries in the work God has given them by telling them we are thankful for them and the work they are doing.

Snack and review

Play the countdown video to signal the end of activities. Wash hands and gather preschoolers for snack time. Pray, thanking God for the snack.

Serve a class favorite for snack. Remind preschoolers Rebekah made Isaac's favorite meal and then **Jacob tricked Isaac** into giving him the blessing. Show the Bible story picture as you ask the following questions. Retell parts of the Bible story as needed.

1. Whom did Isaac plan to give his blessing to? (*Esau*)
2. Whom did Isaac bless instead? (*Jacob*)
3. How did Rebekah and Jacob trick Isaac into giving Jacob the blessing? (*made his favorite meal, dressed Jacob in Esau's clothes and put hair on him*)
4. How did Esau feel when he learned what Jacob had done? (*angry, he wanted to hurt Jacob*)
5. Whom did Jacob see in his dream? (*God, angels*)
6. What did God promise Jacob in his dream? (*the same things He promised to Abraham and Isaac*)
7. ***Does God keep His promises? God always keeps His promises.***

Transition

When children finish their snack, preschoolers may color the Bible story coloring page, play a simple game to practice the key passage or big picture question, or sing along to the key passage or a theme song.

If parents are picking up their children at this time, tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session. Distribute the preschool big picture cards for families.

- countdown video (optional)
- Allergy Alert download
- paper cups and napkins
- snack food
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster

- Bible Story Coloring Page
- crayons
- Key Passage Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster
- "You Are God" song
- "Wherever, Wherever You Go" song
- Big Picture Cards for Families: Babies, Toddlers, and Preschoolers

Use Week of:

Unit 3 • Session 2

Jacob and Rachel

BIBLE PASSAGE:

Genesis 29–31

STORY POINT:

Laban tricked Jacob.

KEY PASSAGE:

Genesis 28:15a

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Does God keep His promises? God always keeps His promises.



INTRODUCE THE STORY
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TEACH THE STORY
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Additional resources are available at gospelproject.com. For free training and session-by-session help, visit www.ministrygrid.com/web/thegospelproject.

LEADER Bible Study

When Isaac and Rebekah sent Jacob away from his home in the promised land of Canaan to escape the wrath of his brother Esau, Rebekah expected him to be gone for a few days—just until Esau calmed down. (Gen. 27:44) But days and then weeks and then months passed; Jacob was with Laban for twenty years. (Gen. 31:38)

Before Jacob left home, Isaac blessed him and instructed him to find a wife among his relatives. And that's what Jacob did. On his way to Laban's house, God appeared to Jacob at Bethel in a dream and gave Jacob the same covenant He gave to Abraham. Jacob believed God had chosen him as an heir of the promise—to follow God, to lead the family, and to teach the next generation to follow God too.

This meant Jacob would have a family. He arrived in Haran and saw Rachel, the daughter of Laban. Jacob loved Rachel. He agreed to work for seven years for Laban if Laban would let him marry Rachel. After seven years, Laban deceived Jacob. Instead of giving him Rachel, Laban gave him Rachel's older sister, Leah.

Jacob was angry. Laban demanded that Jacob work another seven years if he wanted to marry Rachel. So Jacob worked seven more years. Jacob's own plans for his life were not lining up with the Lord's plans. He wanted to have children with Rachel, but she was barren. His first four sons came from Leah. Finally, Rachel had Joseph and Benjamin.

In time, Jacob fathered twelve sons—Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Issachar, Zebulun, Joseph, and Benjamin. Even though Jacob did not love Leah, God loved her and He chose Jacob and Leah's son Judah to be the heir of the promise. Through Judah's family, God would show His love for the world by sending Jesus to be the Savior He promised.

The BIBLE Story

Jacob and Rachel

Genesis 29–31

Jacob had left his home and **traveled to the land of his uncle Laban**. He came to a well where shepherds were giving water to their sheep. “Do you know Laban?” Jacob asked.

“Yes,” they said. “Here comes his daughter Rachel.”

Rachel came to the well with more sheep, and Jacob gave them water. Jacob told Rachel that he was her relative, and Rachel ran to tell her father, Laban.

Laban welcomed Jacob into his house. Jacob stayed and helped him. Then Laban said, “What should I pay you for your work?”

Now **Laban had two daughters: the older was named Leah, and the younger was Rachel.** Jacob loved Rachel, so he said, “I will work for you seven years if you let me marry Rachel.”

Laban agreed. Jacob worked for seven years. Then Laban had a feast, but instead of letting Jacob marry Rachel, he tricked Jacob into marrying Leah.

Jacob was upset. “Why did you trick me?”

he asked.

Laban said, “I will let you marry Rachel too, but you must work seven more years.” So Jacob married Rachel, and he worked for



Laban seven more years.

Now **Jacob had two wives, but he loved Rachel more than Leah. When God saw Leah was not loved, He gave her children. Rachel wanted children too. God heard her prayer, and in time, God gave her children too.** In all, **Jacob had twelve sons:** Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Issachar, Zebulun, Joseph, and Benjamin. **God told Jacob to go home to the land of Canaan. So Jacob took his family and everything he owned, and he headed home.**

Christ Connection: Nothing could stop God's plan for the family of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. God loved Leah and used her in His plan. Through the family of Jacob and Leah's son Judah, God would show His love for the world by sending Jesus to be the Savior.

Bible Storytelling Tips

- **Portray emotions:** While telling the story, pause and draw (or enlist a volunteer to draw) different faces that represent how the Bible people feel or react during certain parts of the story.
- **Use dramatic conversation:** Vary your voice for the dialogue of different people. For example, use one voice for Laban and another voice for Jacob.

INTRODUCE the Story



SESSION TITLE: Jacob and Rachel

BIBLE PASSAGE: Genesis 29–31

STORY POINT: Laban tricked Jacob.

KEY PASSAGE: Genesis 28:15a

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Does God keep His promises? God always keeps His promises.

Welcome time

- “You Are God” song
- offering basket
- Allergy Alert download
- favorite toys related to the Bible story theme

Play a theme song in the background as you greet preschoolers and follow your church’s security procedures. Set an offering basket near the door to collect at an appropriate time. Post an allergy alert, if necessary. Set out a few favorite theme-related toys, such as puzzles and blocks.

Activity page

- “Many Sons” activity page, 1 per child
- markers or crayons

Invite preschoolers to count the brothers on the page. Guide them to circle the brother with his hands on his hips.

SAY • Remember God promised Abraham that he would have as many people in his family as there are stars in the sky. God gave Abraham a son, Isaac. Isaac had two sons, Jacob and Esau. In today’s Bible story we will hear how God gave Jacob twelve sons. God planned to send Jesus to earth through Jacob’s son Judah’s family.

LOW PREP

- blocks

Option: Find a picture of a Bible times well online. Print the image or show it to preschoolers on a mobile device to inspire them as they build.

Build a well with blocks

Set out blocks and invite preschoolers to work together to build a well. Explain that people dig into the ground to find water. This is called a well. They often build a wall around the hole to identify the well.

SAY • A few weeks ago, we heard the story of how Abraham's servant met Rebekah at a well. She would be the wife of Abraham's son Isaac. In today's Bible story, Isaac's son Jacob met his future wife at a well!

Sort in twelves

Color the bottom of each cup of a egg carton (dozen-sized) with a primary color marker. Some of the cups will have to be the same color. Set out coordinating pom-poms, one for each cup. Invite a preschooler to count the pom-poms and then sort each one into the cup with the matching color.

Guide her to count the cups. Allow preschoolers to take turns sorting and counting. Consider providing tongs for preschoolers to use to place the pom-poms in the cups as added fine motor skill practice.

SAY • Great job counting to 12! Do you remember how God promised Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob that they would have as many people in their family as stars in the sky? Well, in today's Bible story, God gave Jacob twelve sons! Let's hear how God grew Jacob's family.

- clean, empty dozen cardboard egg carton
- 12 pom-poms in primary colors
- markers in primary colors
- tongs (optional)

Transition to tell the story

To gain the attention of all the preschoolers to move them to Bible study, show the countdown video, flip off the lights, or clap a simple rhythm for the children to copy. Invite preschoolers to bleat like sheep as they move to Bible study.

- countdown video (optional)

TEACH the Story



SESSION TITLE: Jacob and Rachel

BIBLE PASSAGE: Genesis 29–31

STORY POINT: Laban tricked Jacob.

KEY PASSAGE: Genesis 28:15a

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Does God keep His promises? God always keeps His promises.

Introduce the Bible story

- Bible
- bookmark
- Giant Timeline

Place a bookmark at Genesis 29–31 in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it. Reverently display the open Bible.

SAY • Did you know the Bible is the most special of every book in the whole wide world? That's because it's the only book with God's words in it, and God's words are true. Today's Bible story is found in Genesis, the very first book of the Bible.

Point to the Bible story picture on the giant timeline. Remind children that all the stories in the Bible fit together to tell an even bigger story. The Bible tells us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

Watch or tell the Bible story

- Story Point Poster
- "Jacob and Esau" video (optional)
- Bible Story Picture Poster

Show the video or tell the Bible story using the provided storytelling tips. Use the bolded version of the Bible story for young preschoolers.

SAY • Last week, we heard the story of how **Jacob tricked Isaac**, and this week we heard how **Laban tricked Jacob**. But Laban's trickery could not stop God's plan. Jacob did not love Leah, but God loved Leah and used her in His plan. God would show His love for the world by sending Jesus to be the Savior through Leah and Jacob's son Judah.

Practice the key passage

Cut out the “Key Passage Marker” and place it at Genesis 28:15a. Invite a volunteer to come up and open your Bible to the key passage. Read the key passage aloud. Practice the motions you created for the verse. Say the key passage using different voices such as high, low, loud, soft, and so forth.

SAY • Our key passage is a promise that God made to Jacob. He promised Jacob that He would be with him and watch over him wherever he went.

Sing the key passage song, “Wherever, Wherever You Go,” and the theme song, “You Are God.”

- “Key Passage Marker” printable
- Key Passage Poster
- “Wherever, Wherever You Go” song
- “You Are God” song

Learn the big picture question

SAY • Can you answer our big picture question? ***Does God keep His promises? God always keeps His promises.*** God made a promise to the family of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Nothing would stop God from keeping His promise. God planned to show His love for the world by sending Jesus to be the Savior through the family of Jacob and Leah.

- Big Picture Question Poster



Missions moment

SAY • God’s plan is also for all nations to hear the good news about Jesus, but many people live in countries where sharing the gospel is not allowed. People from those places are moving to countries where they can hear the good news. Nothing can stop God’s plan!

