



This curriculum is flexible enough to handle a wide range of age groups in even the smallest Sunday school. We have included “more than enough” with each lesson to help you adapt to every teaching situation. Use what you can to teach the main idea, even if your class time does not allow for all activities.

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/650x8iprtp2grdk/AABYXKBB-dhFHdYXFx6RArb9a?dl=0>

Scripture quotations are taken from The Holy Bible, New International Version® NIV® Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

Tony Kummer, Editor
The Sunday School Store
support@sundayschool.store

Tony Kummer, Editor
The Sunday School Store
support@sundayschool.store

8-Week Curriculum Overview

Lesson #1: The Whisper Challenge

- Big Idea: Many people believe that God's voice is booming down from Heaven like a mighty wind, but often God speaks to us in a whisper. Key Passage: 1 Kings 19:9-18 Elijah's encounter with God. Elijah is being hunted for being devoted to God. The word of the Lord comes to him and he commands him to go to the mountain to wait for God. Although he thinks his voice and presence will be like an earthquake or fire, it is just a whisper.

Lesson #2: The Try Not to Laugh Challenge

- Big Idea: As humans we cannot fathom the power of God. We sometimes don't understand God's big plan. So, it is important to be content (happy, joyful) while we wait for God's guidance. Key Passage: Ecclesiastes 3 There's a time for everything under the heavens. This passage tells us that God has made everything beautiful in its time. The best we can do is enjoy the journey and strive to be good.

Lesson #3: The Seven Seconds Challenge

- Big Idea: The number 7 is a significant digit to God. He uses this number in the Bible to make his point. Key Passage: Joshua 6 The Battle of Jericho. The Lord tells Joshua that he has delivered Jericho into his hands and then commands him to march around the city seven times. His directions eventually lead to Joshua's victory in the battle.

Lesson #4: The Blindfolded Drawing Challenge

- Big Idea: It is difficult to move forward when we don't know what will happen. But God wants us to have faith that he will guide us through life and reward us for that faith. Key Passages: Mark 10:46-52 Blind Bartimaeus. Read through this passage and talk about the faith Bartimaeus had to walk into the arms of Jesus without seeing where he was going. God rewarded his faith with the gift of sight.

Lesson #5: The "What's in the Box?" Challenge

- Big Idea: When we put our hands in a box and don't know what we'll pull out, it's sort of like living your life for God and not knowing what will happen to you. Key Passages: Acts 20 Paul's farewell to Ephesian elders. In Paul's time, the price of following God was steep. It could mean prison or even death. But Paul knew God was asking him to Jerusalem, and he had to face this journey even if he was afraid.

Lesson #6: The "Brand Name" vs. "Off-Brand" Challenge

- Big Idea: Buying "off-brand" products at the grocery store is a common practice when you want to save a few dollars. But there's no "off-brand" God. He is the real deal and there's no imitation. Key Passage: Deuteronomy 5 Moses and the 10 commandments. Moses has received the commandments from God and is explaining them to the Israelites. The first of which is "you shall not have any Gods before me." God cannot be replicated nor replaced.

Lesson #7: The "Pause" Challenge

- Big Idea: It is easy to want to do things in our own time. We want what we want when we want it. But God wants us to pause and listen to what he has to say before we act on our own will. Key Passage: Esther 5:1-8 Esther's patience. Instead of jumping at the chance to talk to King Xerxes about saving her people, she waited for God's guidance to speak at the right time. Her patience proved to be a saving grace for her people.

Lesson #8: The Decision Challenge

- Big Idea: We can choose to follow Jesus even when we are faced with challenges. God gives us instructions to follow to be saved and spend eternity with Him in Heaven. Key Passage: Acts 16:16-40. Paul and Silas in prison. The two Christ-followers are thrown into jail because of their beliefs. They begin singing and an earthquake rips through the prison. The jailer asks Paul what he must do to be saved and Paul tells him he must believe in the Lord.



LESSON 1

1 Kings 19:11-12

“The Lord said, “Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by.”



The Whisper Challenge

Lesson Summary

- **Big Idea:** Many people believe that God's voice is booming down from Heaven like a mighty wind, but often God speaks to us in a whisper.
- **Key Passage: 1 Kings 19:9-18. Elijah's encounter with God.** Elijah is being hunted for being devoted to God. The word of the Lord comes to him and he commands him to go to the mountain to wait for God. Although he thinks his voice and presence will be like an earthquake or fire, it is just a whisper.
- **Memory Verse: 1 Kings 19:11-12.** "The Lord said, 'Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by.'"
- **Key Life Application:** As you go through this lesson, you will want to emphasize that God's voice doesn't always come to us in big way. Sometimes we hear God's voice as a whisper when we are quiet and still.

Gospel Connection: Hearing God's voice is essential as kids grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ. We need to listen up since the Holy Spirit is already working to help us know our living God. Even though this process is very personal to each child, we can encourage them to always be listening and learning to trust in Jesus.

Full List of Supplies Needed to Complete Entire Lesson

- Headphones (with listening device optional) for every other child
- List of phrases to whisper (a different set for each partner)
- Piece of paper to tally correct guesses
- Pen or pencil to make tally marks
- Masking/painter's tape
- Open space for children to spread out
- White piece of paper for each student
- Several sheets of patterned scrapbook paper cut into fourths (you can divide the sheets among the students)
- Washable watercolor paints
- Cup of water/moistened sponge (less messy) for each child
- Paintbrushes
- Glue
- Pens or markers

Memory Verse Activity

Hand Motions

Say: "The Lord said..."