Invite children to look at the “People in Your Place” graph and read the people group names listed.

- “People in Your Place” printable

Pray and transition to experience the story

EXPERIENCE the Story



SESSION TITLE: Jacob and Rachel

BIBLE PASSAGE: Genesis 29–31

STORY POINT: Laban tricked Jacob.

KEY PASSAGE: Genesis 28:15a

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Does God keep His promises? God always keeps His promises.

LOW PREP

- markers or crayons
- paper

Draw family portraits

Invite preschoolers to draw a picture of their family. Ask them about each family member as they work.

SAY • Nothing could stop God's plan for the family of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. **Laban tricked Jacob** into marrying Leah, but God loved Leah and used her in His plan. Through the family of Jacob and Leah's son Judah, God would show His love for the world by sending Jesus to be the Savior.

Build a sheep pen

- blocks
- plastic sheep
- people figures

Set out blocks. Guide preschoolers to build a sheep pen. Invite children to play out Jacob caring for Laban's sheep using plastic sheep and people figures.

SAY • **Laban tricked Jacob** into marrying Leah and working for him seven more years. Laban's tricks could not stop God's plan for the family of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Through the family of Jacob and Leah's son Judah, God planned to show His love for the world by sending Jesus to be the Savior.

- construction paper
- scissors (adult use only)
- markers
- glue sticks

Make "I am loved" art

Before the session, cut out 2-by-4-inch rectangles from construction paper. Make at least six rectangles for each

preschooler. Cut out one heart from construction paper for each child. Write *God* on each heart. Then write *I am loved!* at the top of a sheet of construction paper for each preschooler.

Give each preschooler a sheet of construction paper and six rectangles. Ask a preschooler to tell you who loves her. Write each of her responses on a separate rectangle. Then ask her to tell you who loves her most of all. Give the preschooler a God heart. Guide the preschooler to glue the God heart in the middle of the page and the rectangles around it.

SAY • Laban tricked Jacob. Jacob did not love Leah, but God did. God loved Leah and used her in His plan. Through the family of Jacob and Leah's son Judah, God would send His very own Son into the world. No one loves you as much as God does. God showed His love for you when He sent Jesus to die on the cross and rise again to rescue you from sin. You matter to Him!

Run a sheep relay

Form teams lined up in straight lines. On the opposite side of the room, set a bucket on the floor for each team. Spread cotton balls around the buckets. Give the first child in each line a set of tongs. When you say go, invite her to use the tongs to pick up one cotton ball "sheep" and put it in the bucket. She will then take the tongs to the next person on her team and move to the back of the line. Continue until all the "sheep" have been put into the bucket.

- buckets, 1 per team
- cotton balls
- tongs, 1 per team

SAY • Jacob worked for Laban for 14 years as a shepherd caring for Laban's sheep. Jacob worked hard so he could marry Rachel, but **Laban tricked Jacob.** But

tricks cannot stop God's plan. God used Leah in His plan to send Jesus to the world.



Play "Talk to Me" game

- "Talk to Me Game" printable
- heavyweight paper
- brad fastener
- paper clip

Practice talking about Jesus with this game. Print the "Talk to Me Game" printable on heavyweight paper. Push a brad fastener through the center of the spinner and loop a paper clip around the brad so that it spins freely. Guide preschoolers to take turns spinning and answering the questions.

SAY • God's plan is for all people to hear about His Son, Jesus. Just like nothing could stop God's plan for the family of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, nothing can stop God's plan for people from every nation to hear the good news about Jesus. God showed His love for the world by sending Jesus to be the Savior. People can hear this good news when we tell them!

Snack and review

Play the countdown video to signal the end of activities. Wash hands and gather preschoolers for snack time. Pray, thanking God for the snack.

Serve cookies you might find at a wedding for snack. Remind preschoolers that **Laban tricked Jacob** into marrying Leah. God loved Leah and used her in His plan to send Jesus as the Savior of the world.

Display the Bible story picture as you ask the following review questions. Retell portions of the Bible story as needed:

1. Whom did Jacob stay with and work for? (*his uncle Laban*)
2. Whom did Jacob love and want to marry? (*Rachel*)
3. Whom did Laban trick Jacob into marrying? (*Leah*)
4. Whom did Jacob trick in last week's Bible story? (*his father, Isaac*)
5. How many sons did Jacob have? (*12*)
6. What did Jacob do when God told him to go home? (*He obeyed.*)
7. ***Does God keep His promises? God always keeps His promises.***

Transition

When children finish their snack, preschoolers may color the Bible story coloring page, play a simple game to practice the key passage or big picture question, or sing along to the key passage or theme song.

If parents are picking up their children at this time, tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session. Distribute the preschool big picture cards for families.

- countdown video (optional)
- Allergy Alert download
- paper cups and napkins
- snack food
- wedding cookies (optional)
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster

- Bible Story Coloring Page
- crayons
- Key Passage Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster
- "You Are God" song
- "Wherever, Wherever You Go" song
- Big Picture Cards for Families: Babies, Toddlers, and Preschoolers



Use Week of:

Unit 3 • Session 3

Jacob's New Name

BIBLE PASSAGE:

Genesis 32–33

STORY POINT: God changed Jacob's name to Israel.

KEY PASSAGE:

Genesis 28:15a

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Does God keep His promises? God always keeps His promises.

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TEACH THE STORY
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EXPERIENCE THE STORY
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LEADER Bible Study

Jacob found himself stuck between a rock and a hard place. After stealing his older brother's blessing, he fled his home to escape Esau's anger. He spent time with his uncle Laban, got married, and fathered many children. Overall, Jacob prospered. God blessed him, but Jacob's time with his uncle Laban did not end well. Laban's sons accused Jacob of taking their father's wealth.

God was with Jacob and when He told Jacob to leave, Jacob did not hesitate. He gathered his family and all of his possessions and headed home to Canaan with Laban in pursuit. But uncertainty awaited Jacob in his homeland. His brother Esau was there. The last time Jacob saw Esau, Esau wanted to kill him.

God had reaffirmed to Jacob the promise He gave Abraham and Isaac, and He had promised to be with Jacob. But with Laban behind him and Esau before him, how could Jacob possibly survive?

Jacob tried to prepare for his meeting with Esau. He strategically divided his family into separate groups. He sent gifts ahead of them to appease Esau. That night, Jacob anxiously awaited word from Esau, and that is when he encountered the Lord.

Did Jacob win the wrestling match? Was he stronger than the Lord? The victory was ironic; Jacob did not win by strength (God proved His power by crippling Jacob with just a touch) but by confessing his dependence on God's blessing.

Jacob had nowhere else to turn. He could not succeed by his own strength. Jacob held onto God and would not let go. God poured out His grace on Jacob. He blessed Jacob and gave him a new name, Israel. From Jacob's descendants—from the nation of Israel—God would bring into the world His Son, Jesus.

The BIBLE Story

Jacob's New Name

Genesis 32–33

Jacob took his family and everything he had, and he headed home to Canaan. Jacob was afraid to see his brother Esau again.

What if Esau was still angry? Jacob sent messengers ahead to tell Esau that he was coming. The messengers came back. “Esau is coming to meet you!” they said. “He has a big group of people with him!”



Jacob was very afraid! Was Esau coming to hurt him? Would all those people hurt Jacob and his family? **Jacob made a plan to stay safe. He told part of his family to go one way, and the other part to go another way. If Esau fought one group, maybe the other group could get away.**

Then Jacob prayed. He asked God to keep His promise. “Please rescue me from my brother,” he prayed.

Then Jacob sent gifts to Esau—many animals like goats, sheep, camels, cows, bulls, and donkeys. Jacob hoped Esau would be happy with the gifts. Maybe then Esau would forgive him.

That night, a man appeared to Jacob. (The man was God!) The man wrestled with Jacob all night. Jacob would not give up, so the man hurt Jacob's hip.

“Let Me go. The sun is coming up,” the man said.

But Jacob did not let Him go. “I will not let You go unless You bless me,” Jacob said.

“Your name was Jacob,” said the man, “but now your name will be Israel. You wrestled with God and with men, and you have won.”

The man blessed Jacob. The sun came up, and Jacob limped because his hip was hurt.

Now Jacob saw Esau and the big group of people coming toward him. Jacob went to meet Esau. He bowed down to show respect. **Esau ran to Jacob and hugged him. Esau was not angry anymore!**

Esau went back to his home, and Jacob traveled a little farther. **Jacob** bought land for his family to live on. He **was finally home in the land God had promised to give him.**

Christ Connection: God changed Jacob's life and gave him a new name, Israel. By dying and rising from the dead, Jesus made the way for us to be adopted into God's family. When we are adopted into God's family, we get a new name, too—children of God. (John 1:12)

Bible Storytelling Tips

- **Move with the story:** Act out the story as you tell it. Walk around like you're traveling, pray, pretend to wrestle someone, walk with a hurt hip, run to hug someone, and travel to your land.
- **Change the atmosphere:** Dim the lights during the night part of the story. Turn on the lights when “the sun comes up.”

INTRODUCE the Story



SESSION TITLE: Jacob's New Name

BIBLE PASSAGE: Genesis 32–33

STORY POINT: God changed Jacob's name to Israel.

KEY PASSAGE: Genesis 28:15a

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Does God keep His promises? God always keeps His promises.

Welcome time

- "You Are God" song
- offering basket
- Allergy Alert download
- favorite toys related to the Bible story theme

Play a theme song in the background as you greet preschoolers and follow your church's security procedures. Set an offering basket near the door to collect at an appropriate time. Post an allergy alert, if necessary. Set out a few favorite theme-related toys, such as puzzles and blocks.

Activity page

- "Find the Brothers" activity page, 1 per child
- markers or crayons

Guide preschoolers to use the key to find and circle Jacob and Esau in the crowd.

SAY • Do you remember when we heard the story of how Jacob stole his brother Esau's blessing? Esau was so angry, he wanted to hurt Jacob; so Jacob went to his uncle Laban's. Jacob had been gone for many years. Now God told him to go home. Jacob was afraid to see his brother again. Let's find out what happened when they saw each other.

LOW PREP

- construction paper, 4 colors
- tape

Play four colors

Tape four different colored sheets of construction paper spaced out around the room. Tell preschoolers to choose a color to stand beside. Explain that you will close your eyes and count to 10. Children must move to another color

while you count. When you finish counting, you will call out a color and then open your eyes. The children standing by the color you called out will cheer. Be sure another leader is monitoring the children as you count. Consider allowing older preschoolers to take turns counting and calling out colors.

SAY • That was fun! The colors separated our one class into four groups. In today's Bible story, Jacob separated his one big family into two groups. We will find out why when we hear the Bible story.

Play an animal matching game

Print two copies of the "Animal Matching Cards" and cut out the cards. Mix up the cards and lay them on the table faceup in a grid pattern for preschoolers to observe. Then flip over the cards. Guide preschoolers to take turns turning over two cards at a time to find a match. Consider leaving the cards faceup for younger preschoolers.

- "Animal Matching Cards" printable
- scissors (adult use)

SAY • What would you say if someone gave you one of these animals as a gift? Many years before, Jacob stole his brother Esau's birthright. Now Jacob was about to see his brother again for the first time in 20 years. Jacob sent animals like these as gifts to his brother. He was hoping Esau would be happy with the gifts and would forgive him. Let's find out if Esau forgave Jacob in our Bible story.

Transition to tell the story

To gain the attention of all the preschoolers to move them to Bible study, show the countdown video, flip off the lights, or clap a simple rhythm for the children to copy. Call each child by name to invite her to Bible study.

- countdown video (optional)

TEACH the Story



SESSION TITLE: Jacob's New Name

BIBLE PASSAGE: Genesis 32–33

STORY POINT: God changed Jacob's name to Israel.

KEY PASSAGE: Genesis 28:15a

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Does God keep His promises? God always keeps His promises.

Introduce the Bible story

- Bible
- bookmark
- Giant Timeline

Place a bookmark at Genesis 32–33 in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it. Reverently display the open Bible.

SAY • The Bible is a true book. The stories we hear from the Bible are not pretend. They really happened! God talks to us through the Bible. Today's Bible story is from Genesis, the first book of the Bible.

Point to the Bible story picture on the giant timeline. Remind children that all the stories in the Bible fit together to tell an even bigger story. The Bible tells us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

Watch or tell the Bible story

- Story Point Poster
- "Jacob and Esau" video (optional)
- Bible Story Picture Poster

Show the video or tell the Bible story using the provided storytelling tips. Use the bolded version of the Bible story for young preschoolers.

SAY • How wonderful that Esau was not angry with Jacob anymore! But even more wonderful that God appeared to Jacob! Jacob would not let God go until He blessed him. **God changed Jacob's name to Israel.** By dying and rising from the dead, Jesus made the way for us to be adopted into God's family. When we are adopted into God's family, we get a new name, too—children of God.

Practice the key passage

Cut out the “Key Passage Marker” and place it at Genesis 28:15a. Invite a volunteer to come up and open your Bible to the key passage. Read the key passage aloud. Practice the motions you created for the verse. Allow preschoolers to take turns saying the key passage from memory.

SAY • God promised Jacob that He would be with Jacob and would watch over Jacob wherever he went. God was with Jacob as he returned to Canaan and watched over him just like He promised.

Sing the key passage song, “Wherever, Wherever You Go,” and the theme song, “You Are God.”

- “Key Passage Marker” printable
- Key Passage Poster
- “Wherever, Wherever You Go” song
- “You Are God” song

Learn the big picture question

SAY • Our big picture question is, *Does God keep His promises? God always keeps His promises.* God kept His promises to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. God always does what He says He will do. We can trust Him!

- Big Picture Question Poster



Missions moment

Form a circle. Toss a beach ball into the air and challenge preschoolers to keep it aloft without moving their feet. When the ball falls to the floor, prompt preschoolers to suggest one specific way to pray for missionaries like DJ’s family. Share “DJ’s Family Prayer Card” and remind preschoolers that we can partner with DJ’s family through prayer.

- beach ball
- “DJ’s Family Prayer Card” printable

Pray and transition to experience the story

EXPERIENCE the Story



SESSION TITLE: Jacob's New Name

BIBLE PASSAGE: Genesis 32–33

STORY POINT: God changed Jacob's name to Israel.

KEY PASSAGE: Genesis 28:15a

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Does God keep His promises? God always keeps His promises.

LOW PREP

Sing a name song

Lead preschoolers in singing and clapping the name of each child in class. Use the following lyrics to the tune of “London Bridge.”

“Clap a friend's name with me, name with me,
name with me.

Clap a friend's name with me. Let's clap [*child's name*]!”

Sing again changing the motion from clapping to stomping to patting knees.

SAY • God changed Jacob's life and gave him a new name.

God changed Jacob's name to Israel. By dying and rising from the dead, Jesus made the way for us to be adopted into God's family. When we are adopted into God's family, we get a new name, too—children of God.

Dot your name

- paper
- marker
- heavyweight paper
- paint daubers
- pencil

Write *Jacob* and *Israel* on separate sheets of paper. Display the signs for preschoolers. Ask children to tell you what is different about the two signs.

Use a pencil to neatly write each child's name on a sheet of heavyweight paper. Invite a preschooler to use paint daubers to make dots to cover the letters of his name.

SAY • **God changed Jacob's name to Israel.** Did you know

that when we turn from our sin and trust in Jesus, we get a new name, too? Children of God! Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead to make us part of God's family.

Make an autograph book

Cut paper into fourths to create an autograph book for each child. Determine the number of pages each book needs based on the number of preschoolers in the class.

- paper
- scissors (adult use)
- stapler
- staples
- colorful tape
- markers or crayons

Show a preschooler how to stack the papers and line up the edges. Staple along one side. Guide him to cover the staples with colorful tape. Write *Children of God* on the front of his book. Invite children to take turns letting each other sign a page in their book. Preschoolers may write their name, write their initials, or draw a picture of themselves.

SAY • We all have special names that our parents gave us. Jacob had a special name too, but God gave Jacob a new name that showed God would bless him and his family. **God changed Jacob's name to Israel.** When we trust in Jesus and are adopted into God's family, God gives us a new name—children of God!

Move your body

Print, cut out, and assemble the "Movement Cubes." Invite preschoolers to take turns tossing the cubes. Read the movement and the body part on the top of the cubes to children. Lead preschoolers in performing the action. Each time the cube lands on *hips*, remind children of how God hurt Jacob's hip when they wrestled.

- "Movement Cubes" printable
- scissors (adult use)
- tape

SAY • God hurt Jacob's hip when they wrestled. God told Jacob that he wrestled with God and won. Was Jacob stronger than God? No way! God is most powerful.

God said Jacob won because he would not let go of God. Jacob learned that he needed God most of all. God changed Jacob's life and gave him a new name. **God changed Jacob's name to Israel.** God was going to bless the whole world through Jacob's family.



Play gutte

· paper

Invite preschoolers to play the traditional Indian game of *gutte* that uses small stones. Gutte is similar to the game of jacks. Make “stones” by wadding five small pieces of paper into balls. Form groups if you have many children.

Demonstrate how to play by placing the paper stones close to you. Lightly toss one “stone” in the air while picking up another stone from the ground. Keep the stone if you are able to collect it without dropping the stone in the air. Try to collect all of the stones. Allow each preschooler a turn.

SAY • India is the largest country in South Asia. Many people from India have moved to Canada where DJ and his family live. DJ and his brothers probably play games like this with their Indian friends so they can also tell them about Jesus. DJ and his family want the Indian people in Canada to know that Jesus made the way for them to be adopted into God's family. God wants the Indian people to be His children, too.

Snack and review

Play the countdown video to signal the end of activities. Wash hands and gather preschoolers for snack time. Pray, thanking God for the snack.

Serve animal crackers for snack. Remind preschoolers that Jacob sent animals as gifts to Esau. Jacob hoped Esau would be happy with the gifts. Maybe then Esau would forgive him. Display the Bible story picture as you ask the following review questions. Retell portions of the Bible story as needed:

1. Why was Jacob afraid to see his brother Esau? (*Jacob had stolen his father's blessing from Esau.*)
2. Why did Jacob tell part of his family to go one way and the other part to go another? (*If Esau fought one group, maybe the other group could get away.*)
3. Whom did Jacob wrestle with all night? (*God*)
4. What did God change Jacob's name to? (*Israel*)
5. Was Esau happy or angry to see Jacob? (*happy*)
6. ***Does God keep His promises? God always keeps His promises.***

Transition

When children finish their snack, preschoolers may color the Bible story coloring page, play a simple game to practice the key passage or big picture question, or sing along to the key passage or theme song.

If parents are picking up their children at this time, tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session. Distribute the preschool big picture cards for families.

- countdown video (optional)
- Allergy Alert download
- paper cups and napkins
- snack food
- animal crackers (optional)
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster

- Bible Story Coloring Page
- crayons
- Key Passage Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster
- "You Are God" song
- "Wherever, Wherever You Go" song
- Big Picture Cards for Families: Babies, Toddlers, and Preschoolers

Volume 1: In the Beginning

Unit 1: God Created Everything

- Session 1: God Created the World (*Genesis 1*)
- Session 2: God Created People (*Genesis 1–2*)
- Session 3: Sin Entered the World (*Genesis 3*)
- Session 4: Noah and the Ark (*Genesis 6–9*)
- Session 5: The Tower of Babel (*Genesis 11*)
- Session 6: The Suffering of Job (*Job*)

Unit 2: God Formed a Nation

- Session 1: God's Covenant with Abraham (*Genesis 12; 15; 17*)
- Session 2: Abraham and Isaac (*Genesis 22*)
- Session 3: Isaac and Rebekah (*Genesis 24*)
- Session 4: God's Promise to Isaac (*Genesis 25–26*)

Unit 3: The Nation Grew

- Session 1: Jacob and Esau (*Genesis 27–28*)
- Session 2: Jacob and Rachel (*Genesis 29–31*)
- Session 3: Jacob's New Name (*Genesis 32–33*)

Volume 2: Out of Egypt

Unit 4: God's People in Egypt

- Session 1: Joseph Sent to Egypt (*Genesis 37*)
- Session 2: Joseph Explained Dreams (*Genesis 39–41*)
- Session 3: Joseph Saved His Family (*Genesis 42–46; 50*)
- Christmas: Jesus Was Born (*Isaiah 9; Luke 2*)
- Session 4: Moses Was Born and Called (*Exodus 1–4*)
- Session 5: The Plagues and the Passover (*Exodus 5–12*)
- Session 6: The Red Sea Crossing (*Exodus 13–15*)

Unit 5: Toward the Promised Land

- Session 1: Bread from Heaven (*Exodus 15–17*)
- Session 2: Jethro Helped Moses (*Exodus 18*)
- Session 3: The Ten Commandments (*Exodus 19–20*)

Unit 6: Worship in the Wilderness

- Session 1: The Golden Calf (*Exodus 32; 34*)
- Session 2: The Tabernacle Was Built (*Exodus 35–40*)
- Session 3: Rules for Sacrifice (*Leviticus*)