Make an "L" with your thumb and forefinger and cross your chest from left to right. Then wag your pointer finger as if making a point.

"Go out..."

Use your thumb to point behind you.

"and stand on the mountain..."

Jump in place and then make a mountain shape with your hands.

"in the presence of the Lord..."

Spread your arms open wide, look up and sway back forth as if worshipping.

"for the Lord ...

Make an "L" with your thumb and forefinger and cross your chest from left to right.

"is about to pass by....

Make your right hand fly past your body like it is passing by.

"1 Kings..."

Make a number one gesture with your pointer finger and then pretend to put on a crown.

"19:11-12."

Make each number with your fingers (i.e., one, nine, two ones for eleven, and then a one and a two for twelve).

Let's Do The Whisper Challenge!

Below you will find a sample script to help you lead the children through the Whisper Challenge. These are only suggestions. Feel free to make changes.

For an example of this game, see: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4tGU8E5TjgA>

Good morning, everyone. For the next few weeks, we will be facing challenges! How does that make you feel? Do you like challenges? Are challenges something easy or difficult? They can be difficult. We often have challenges to face in our lives that aren't fun to deal with, like starting a new school or learning a new skill in math. But there are also fun challenges like learning how to ride a bike. There is also another kind of challenge that we're going to start with today. Can anybody tell me about another kind of challenge? (Allow children to answer.) What about YouTube challenges? Has anyone ever tried a YouTube challenge? Well, today we're going to try the Whisper Challenge.

Let me explain the rules: In a minute, we will choose partners. For the first round, one of you will be the whisperer and one will be the listener. The listener will be given headphones to make our challenge a little more "challenging." The whisperer will be given a list of phrases to whisper to the listener. Make a tally mark on a piece of paper for each phrase the listener gets right. You'll have five minutes to try to get your partner to guess all of the phrases on your paper. When the five minutes is up, you will switch places. At the end of the game, see which group had the most correct.

Supplies:

- Headphones (with listening device optional) for every other child
- List of phrases to whisper (a different set for each partner)
- Piece of paper to tally correct guesses
- Pen or pencil to make tally marks

List of Phrases:

Partner #1

- "What are you doing here?"
- Elijah on the mountain
- First Kings
- Powerful Wind
- Gentle Whisper

Partner #2

- "Go and stand on the mountain"
- Great and powerful wind
- After the earthquake
- God was not in the fire
- Elijah heard the whisper

Large Group Lesson Discussion

After completing the challenge, lead the following discussion.

What did you think of that challenge? Was it difficult or easy to understand what the person was whispering to you? If you had yelled as loud as a powerful wind or earthquake, do you think it would have been easier to hear the voice of your partner? Of course! But when you couldn't hear your partner very well, you listened and focused on what they were trying to tell you. That's how God wants us to listen to his voice. He wants us to focus intently on hearing him. Let's open our Bibles to 1 Kings 19 and find out what happened when Elijah was listening for God's voice.

Read 1 Kings as a class.

The verses we're focusing on today open with Elijah receiving a word from the Lord. I think this word was not in the form of a voice booming from Heaven, but maybe a thought in Elijah's head and heart. He heard in his mind and heart the Lord asking him why he was there. Elijah tells the Lord all about how faithful he has been even when those around him have not been. God knows Elijah's heart and that he is desperate to hear from Him. So, he tells Elijah to go stand where? *(Allow children to answer.)* Yes, on the mountain. The Lord tells him that He will soon pass by.

While Elijah is standing on the mountain, he experiences some extraordinary things. First, there was a great and powerful wind that tears the mountain apart and shatters the rocks. That is a pretty strong wind if it could do all that. We know God is very powerful, so it would make sense that Elijah might think that the Lord was in this powerful wind. But was He? No.

The next thing Elijah experiences is an earthquake. Have you ever lived through an earthquake or seen a video of what it does to buildings and bridges? It is a great force of nature that causes a lot of damage. So, already Elijah has lived through the mighty wind and then this earthquake. But still the Lord has not spoken to him. I think I would be pretty scared if I had experienced those two things. I might say, "Okay, Lord, I'll catch you next time. I don't want to go through anything else." But did Elijah leave in fear? No. He stayed. He had faith that the Lord would speak to him, even after experiencing the first two things. The next thing Elijah experiences is a fire. If you've ever been near a campfire or a fireplace, you know that it can heat up quickly. I'm sure this was not comfortable for Elijah. And he wasn't standing next to a team of firefighters, so he was probably worried that this fire would overtake him. But still he stayed and waited for God's voice.

Then came a gentle whisper, and this was the Lord. And God gave Elijah specific instructions that he might not have heard if he had not been listening for God's voice. Do you think God was waiting for Elijah to be focused completely before he spoke to him? I think He did. It's just like when we took the Whisper Challenge. We had to tune out all of the noise we were hearing to focus completely on what our partners were trying to tell us. If we do that with the "noise" in the world—like TV, electronics, etc.—we will have a better chance of hearing God's voice.



So, your CHALLENGE for this week is to spend some quiet time listening for God's gentle whisper. You never know what He might be guiding you to do.

Let's go over our memory verse so we can be reminded of how to listen for God's voice.

Memory Verse: "The Lord said, 'Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by.'" **1 Kings 19:11-12.**

Note: Motions for Memory Verse are provided above.

Kindergarten to 2nd Grade Small Group or Sunday School Discussion & Prayer

Discussion Questions:

Let's open our Bibles and look at **1 Kings 19:9-18**.

1. Who is waiting to hear God's voice?

Answer: Elijah.