Volume 3: Into the Promised Land

Unit 7: Wandering in the Wilderness

- Session 1: Joshua and Caleb (*Numbers 13–14*)
- Session 2: The Bronze Snake (*Numbers 20–21*)
- Session 3: Balaam and Balak (*Numbers 22–24*)
- Session 4: Moses' Farewell (*Deuteronomy 31–34*)

Unit 8: Conquering the Land

- Session 1: Crossing the Jordan (*Joshua 1–4*)
- Session 2: The Battle of Jericho (*Joshua 2; 6*)
- Session 3: Taking the Land (*Joshua 10–11; 24*)
- Easter: Jesus' Crucifixion and Resurrection (*Matthew 26–28*)

Unit 9: The Cycle of Judges

- Session 1: Israel's Unfaithfulness (*Judges 1–3*)
- Session 2: Deborah and Barak (*Judges 4–5*)
- Session 3: Gideon (*Judges 6–8*)
- Session 4: Samson (*Judges 13–16*)
- Session 5: Ruth and Boaz (*Ruth*)

Volume 4: The Kingdom Provided

Unit 10: Samuel and King Saul

- Session 1: Hannah and Samuel (*1 Samuel 1–3*)
- Session 2: The Ark Was Captured (*1 Samuel 4–6*)
- Session 3: Israel's First King (*1 Samuel 8–15*)

Unit 11: Great King David

- Session 1: David Was Anointed (*1 Samuel 16–17*)
- Session 2: David Showed Mercy (*1 Samuel 24*)
- Session 3: God's Covenant with David (*2 Samuel 6–7*)
- Session 4: David's Kindness (*2 Samuel 9*)
- Session 5: David Sinned and Was Restored (*2 Samuel 11–12; Psalm 51*)
- Session 6: David's Psalm (*Psalm 23*)

Unit 12: Wise King Solomon

- Session 1: Solomon Asked for Wisdom (*1 Kings 2–3*)
- Session 2: Wisdom for God's People (*Proverbs; Ecclesiastes; Song of Songs*)
- Session 3: Solomon Built the Temple (*1 Kings 6–8*)
- Session 4: The Kingdom Divided (*1 Kings 11–12*)

Volume 5: A Nation Divided

Unit 13: Elijah and Elisha

- Session 1: Elijah and the Widow (*1 Kings 17*)
- Session 2: Elijah at Mount Carmel (*1 Kings 18–19*)
- Session 3: Elijah and Elisha (*2 Kings 2*)
- Session 4: Elisha and the Army (*2 Kings 6–7*)

Unit 14: The Northern Kingdom of Israel

- Session 1: Jonah, Prophet to Nineveh (*Jonah*)
- Session 2: Hosea, Prophet to Israel (*Hosea*)
- Session 3: Israel Taken Captive (*2 Kings 17*)

Unit 15: The Southern Kingdom of Judah

- Session 1: Isaiah, Prophet to Judah (*Isaiah 6; 53*)
- Session 2: Hezekiah and Josiah (*2 Chronicles 29; 34–35*)
- Session 3: Jeremiah, Prophet to Judah (*Jeremiah*)
- Session 4: Habakkuk the Prophet (*Habakkuk*)
- Session 5: Judah Taken Captive (*2 Chronicles 36*)
- Session 6: Ezekiel Gave Hope (*Ezekiel 37*)

Volume 6: A People Restored

Unit 16: Hope in Exile

- Session 1: The Fiery Furnace (*Daniel 3*)
- Session 2: Nebuchadnezzar's Dream (*Daniel 4*)
- Session 3: Daniel in the Lions' Den (*Daniel 6*)
- Christmas: Jesus Was Born (*Matthew 1*)
- Session 4: Daniel's Dream (*Daniel 7*)

Unit 17: Return to the Land

- Session 1: Obadiah the Prophet (*Obadiah*)
- Session 2: The Captives Came Home (*Ezra 1–3; Haggai*)
- Session 3: The Temple Was Rebuilt (*Ezra 4–6*)
- Session 4: Zechariah the Prophet (*Zechariah*)

Unit 18: The People Restored

- Session 1: Esther Saved Her People (*Esther*)
- Session 2: The Walls Rebuilt (*Nehemiah 1–6*)
- Session 3: God's People Repented (*Nehemiah 7–13*)
- Session 4: Malachi the Prophet (*Malachi*)

Volume 7: Jesus the Messiah

Unit 19: Into the World

- Session 1: From Adam to Jesus (*Matthew 1; Luke 3; John 1*)
- Session 2: John Was Born (*Luke 1*)
- Session 3: Jesus Was Born (*Luke 2*)

Session 4: Jesus Was Dedicated (*Luke 2*)

Session 5: Jesus as a Child (*Matthew 2; Luke 2*)

Unit 20: Prepare the Way

- Session 1: Jesus' Baptism (*Matthew 3; Mark 1; Luke 3; John 1*)
- Easter: Jesus' Crucifixion and Resurrection (*Matthew 26–28; 1 Corinthians 15*)
- Session 2: Jesus' Temptation (*Matthew 4; Mark 1; Luke 4*)
- Session 3: John Pointed to Jesus (*Matthew 3; John 1; 3*)
- Session 4: Jesus Called Disciples (*Matthew 4; 9; Mark 1–3; Luke 5–6*)

Unit 21: Among the People

- Session 1: Jesus' Early Miracles (*Mark 1*)
- Session 2: Jesus Taught in Nazareth (*Luke 4*)
- Session 3: Jesus and Nicodemus (*John 3*)
- Session 4: Jesus and the Samaritan Woman (*John 4*)

Volume 8: Jesus the Servant

Unit 22: Jesus the Healer

- Session 1: Jesus Healed Ten Men (*Luke 17*)
- Session 2: Jesus Healed a Woman and a Girl (*Mark 5*)
- Session 3: Jesus Healed a Man Who Was Lame (*John 5*)
- Session 4: Jesus Healed a Man Who Was Blind (*John 9*)

Unit 23: Jesus the Teacher

- Session 1: The Sermon on the Mount (*Matthew 5–7*)
- Session 2: The Cost of Following Jesus (*Matthew 8; 16; Luke 9; 14*)
- Session 3: Jesus Taught About Prayer (*Luke 11; 18*)
- Session 4: Jesus Taught About Possessions (*Luke 12*)
- Session 5: The Good Shepherd (*John 10*)

Unit 24: Jesus the Miracle-Worker

- Session 1: Jesus Calmed a Storm (*Matthew 8; Mark 4–5; Luke 8*)
- Session 2: Jesus Fed a Crowd (*Matthew 14; Mark 6; Luke 9; John 6*)
- Session 3: Jesus Walked on Water (*Matthew 14; Mark 6; John 6*)
- Session 4: Jesus Showed His Glory (*Matthew 17; Mark 9; Luke 9*)

Volume 9: Jesus the Savior

Unit 25: The Kingdom to Come

Session 1: Kingdom Parables (*Matthew 13*)

Session 2: Three Parables (*Luke 15*)

Session 3: Jesus' Hard Teachings (*John 6*)

Session 4: Jesus Raised Lazarus (*John 11*)

Unit 26: To the Cross

Session 1: Jesus' Triumphal Entry

(*Matt. 21; Mark 11; Luke 19; John 12*)

Session 2: Jesus Was Questioned

(*Matthew 22; Mark 12; Luke 20*)

Session 3: The Last Supper

(*Matthew 26; Mark 14; Luke 22; John 13*)

Session 4: Jesus Was Arrested (*Matthew 26–27*)

Session 5: Jesus' Crucifixion

(*Matthew 26–27; John 18–19*)

Unit 27: Out of the Grave

Session 1: Jesus' Resurrection

(*Matthew 28; John 20*)

Session 2: The Emmaus Disciples (*Luke 24*)

Session 3: Jesus Appeared to the Disciples

(*Luke 24; John 20*)

Session 4: Jesus Returned to Heaven

(*Matthew 28; Acts 1*)

Volume 10: The Mission Begins

Unit 28: The Holy Spirit Empowers

Session 1: The Holy Spirit Came (*Acts 2*)

Session 2: Peter Healed a Man (*Acts 3–4*)

Christmas: Jesus Was Born (*John 1*)

Session 3: Faithful in Hard Times

(*1 Peter 1–2*)

Session 4: Living Like Jesus (*2 Peter 1*)

Unit 29: The Early Church

Session 1: Ananias and Sapphira (*Acts 4–5*)

Session 2: Stephen's Sermon (*Acts 6–7*)

Session 3: The Good News (*Romans 5–6*)

Session 4: Doers of the Word (*James 1–2*)

Unit 30: The Church Grew

Session 1: Philip and the Ethiopian (*Acts 8*)

Session 2: Paul Met Jesus (*Acts 8–9*)

Session 3: New Life in Jesus (*Colossians 2–3*)

Session 4: Guarding the Truth (*2 Corinthians 11*)

Volume 11: The Church United

Unit 31: From Jews to Gentiles

Session 1: Peter and Cornelius (*Acts 10*)

Session 2: Barnabas in Antioch (*Acts 11*)

Session 3: Jesus Is Better (*Hebrews 1–8*)

Session 4: The Hall of Faith (*Hebrews 11*)

Easter: Jesus' Crucifixion and Resurrection
(*Matthew 26–28; John 20*)

Unit 32: Making Disciples

Session 1: Peter Escaped from Prison (*Acts 12*)

Session 2: Paul's First Journey (*Acts 13–14*)

Session 3: The Church Divided (*1 Corinthians 1–6*)

Session 4: Letters to Church Leaders

(*1–2 Timothy; Titus*)

Unit 33: A Firm Foundation

Session 1: The Jerusalem Council (*Acts 15*)

Session 2: Paul's Second Journey (*Acts 15–18*)

Session 3: No Other the Gospel (*Galatians 1–3*)

Session 4: Paul Gave Hope (*1–2 Thessalonians*)

Volume 12: All Things New

Unit 34: Fight the Good Fight

Session 1: Paul's Third Journey (*Acts 18–21*)

Session 2: Paul Was Arrested (*Acts 21–23*)

Session 3: Together in Jesus (*Ephesians 2–3*)

Session 4: Running the Race (*Philippians 3*)

Unit 35: Finishing Strong

Session 1: Paul Before Rulers (*Acts 24–26*)

Session 2: Paul's Shipwreck (*Acts 27–28*)

Session 3: Brothers in Christ (*Philemon*)

Session 4: Children of God (*1 John 2–3*)

Session 5: Defending the Faith (*Jude*)

Unit 36: Come, Lord Jesus

Session 1: John's Vision of Jesus (*Revelation 1*)

Session 2: Letters to the Seven Churches

(*Revelation 2–3*)

Session 3: Before the Throne (*Revelation 4–5*)

Session 4: Jesus Will Return (*Revelation 19–22*)

Coming Next Volume!



OUT OF EGYPT

God's people were slaves in Egypt. When they cried out to be saved, God sent Moses to rescue His people—a preview of how one day God would send Jesus to save His people as well. Moses led the people out of Egypt and back toward the land that God had given Abraham. God gave His people rules for how to obey and worship Him. The rules reflect God's character and are impossible to keep perfectly. This shows that God is holy and that all people are separated from God because of sin. God made it clear that people need another way to be right with God—a way found only in Jesus.



**The Red Sea
Crossing**
Exodus 13–15

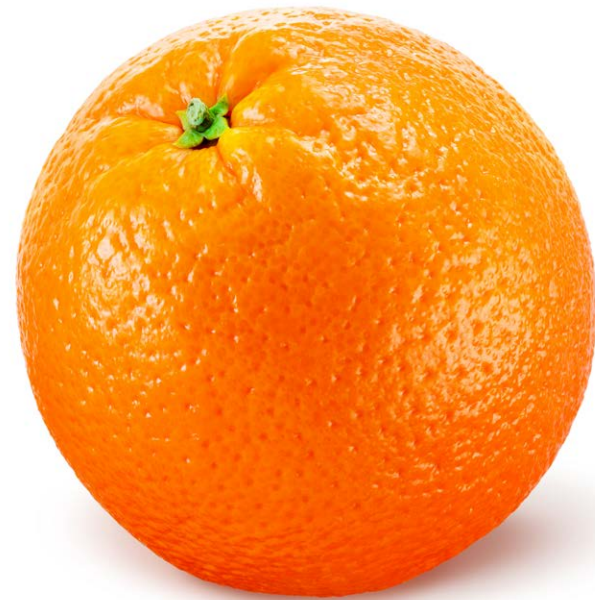
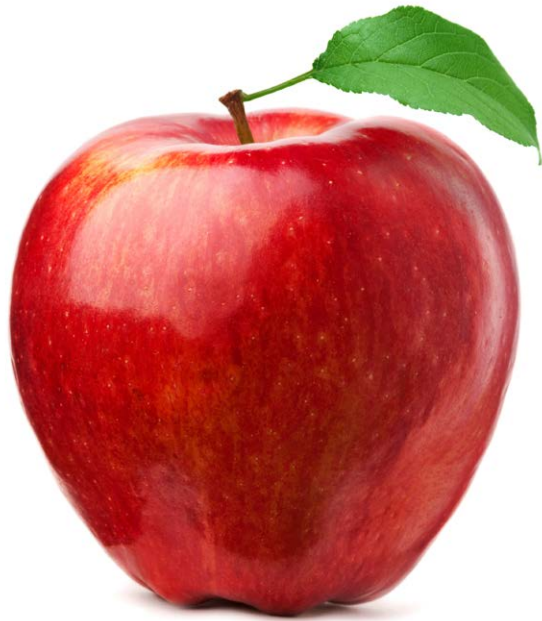


Jethro Helped Moses
Exodus 18

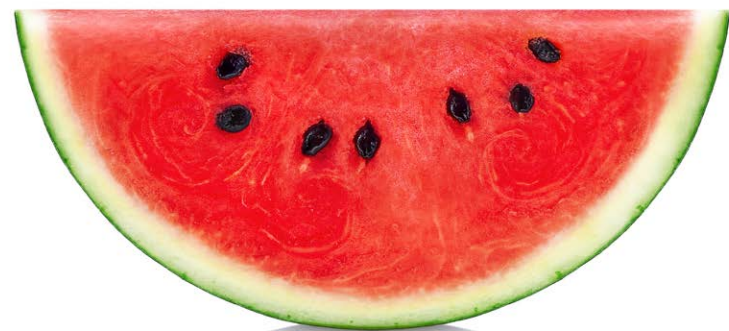


Rules for Sacrifice
Leviticus











Chad and Lynsi Rigney are missionaries in England. They are loving the people of London along with their three children, Aden, Addison, and Evelyn.



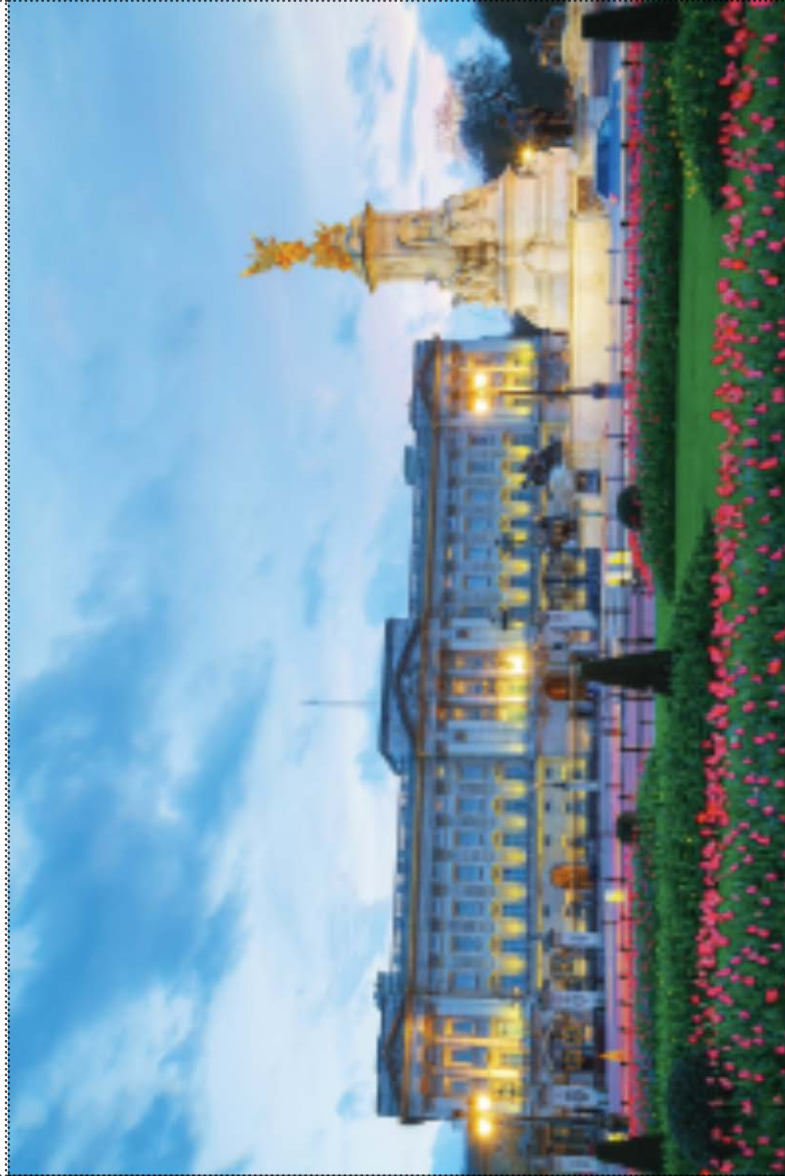
Chad and Lynsi Rigney are missionaries in England. They are loving the people of London along with their three children, Aden, Addison, and Evelyn.