2. What does Elijah tell God when God asks why Elijah is there?

Answer: He tells God how faithful he has been even when others were not.

3. Where does God tell Elijah to go to hear His voice?

Answer: To the top of a mountain.

4. What are the three things that Elijah experiences while he's up on the mountain?

Answer: A powerful wind, an earthquake, and a fire.

5. How do you think Elijah felt when he finally heard God's voice in a gentle whisper?

Answer: He probably felt happy that he was finally able to hear the Lord and feel His presence. He probably felt good that he had been faithful enough to wait on the Lord.

Let's say a prayer to help us remember to listen for God's voice.

Prayer:

Dear God, thank you for always wanting to speak to Your children. We pray that we can be still and quiet and listen for Your gentle whisper. Help us to remember to tune out the noise we hear around us and focus on hearing Your words for us. We love You, Lord and offer our praise to You while we wait to hear from You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

3rd to 5th Grade Small Group or Sunday School Discussion & Prayer

Note: Allow children to tell you what they think. Multiple answers could apply.

Discussion Questions:

Let's open our Bibles (or refer to printout) and look at Genesis 3.

1. Why do you think Elijah wanted God to know that he had been faithful even when others had not been?

Answer: Elijah had been through a lot and he wanted to know that God saw that he had been faithful. I think he was also desperate to know how to move forward in a way that would be pleasing to God. So, he wanted God to know that he was ready to receive a word from Him.

2. What does God tell Elijah to do in verse 11?

Answer: He tells him to go stand on the mountain in the presence of the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by.

3. What happens to Elijah when he is up on the mountain?

Answer: He experiences a powerful wind, an earthquake, a fire and then a gentle whisper.

4. Why do you think God came to Elijah in a gentle whisper?

Answer: God wanted Elijah to be so focused on his voice through all of the noise of those big natural disasters that he would be able to hear the Lord whispering to him. I think he also wanted to talk to Elijah in a "gentle" way, instead of speaking to him in a loud, booming voice.

5. What does the Lord tell him to do in verses 15-16?

Answer: He tells Elijah to go to the Desert of Damascus and to anoint Hazael, Jehu and Elisha.

Let's say a prayer to help us remember God's love and that it's important to obey.

Prayer:

Dear God, thank You for always wanting to speak to Your children. We pray that we can be still and quiet and listen for Your gentle whisper. Help us to remember to tune out the noise we hear around us and focus on hearing Your words for us. We love You, Lord and offer our praise to You while we wait to hear from You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Hands-on Lesson Review

“Wind, Earthquake, Fire”

Supplies:

- Masking/painter's tape
- Open space for children to spread out

Directions:

Before you begin, remind children about the three things Elijah experienced on top of the mountain—wind, earthquake, fire. Tell them that this is the basis for the game they will be playing today.

1. Before children arrive, place three lines of masking/painter's tape on the floor, the length of the room. The lines should be about a foot apart from each other.
2. Tell children that the first line is for wind, the second line is for earthquake and the third line represents fire.
3. Explain that when the game starts, you (or their leader) will be calling out these three things and they will have to choose the right line to be standing on. The trick is, you will be whispering the names, so they will have to listen carefully.
4. Call out wind, earthquake, fire in succession and at different intervals (to try to catch them off guard). When you stop calling out names (wind, earthquake or fire), see who isn't on the correct line. Those children will be out.
5. Continue the game until there is only one person left or until you run out of time.

Bonus Activity: Torn Paper Mountains with Watercolor Backgrounds

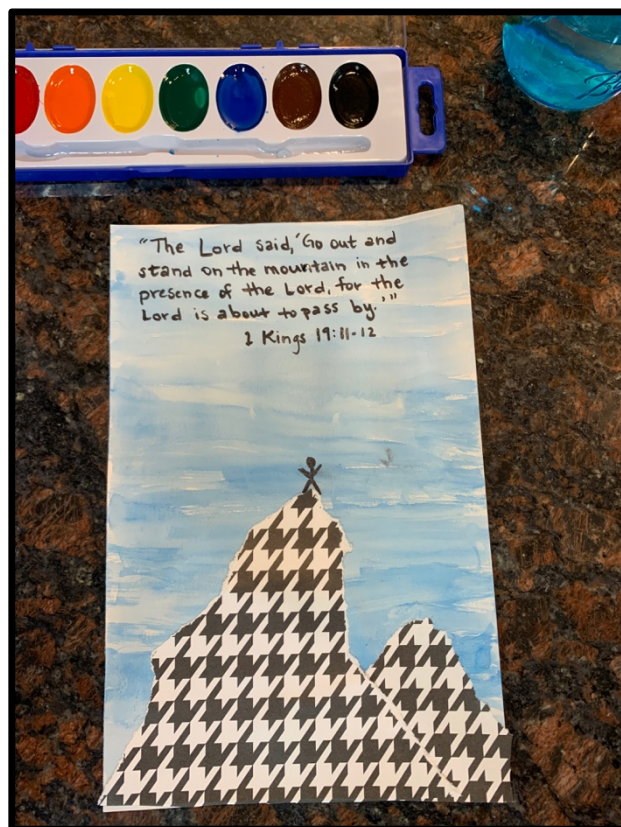
Supplies:

- White piece of paper for each student
- Several sheets of patterned scrapbook paper (you can divide the sheets among the students)
- Washable watercolor paints
- Cup of water/moistened sponge (less messy) for each child
- Paintbrushes
- Glue
- Pens or markers

Directions:

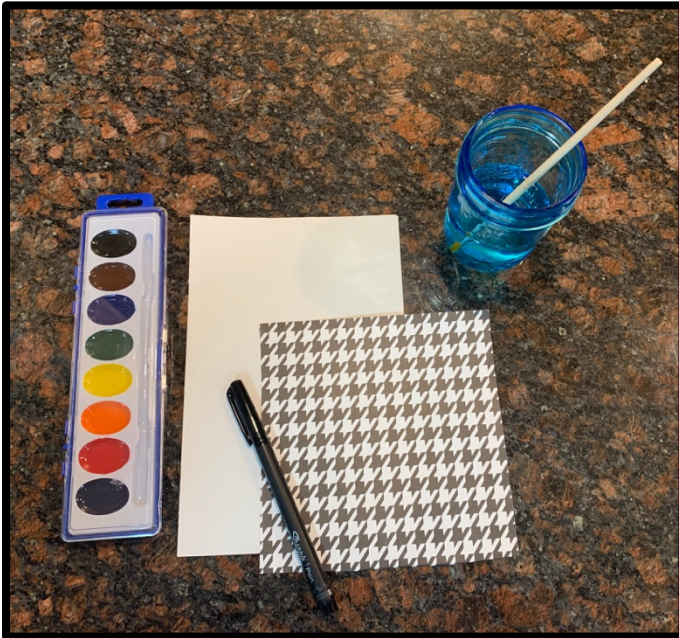
1. Give each child a piece of white paper and a tray of washable watercolor paints with a cup of water (or moistened sponge) and a paintbrush.
2. Have the child paint a watercolor background/sky for the mountains they will create later.
3. Hang or set out the finished background to dry. Write each child's name with pencil so they can find their artwork later on.
4. While the backgrounds are drying, have each child take a square of scrapbook paper. Have the child tear the paper into triangle shapes. These will be the mountains.
5. Once they have created several mountains (enough to fill the bottom of their watercolor paper, set them aside. This might be a good time to step away from the craft and play a game.
6. When the watercolor backgrounds are dry, pass them back out to the correct student.
7. Have each student glue their mountains to their backgrounds.
8. When they are finished, have them write 1 Kings 19:11-12 on their paper with a pen or marker.

Optional: Using pens or markers, have the children decorate their mountains with trees, animals or a picture of what they think Elijah looked like standing on top of the mountain waiting to hear from the Lord.



Mountain Scene Visual Instructions

Step 1



Step 2



Step 3



Step 4



Additional Resources

Song Suggestion (Kindergarten – 2nd Grade):

“Whisper a Prayer”

Link: https://youtu.be/SgC_6GNjGIU

Lyrics:

Whisper a prayer in the morning
Whisper a prayer at noon
Whisper a prayer in the evening
To keep your heart in tune

God answers prayer in the morning
God answers prayer at noon
God answer prayer in the evening
So, keep your heart in tune

Jesus may come in the morning
Jesus may come at noon
Jesus may come in the evening
So, keep your heart in tune

Song Suggestion (3rd – 5th Grade):

“Whisper” by Jason Upton

Link: https://youtu.be/eD_xQNhBlfM

Lyrics:

Jesus when You speak to me
I hope I'm listening to You
Let this heart of mine receive
What is full of grace and truth

Whisper, whisper, whisper in my ear
Tell me words I thought I'd never hear
Show me, show me, show me, what You see
Illuminate what's right in front of me

There's so much more to what we see
Sometimes I'm scared to take it in

Is that You right in front of me?
Are You the stranger or the friend?

Whisper, whisper, whisper in my ear
Tell me words I thought I'd never hear
Show me show me show me what You see
Illuminate what's right in front of me

What you whisper in my ear
Let it find room in my heart
Like a garden let Your words begin to grow
When my faith is prone to fear
Remind me of Your love
Remind me that You'll never let me go
I will not forget
I will not forget
All You've done for me

Whisper, whisper, whisper in my ear
Tell me words I thought I'd never hear
Show me show me show me what You see
Illuminate what's right in front of me



Parent Page

Title: The Whisper Challenge

- **Big Idea:** Many people believe that God's voice is booming down from Heaven like a mighty wind, but often God speaks to us in a whisper.
- **Key Passage: 1 Kings 19:9-18. Elijah's encounter with God.** Elijah is being hunted for being devoted to God. The word of the Lord comes to Elijah and God commands him to go to the mountain to wait for Him. Although he thinks God's voice and presence will be like an earthquake or fire, it is just a whisper.
- **Memory Verse: 1 Kings 19:11-12.** "The Lord said, 'Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by.'"
- **Challenge:** Spend some quiet time, listening for God's gentle whisper.

Today, we talked about Elijah and how he heard the Lord's voice as a gentle whisper. We used the popular YouTube challenge – [The Whisper Challenge](#) – as a fun way to introduce the children to the idea that God speaks to us when we are listening intently and blocking out the "noise" of the world. Here are some questions you can use to talk to your children about what they learned this week.

1. Who is waiting to hear God's voice?

Answer: Elijah.

2. What does Elijah tell God when God asks why Elijah is there?

Answer: He tells God how faithful he has been even when others were not.

3. Where does God tell Elijah to go to hear His voice?

Answer: To the top of a mountain.

4. What are the three things that Elijah experiences while he's up on the mountain?

Answer: A powerful wind, an earthquake, and a fire.

5. How do you think Elijah felt when he finally heard God's voice in a gentle whisper?

Answer: He probably felt happy that he was finally able to hear the Lord and feel His presence. He probably felt good that he had been faithful enough to wait on the Lord.

Family Activity:

The Whisper Challenge

Check out [the Whisper Challenge - Kids Edition](https://youtu.be/4tGU8E5TjgA) (see <https://youtu.be/4tGU8E5TjgA>) and see how many phrases your family can guess correctly.

Supplies:

- Headphones (with listening device optional) for every other person
- List of phrases to whisper (a different set for each partner)
- Piece of paper to tally correct guesses
- Pen or pencil to make tally marks

Directions:

For the first round, one person will be the whisperer and one will be the listener. The listener will be given headphones to make the challenge a little more “challenging.” The whisperer will be given a list of phrases to whisper to the listener. Make a tally mark on a piece of paper for each phrase the listener gets right. You’ll have five minutes to try to get your partner to guess all of the phrases on your paper. When the five minutes is up, you will switch places. At the end of the game, determine which partner had the most correctly guessed phrases.

Teacher's Tips

I want you to enjoy these lessons as much as the children in your class! So, here are some tips for making the teaching process more enjoyable for all involved.

Why I Have Children Use Their Bibles During Lessons

I have worked in children's ministry for many years, and I have found that children (especially those who are new to Christianity or to the church environment) can sometimes be intimidated to open or use a Bible. So, it is important that you as the leader make the process as simple and engaging as possible. You want children to know the Bible and feel like it is their best friend, not some outdated book that is too hard to understand. That is why it is essential that they use their Bibles when they are learning and discovering during their lessons. Having them search for verses and find truth on their own is going to give them a wonderful foundation to draw upon for years to come.

Tips for Using the Bible

- Make sure there are enough Bibles for every child in case they don't bring theirs to class.
- Once every few weeks (maybe before beginning a new series), go over with the children how to find books in the Bible. Show them the contents page and talk about which books are in the Old Testament and which are in the New Testament.
- I also like to give them helpful hints like Genesis is at the beginning, Revelation is at the end and Psalms are in the middle.
- Have youth group members or leaders stand by to assist younger children during searching activities to assure children can find the verses you'll be covering.

Tips for Engaging Children in These Lessons

- Even though there are detailed discussion questions and questions throughout the Large Group Lesson, feel free to ask questions.
- Try to have materials and crafts ready to go before children arrive so there's not a lot of lag time between activities. This will help those who become easily distracted to stay on task.
- Sit with the children when they are completing their crafts or working on something independently. This might give more introverted children the chance to ask questions or share their hearts more openly.





LESSON 2

Ecclesiastes 3:12

**“I know that there is
nothing better for people
than to be happy and to do
good while they live.”**

**Challenge
Accepted!**

The Try Not to Laugh Challenge

Lesson Summary

- **Big Idea:** As humans we cannot fathom the power of God. We sometimes don't understand God's big plan. So, it is important to be content (happy, joyful) while we wait for God's guidance.
- **Key Passage: Ecclesiastes 3. There's a time for everything under the heavens.** This passage tells us that God has made everything beautiful in its time. The best we can do is enjoy the journey and strive to be good.
- **Memory Verse: Ecclesiastes 3:12.** "I know that there is nothing better for people than to be happy and to do good while they live."
- **Key Life Application:** As you go through this lesson, remind the children that even though we can't always control our circumstances, we should find joy and laughter in the journey. As we wait on God's guidance, we can be joyful and content in the blessings he has given us.

Gospel Connection: God wants us to enjoy life, not only now but for eternity. That's why the Bible promises eternal life for everyone who puts their faith in Jesus (John 3:16). We will all face a time of judgement by God—so we should prepare now by accepting the promise of salvation by faith (Hebrews 9:27). This confidence in Christ gives us joy to face any challenge in life.

Full List of Supplies Needed to Complete the Entire Lesson

- Large area for children to spread out in a line
- List of funny ways to read Ecclesiastes 3:2-8
- Plastic blue tablecloth
- 20 yellow paper plates
- 20 red paper plates
- Double-sided tape (*Note: Velcro squares can be used if you are planning to keep the game for later use*)
- List of questions for game
- Wall or white board to hang up the tablecloth
- A yellow plate for each student
- Construction paper (a variety of colors)
- Glue
- Scissors
- Craft sticks (one for each student)
- Duct tape (or another strong tape to attach the craft stick)

Memory Verse Activity

Hand Motions

Say, "I know..."

Point to your temple.

"That there is nothing better..."

Shake your pointer finger back and forth like you are saying "no."

"For people..."

Point to all of the people in the room.

"Than to be happy..."

Make a smile motion on your face with your pointer fingers.

"And to do good..."

Pat yourself on the back.

"While they live...."

Raise your arms above your head and wiggle your fingers like you're a live wire.

"Ecclesiastes..."

Make the sign for the letter E ([here's what it looks like in American Sign Language](#)).

"3:12."

Make each number with your fingers (i.e., three, twelve (one finger on one hand and two fingers on the other hand)).

Let's Do The Try Not to Laugh Challenge!

Below you will find a sample script to help you lead the children through the Try Not to Laugh Challenge. These are only suggestions. Feel free to make changes.

Good morning, everyone. Last week we talked about challenges and I explained that we're going to be facing some challenges over the next few weeks. What challenge did we face last week? The Whisper Challenge, that's right. And what did we learn about the voice of God? Is it big and loud like a mighty wind or an earthquake? No! It's like a whisper—still, small and quiet. So, now that we know how to listen for God's voice, we're going to face a new challenge. This week we're going to be participating in the [Try Not to Laugh Challenge](#). How many of you think you're going to be good at this? How many of you think you will laugh easily? Well, that's the challenging part!