Adam and Eve broke God's one rule



Big Ben



Buckingham Palace



The Gherkin



Madame Tussauds



Queen's Guards



London Stone



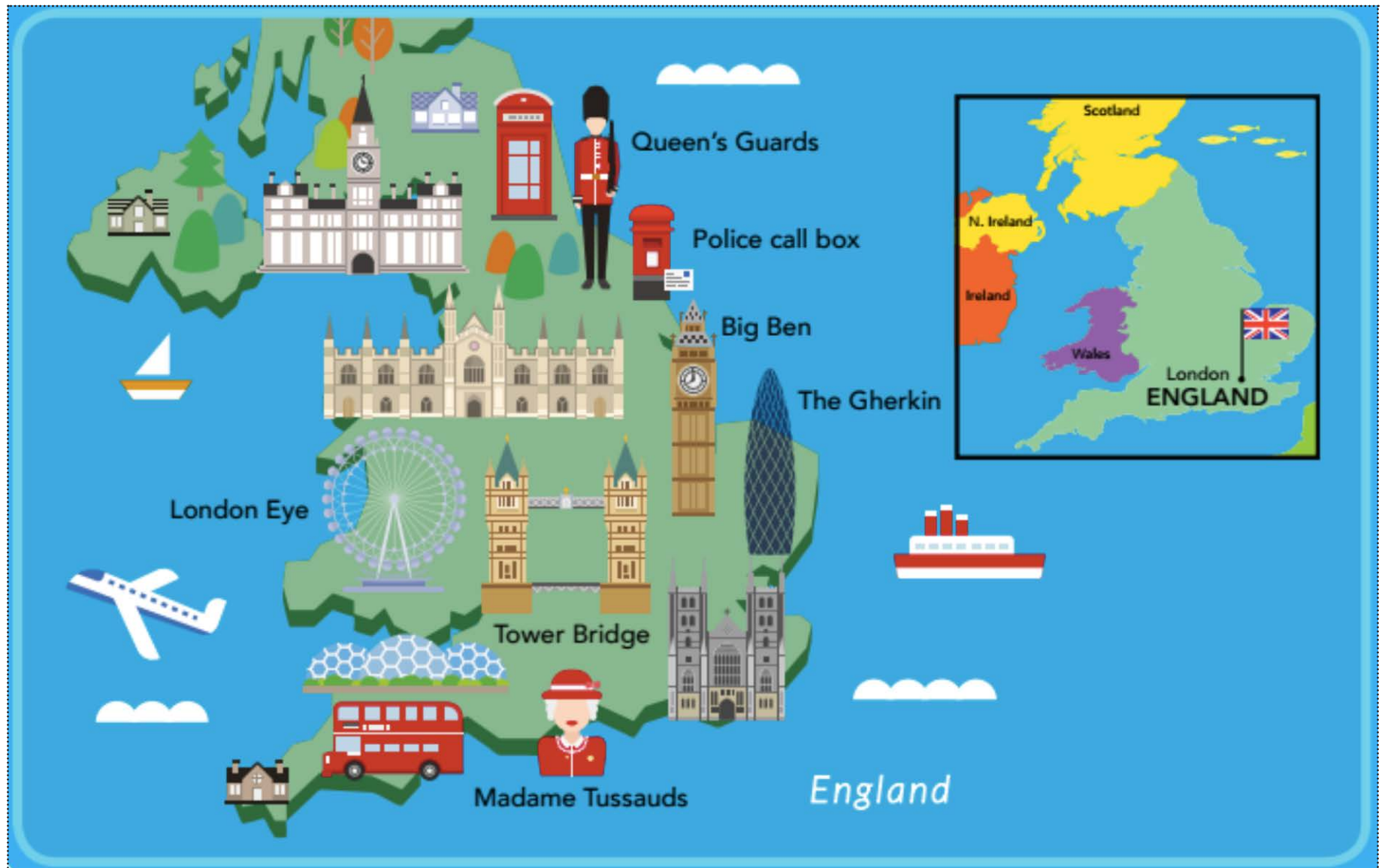
London Eye



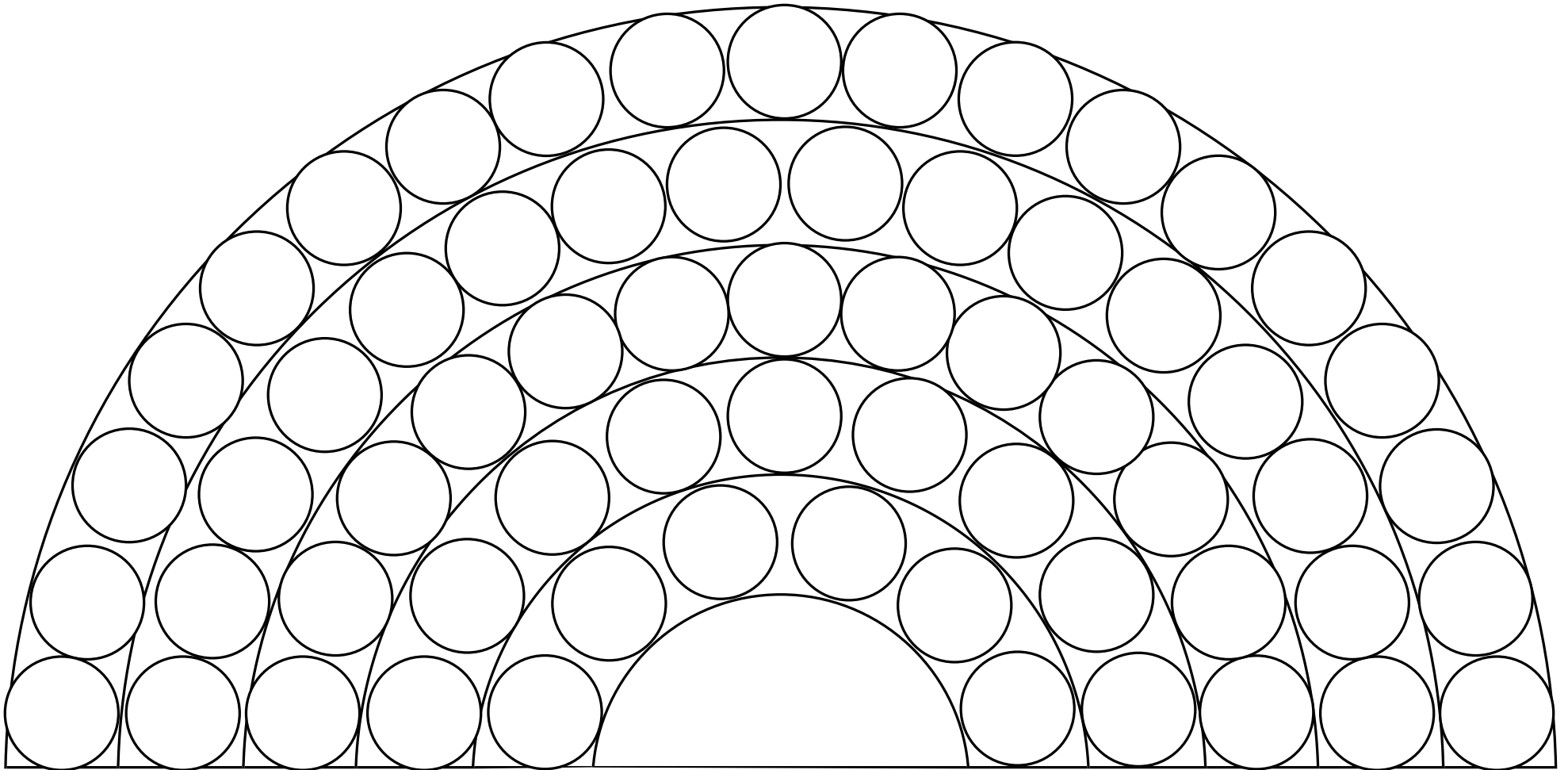
Police Call Box

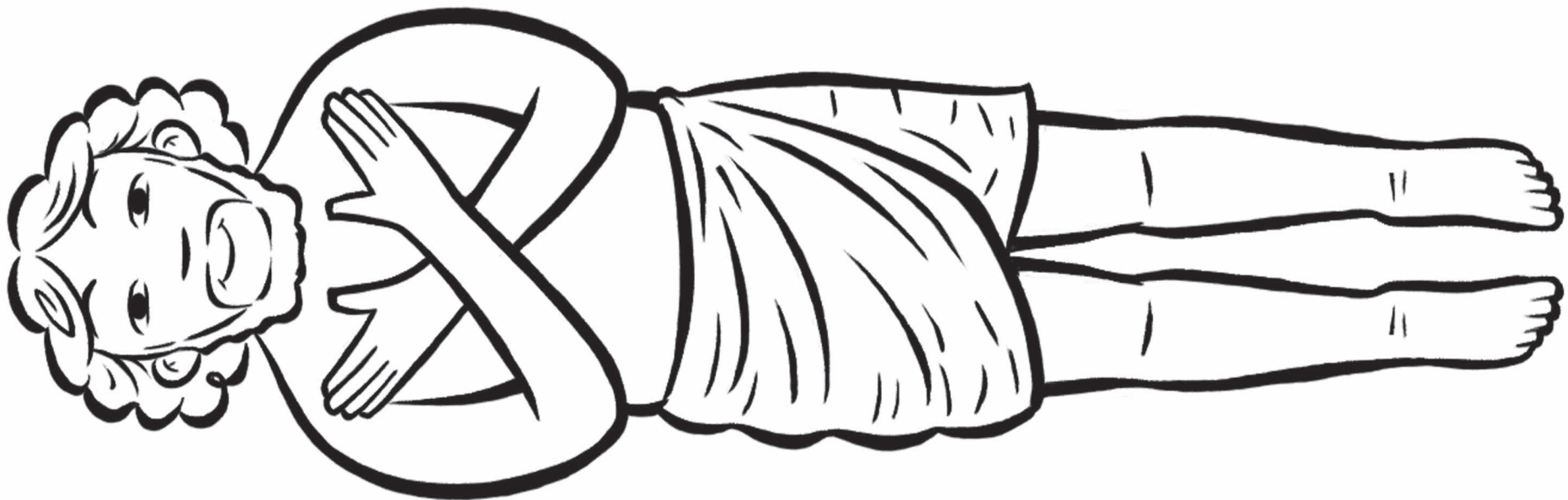
London Landmarks Trivia

- **Big Ben** is the nickname for the giant bell in the clock tower at the Houses of Parliament. The bell weighs 13 tons.
- **Buckingham Palace** is the official London residence of kings and queens and has 775 rooms.
- **The Queen's Guards** guard important buildings in London. The tall hats they wear are called bearskins.
- **The London Stone** is an old property marker tucked behind a grill in front of Cannon Street Station. Legends say that if the stone is ever removed or destroyed, the city will fall.
- **The Gherkin** is the nickname of a tall building that looks like a pickle.
- **The London Eye** is the world's largest observation wheel and can carry 800 people at a time.
- **Madame Tussauds** is an attraction named for a woman who made wax figures of people in the late 1700s. You can see lifelike models of famous people today.
- **Police call boxes** are no longer used regularly, but were originally miniature police stations.



God rescued Noah and his family.





**All things have been
created through him
and for him.**

Colossians 1:16b (CSB)

**All things were created
by him, and for him.**

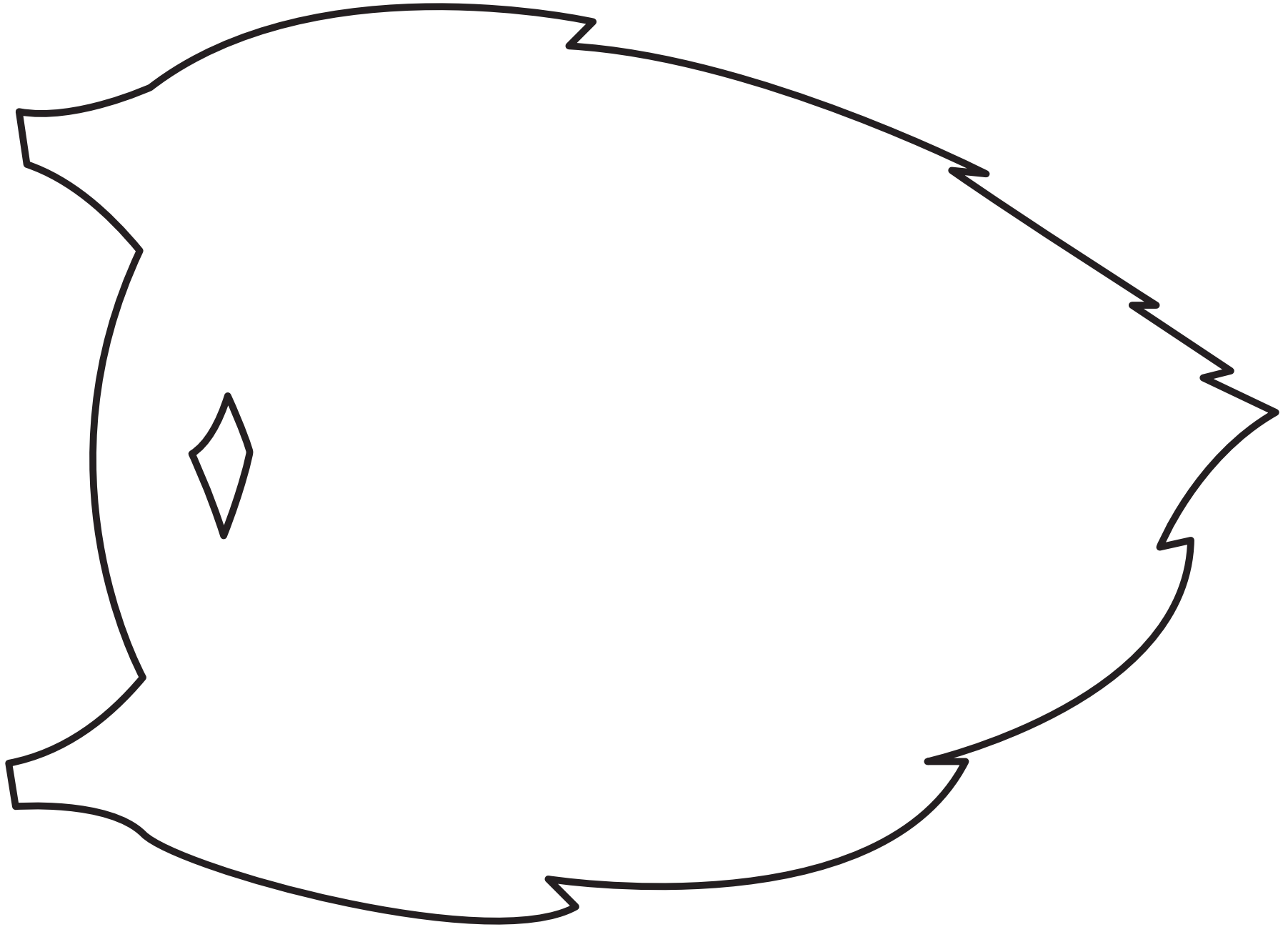
Colossians 1:16b (KJV)