Let me explain the rules: In a minute, I will have you all stand in a long line, facing me (or all of the leaders). I will then read through each line of Ecclesiastes 3:2-8 (instructions below). While I'm reading through each line I will look to see if anyone laughs. Those who keep a straight face will go to the next round, while those who laugh will be out. Whoever is still left standing after the last verse is the winner!

For an example of this game, see: <https://youtu.be/DnGZFGas7YE>

Supplies:

- Large area for children to spread out in a line
- List of funny ways to read Ecclesiastes 3:2-8

Funny ways to read Ecclesiastes 3:2-8:

- Like a pirate
- Like a cowboy
- Really fast
- Really slow
- Really loud and then really soft
- Like you're a tiny mouse with a squeaky voice
- Like a dinosaur
- Like a snake

Large Group Lesson Discussion

After completing the challenge, lead the following discussion.

What did you think of that challenge? Was it difficult or easy to keep yourself from laughing? What are some situations where you need to be serious and keep yourself from being silly (i.e., at a fancy dinner, school assembly, when your parents are correcting your behavior)? And what are times when it's okay to have fun and be silly (i.e., playing outside, with friends, on vacation, at home with your family)?

Well, did you know that God says there is a season (a time) for everything, including having fun and laughing? Let's open our Bibles and read about what God says about these different seasons of life.

Read Ecclesiastes 3 as a class. In verses two through eight, we see that the author is telling us that there is a time for everything. There is a time to be born and a time to die, a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to be silent and a time to speak. This is important for us to know because it tells us that there's a time for everything. Life isn't going to be all weeping and no laughing. There's going to be both. We can be comforted in knowing that even when we're going through tough things, there's going to be relief at some point. There's going to be a time to heal and dance and be peaceful.

And while the seasons of life—being born, dying, loving, hating—happen because that is how life works, the next few verses (9-14) show us that God is the one who makes these seasons happen at certain times. Everything he does, everything that happens, is a part of God's bigger plan. The author of these verses says something very comforting. He says, "[God] has made everything beautiful in its time." This tells us that ultimately everything will be made beautiful. That makes me want to smile and laugh. The author says that while we wait for God's plan to be put in motion—while we wait for things to be made beautiful—we should be happy and content and do good things.

But the author of these verses (especially in Ecclesiastes 3:17) also reminds us that even though we can be happy and content with our earthly lives, we should also remember that we live in a world full of wickedness and injustice. God will ultimately judge the world and those who don't follow him. That is part of the reason why we prepare for judgement by accepting Jesus as our Savior—so that we can be forgiven of our sins and spend forever with God in Heaven. The confidence we have in trusting Christ and knowing that we have salvation gives us joy to face any challenge.

So, your CHALLENGE for this week is to laugh and enjoy the blessings in your life and think about salvation. You can even write down your blessings and hang them up where you can see them. Or write down the Bible verse for this week and hang that up. This will remind you to be happy while you are waiting for God's guidance.

Let's go over our memory verse so we can be reminded of how God wants us to live while we are waiting for all things to be made beautiful.

- **Memory Verse:** "I know that there is nothing better for people than to be happy and to do good while they live." **Ecclesiastes 3:12.**

Kindergarten to 2nd Grade Small Group or Sunday School Discussion & Prayer

Discussion Questions:

Let's open our Bibles and look at Ecclesiastes 3:1-14.

1. There is a time for what?

Answer: Everything.

2. There's a time to be born and a time to....?

Answer: Die.

3. There's a time to weep and a time to....?

Answer: Laugh.

4. God has made everything beautiful in....?

Answer: Its time.

5. The author says, "I know there is nothing better for people than to be happy and do good while they live." What are some "good" things we can do while we are being happy and content in our lives?

Answer: We can be kind to others, volunteer to help those less fortunate, share God's love, tell people about Jesus, make someone laugh.

Prayer:

Dear God, thank You for making everything beautiful in its time. We pray that we can be patient to wait on Your guidance and Your plan. Help us remember to be happy while we wait and share Your love in every season of our lives. We love You, Lord and offer our praise to You while we wait to hear from You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

3rd to 5th Grade Small Group or Sunday School Discussion & Prayer

Note: Allow children to tell you what they think. Multiple answers could apply.

Discussion Questions:

Let's open our Bibles and look at Ecclesiastes 3:1-14.

1. What are some of the seasons of life that stuck out to you when we read through verses 2-8?

Answer: I thought it was interesting that there's a time to kill and a time to heal. I don't think God is telling us to kill others. I think he wants us to let ungodly things die off. He wants the things in our life that are causing us to stray from him to be removed so that we can heal in his love.

2. Why do you think God wanted us to see all of these different seasons of life?

Answer: He wants us to know that even when we are going through a time of sorrow or silence or war, that we are still loved, and that God's plan is still working to make all things beautiful.

3. When does God make everything beautiful?

Answer: In its time.

4. The author says, "I know there is nothing better for people than to be happy and do good while they live." What are some "good" things we can do while we are being happy and content in our lives??

Answer: We can be kind to others, volunteer to help those less fortunate, share God's love, tell people about Jesus, make someone laugh

5. The author says, "That each of them may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all their toil—this is the gift of God." What do you think he means by this?

Answer: God wants us to eat, drink and be happy while we are living our lives because we never know what season we will be living through. It is a gift from God to be happy and content in his love while we live our days on earth.

Prayer:

Dear God, thank You for making everything beautiful in its time. We pray that we can be patient to wait on Your guidance and Your plan. Help us remember to be happy while we wait and share Your love in every season of our lives. We love You, Lord and offer our praise to You while we wait to hear from You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Hands-on Lesson Review

"Giant Connect Four"

Supplies:

- Plastic blue tablecloth
- 20 yellow paper plates
- 20 red paper plates
- Double-sided tape (*Note: Velcro squares can be used if you are planning to keep the game for later use.*)
- List of questions
- Wall or white board to hang up the tablecloth



Directions:

Before you begin, remind the children about Ecclesiastes 3 and how everything is beautiful in its time. Let them know that they will be answering questions about the verses they just went over (they may use Bibles if necessary).

1. Before children arrive, tape a blue plastic tablecloth to the wall or white board. This will be the game board. Place double-sided tape (or Velcro strips) on the backs of each of the 20 yellow plates and the 20 red plates. Set them aside for the game. (Each row has the potential for seven plates. There are six rows of seven open spots.)
2. Divide the kids into two groups—one will be the yellow team and one will be the red team. (*Note: Be sure to pair more confident Biblical scholars with less confident ones so they won't feel overwhelmed.*)
3. Have one person from each team come up to the white board/wall and answer a question (questions listed below). You can use a bell for a "buzzer" or just have the competitors raise their hand when they want to answer a question.
4. Whoever "buzzes" in first gets to answer the question. If the person gets it right, the team gets to place a plate on the board.
5. Continue this method until one team gets a "Connect Four" (i.e., four yellow or four red plates in a row). Multiple rounds can be played if there are enough questions left.

Game Questions:

Note: Feel free to mix these up so the children don't know what to expect.

- There is a time for everything, and a season for every _____ under the heavens. (season)
- A time to be _____ and a time to die. (born)
- A time to plant and a time to _____. (uproot)
- A time to _____ and a time to heal. (kill)

- A time to _____ and a time to build. (tear down)
- A time to weep and a time to _____. (laugh)
- A time to mourn and a time to _____. (dance)
- A time to scatter stones and a time to _____. (gather them)
- A time to _____ and a time to refrain from _____.
 - (embrace; embracing)
- A time to search and a time to _____. (give up)
- A time to tear and a time to _____. (mend)
- A time to be _____ and a time to speak. (silent)
- A time to _____ and a time to hate. (love)
- A time for war and a time for _____. (peace)
- What do workers gain from their _____? (toil)
- What has God made beautiful and when? (everything in its time)
- What did he set in the human heart? (eternity)
- The author says there is nothing better than for people to be and do what? (be happy and do good while they live)
- The author says that each of them may do what along with finding satisfaction in their toil? (eat and drink)
- What does everything God does do? (endures forever)

Bonus Activity: Laughing emoji paper plate mask

This craft will help children remember to laugh and enjoy life while they are waiting for God's guidance

Supplies:

- A yellow plate for each student
- Construction paper (a variety of colors)
- Glue
- Scissors
- Craft sticks (one for each student)
- Duct tape (or another strong tape to attach the craft stick)

Directions:

1. Give each child a yellow paper plate and access to a variety of construction paper. Tell them that we are going to be creating smiling/laughing/happy emoji faces that will help them remember that there is a time to laugh in their journey.
2. Show them pictures of a few different "happy" emojis and let them create faces using construction paper, scissors and glue.
3. When they are finished creating their emoji face, tape a large craft stick to the back of the paper plate so the child can place the emoji face in front of their own.
4. If time allows and you have some willing participants, allow them to tell why they chose to decorate their emoji the way they did.
5. Finish craft time by having each child hold their emoji up and reciting the memory verse.



Laughing Emoji Paper Plate Mask Visual Instructions

Step 1



Step 2



Step 3



Step 4



Additional Resources

Song Suggestion (Kindergarten – 2nd Grade)

“Joy, Joy, Joy, Joy Down in My Heart”

Link: <https://youtu.be/imK7pAMf61E>

Lyrics:

I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy
Down in my heart (where?)
Down in my heart (where?)
Down in my heart
I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy
Down in my heart (where?)
Down in my heart to stay
I've got the love of Jesus, love of Jesus
Down in my heart (where?)
Down in my heart (where?)
Down in my heart
I've got the love of Jesus, love of Jesus
Down in my heart (where?)
Down in my heart to stay

I've got the peace that passes understanding
Down in my heart (where?)
Down in my heart (where?)
Down in my heart
I've got the peace that passes understanding
Down in my heart (where?)
Down in my heart to stay
I've got the wonderful love of my blessed Redeemer
Way down in the depths of my heart (where?)
Down in the depths of my heart (where?)
Down in the depths of my heart

I've got the wonderful love of my blessed Redeemer
Way down in the depths of my heart (where?)
Down in the depths of my heart to stay
You shall love the Lord your God
With all your heart and soul and strength
Heart and soul and strength
Heart and soul and strength
You shall love the Lord your God
With all your heart and soul and strength
Heart and soul and strength always

Song Suggestion (3rd – 5th Grade) "Laugh Out Loud" by Jason Gray

Link: <https://youtu.be/Fsy5vVCO-J4>

Lyrics:

I shake my head at my good fortune
As I shake the dust off of my boots
Yesterday I was an orphan
Somehow today I belong to You
Somehow today I belong to You
Ha ha, don't it make you wanna laugh out loud?
Ooh ooh, and shout, "Hallelujah!"
Oh yeah, if you got joy go and let it on out
Ha ha ha ha, laugh out loud

I was alive but I wasn't living
A prisoner of my fear and shame
But when you find you've been forgiven
Laughter will rise like a holy kind of praise
So I throw my head back and offer up my thanks!
Ha ha, don't it make you wanna laugh out loud?
Ooh ooh, and shout, "Hallelujah!"
Oh yeah, if you got joy go and let it on out
Ha ha ha ha