**All things were created
through him and for him.**

Colossians 1:16b (ESV)

**All things have been created
through him and for him.**

Colossians 1:16b (NIV)



God Formed a Nation

Preschool Leader & Worship Guides • Unit 2, Session 1

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DJ's family lives and ministers in Canada. They are supported through churches who give to missions.*
From left: DJ, Caleb, Ethan, April (mom), Hudson (front), Jeremy (dad), Isaac



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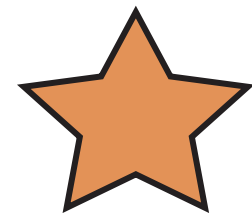
DJ's Family Prayer Card

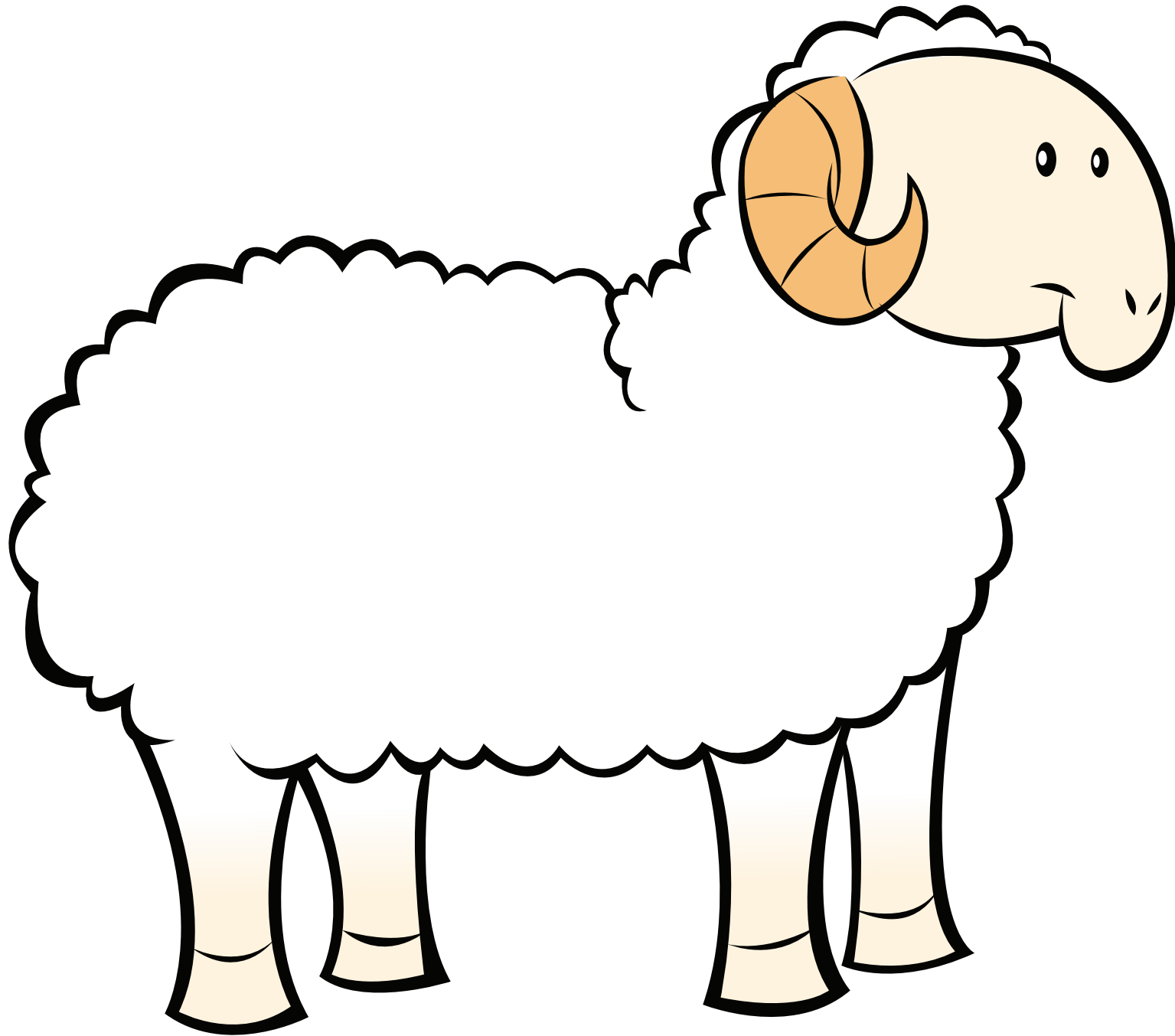
Instructions: Print several copies and cut apart the cards.

Use as directed in the leader and worship guides.











DJ went to a Sikh parade with his dad and brother. Sikhs do not believe that Jesus is the only way to eternal life. DJ's dad, Jeremy, enjoys talking with Sikhs about the Bible and salvation through Jesus.



DJ and his family have house church with South Asian Christians. Together they worship and ask God to help them share the gospel.



DJ and his family build relationships through ministry in local parks. They meet a lot of other families who live in the community.



While kids play, DJ's mom, April (left), talks with women in the park. She often asks if they would like to know more about Jesus.

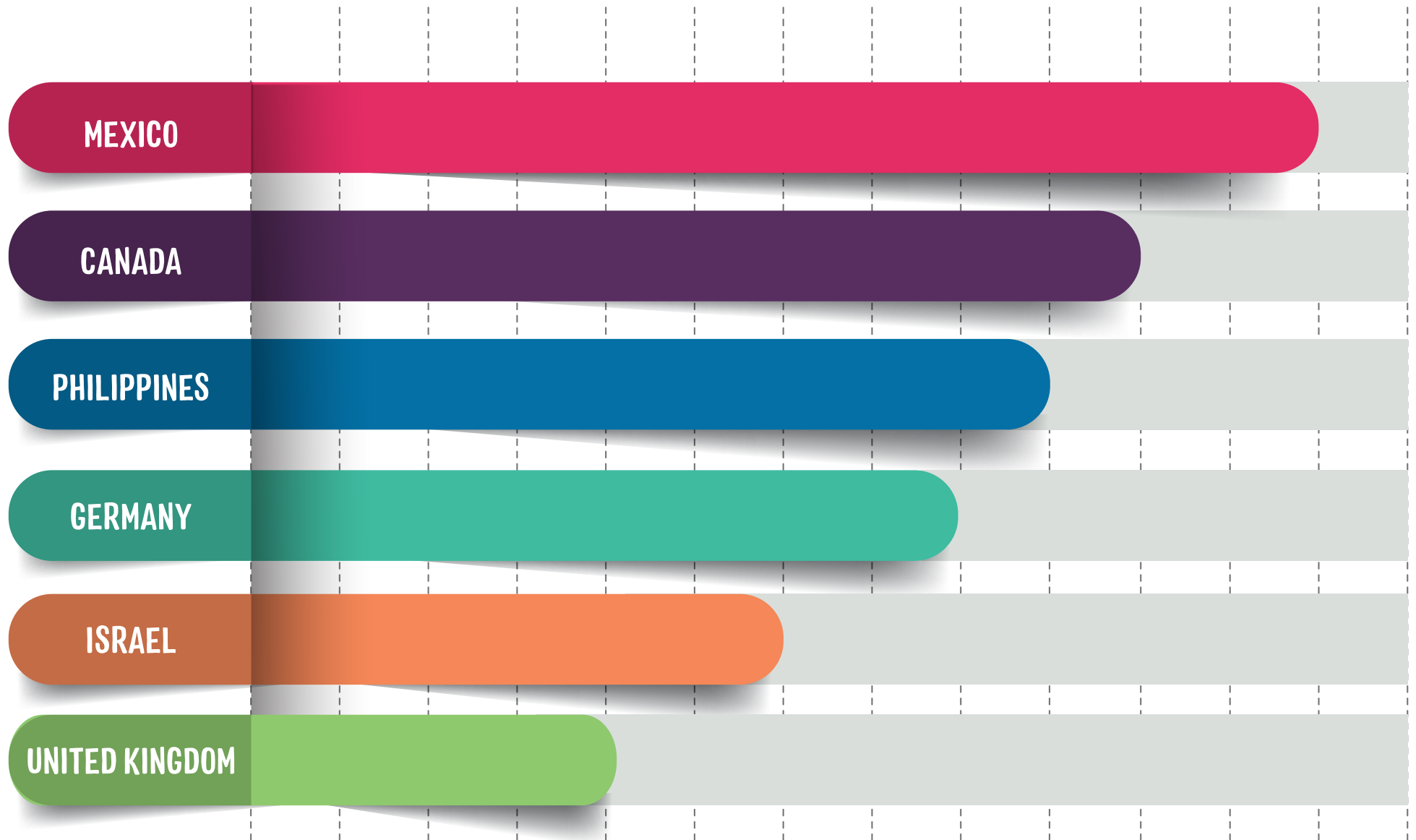
**If you belong to
Christ, then you are
Abraham's seed.
Galatians 3:29 (CSB)**

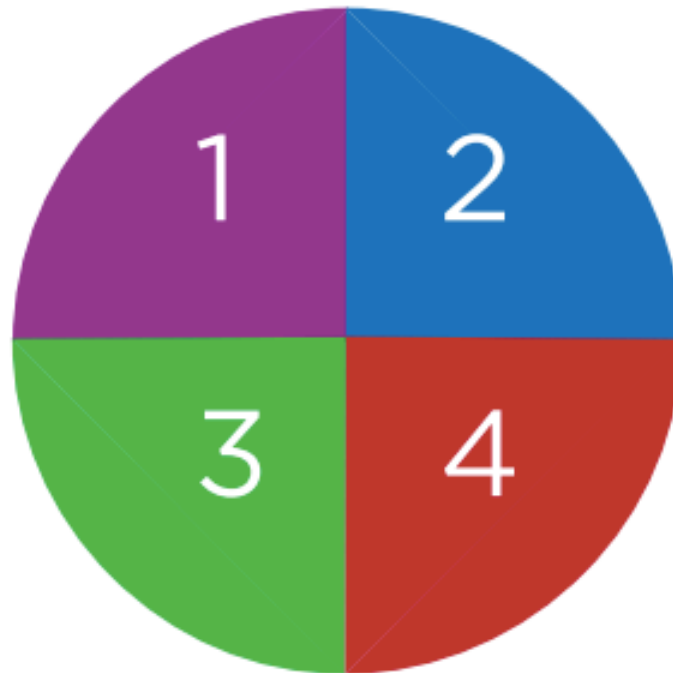
**If ye be Christ's, then
are ye Abraham's seed.
Galatians 3:29 (KJV)**

**If you are Christ's, then you
are Abraham's offspring.
Galatians 3:29 (ESV)**

**If you belong to Christ, then
you are Abraham's seed.
Galatians 3:29 (NIV)**

PEOPLE IN YOUR PLACE





- Tell me something silly
- Tell me something about yourself
- Tell me something you know about God
- Tell me something you'd like to know about God



Camel



Sheep



Donkey



Bull



Goat



Cow

The Nation Grew

Preschool Leader & Worship Guides • Unit 3, Session 3

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DJ's family lives and ministers in Canada. They are supported through churches who give to missions.*

From left: DJ, Caleb, Ethan, April (mom), Hudson (front), Jeremy (dad), Isaac



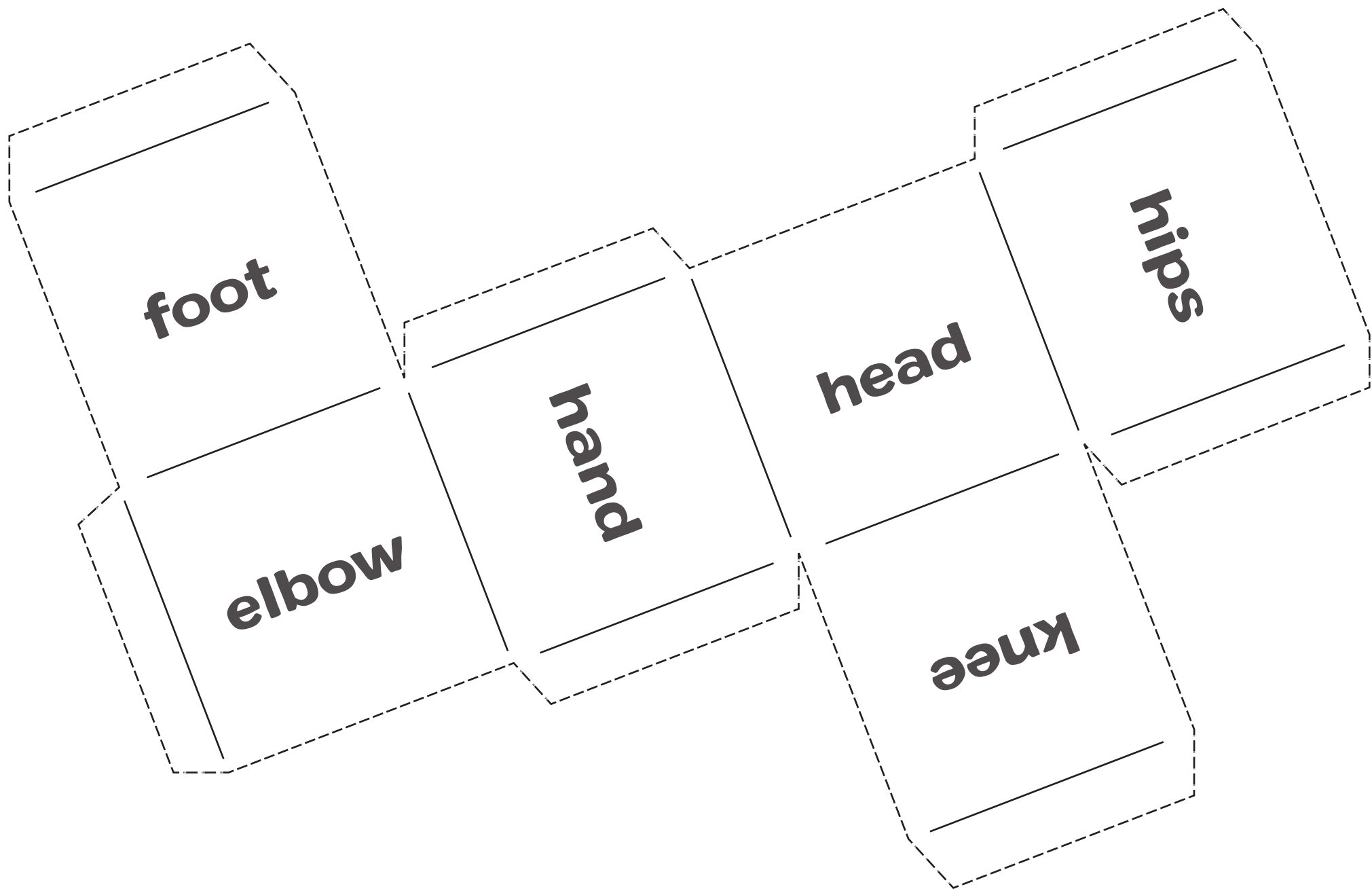
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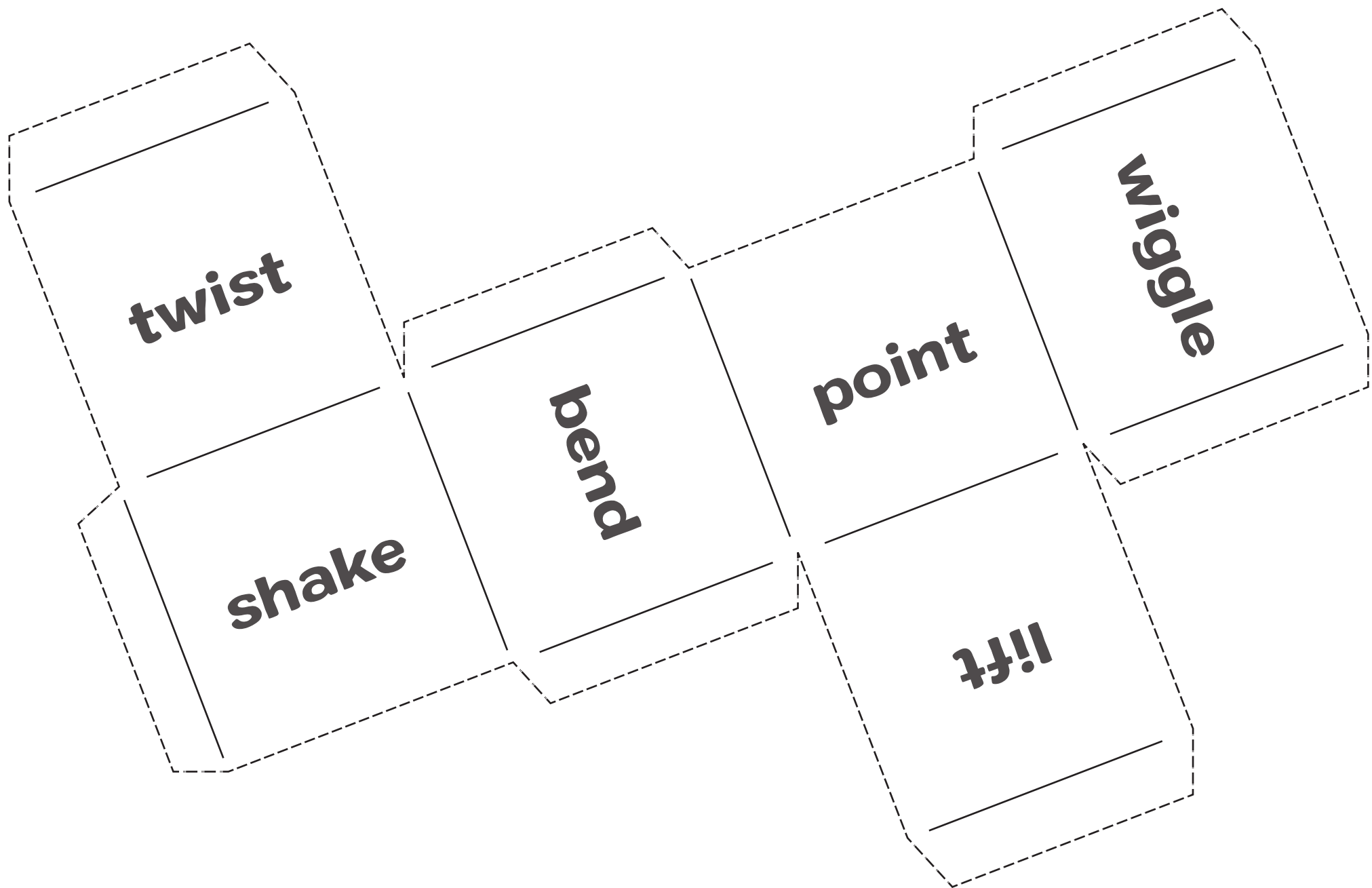
From left: DJ, Caleb, Ethan, April (mom), Hudson (front), Jeremy (dad), Isaac

DJ's Family Prayer Card

Instructions: Print several copies and cut apart the cards.

Use as directed in the leader and worship guides.





**“Look, I am with you
and will watch over you
wherever you go.”**

Genesis 28:15a (CSB)

**Behold, I am with thee, and
will keep thee in all places
whither thou goest.**

Genesis 28:15a (KJV)

**“Behold, I am with you
and will keep you
wherever you go.”**

Genesis 28:15a (ESV)

**“I am with you and will
watch over you wherever
you go.”**

Genesis 28:15a (NIV)



Journal Page



Journal Page