He said bring to me your heavy heart
Take my hand and we'll go whistling in the dark
Here we go now!
Ha ha, don't it make you wanna laugh out loud?
Ooh ooh, and shout, "Hallelujah!"
Oh yeah, if you got joy go and let it on out
Ha ha ha ha, laugh out loud
Ha ha, don't it make you wanna laugh out loud?
Ooh ooh, and shout, "Hallelujah!"
Oh yeah, if you got joy go and let it on out
Ha ha ha ha, laugh out loud
Ha ha ha ha, laugh out loud



Parent Page

Title: The Try Not to Laugh Challenge

- **Big Idea:** As humans we cannot fathom the power of God. We sometimes don't understand God's big plan. So, it is important to be content (happy, joyful) while we wait for God's guidance.
- **Key Passage: Ecclesiastes 3. There's a time for everything under the heavens.** This passage tells us that God has made everything beautiful in its time. The best we can do is enjoy the journey and strive to be good.
- **Memory Verse: Ecclesiastes 3:12** "I know that there is nothing better for people than to be happy and to do good while they live."
- **Challenge:** laugh and enjoy the blessings in your life. You can even write down your blessings and hang them up where you can see them.

Today, we talked about how there is a season for everything, and God makes everything beautiful in its time. It's our job to find joy and contentment while we wait to see how God's plan unfolds. We used the popular YouTube challenge—The Try Not to Laugh Challenge—as a fun way to introduce the children to the idea that God doesn't want us to be miserable in our spiritual journeys. He wants us to laugh and be joyful.

Here are some questions you can use to talk to your children about what they learned this week.

Questions From Ecclesiastes 3:1-14:

1. There is a time for what?

Answer: Everything.

2. There's a time to be born and a time to....?

Answer: Die.

3. There's a time to weep and a time to....?

Answer: Laugh.

4. God has made everything beautiful in....?

Answer: Its time.

5. The author says, "I know there is nothing better for people than to be happy and do good while they live." What are some "good" things we can do while we are being happy and content in our lives?

Answer: We can be kind to others, volunteer to help those less fortunate, share God's love, tell people about Jesus, make someone laugh

Family Activity:

The Try Not to Laugh Challenge

Check out The Try Not to Laugh Challenge (<https://youtu.be/DnGZFGas7YE>) and see if you can keep from chuckling.

Supplies:

- Large area for children to spread out in a line
- List of Funny ways to read Ecclesiastes 3:2-8

Directions:

For the first round, have your children face you, sitting or standing. Then read through each line of Ecclesiastes 3:2-8 (instructions below). While you read through each line, look to see who laughs. Those who keep a straight face will win the round, while those who laugh will be out. After that round, switch places with your child or children and see if they can make you laugh.

Funny ways to read Ecclesiastes 3:2-8:

- Like a pirate
- Like a cowboy
- Really fast
- Really slow
- Really loud and then really soft
- Like you're a tiny mouse with a squeaky voice
- Like a dinosaur
- Like a snake





The Seven Seconds Challenge

Lesson Summary

- **Big Idea:** The number seven is a significant digit to God. He uses this number throughout the Bible to make his point.
- **Key Passage: Joshua 6. The Battle of Jericho.** The Lord tells Joshua that he has delivered Jericho into his hands and then commands him to march around the city seven times. His directions eventually lead to Joshua's victory in the battle.
- **Memory Verse: Joshua 6:4.** "Have seven priests carry trumpets of rams' horns in front of the ark. On the seventh day, march around the city seven times, with the priests blowing the trumpets."
- **Key Life Application:** As you go through this lesson, remind children of the importance and prevalence of the number seven throughout the Bible. Through the story of Joshua and the Battle of Jericho, show the children that God rewards faithfulness. Remind them that it is important to follow God's directions.

Gospel Connection: Being a believer doesn't keep us from facing difficult situations and temptations. But it is important to follow God's directions and look to the Bible for not only the ways God has been faithful in the past (his promises), but to see that there are ways we should be living in order to honor God. Like the people of Jericho, we realize there are consequences for our actions, especially when they go against God. But God doesn't want to see us suffer. He wants to see us prosper and find salvation so that we can spend forever in Heaven with him. And the only way to do that is through belief in his son, Jesus Christ.

Full List of Supplies Needed to Complete the Entire Lesson

- Large area for teams to congregate for introductory activity
- List of tasks (below), printed out, cut apart and put into a bowl
- Bowl for tasks
- Three to four Jenga sets (more if you have a larger group)
- A white board or tablet of paper for each team
- Marker or pen for white board or tablet of paper
- Flat surface for building Jenga structures
- Mini marshmallows
- Toothpicks (multi-colored toothpicks are fun!)
- Pile of LEGOs for each child (enough to build a little structure)
- Plate for each child

Memory Verse Activity

Hand Motions

Say, "Have seven priests..."

Hold up seven fingers and then make a cross with your arms.

"Carry trumpets of rams horns..."

Pretend to blow a trumpet and then make horns with your hands on top of your head

"In front of the ark..."

Hold out your hands like you're telling someone to "stop"

"On the seventh day..."

Hold up seven fingers

"March around the city seven times..."

March in place while holding up seven fingers

"With the priests blowing the trumpets..."

Make a cross with your hands and then pretend to blow a trumpet.

"Joshua..."

Make the sign for the letter J ([here's what it looks like in American Sign Language](#))

"6:4."

Make each number with your fingers (i.e., six fingers and then four fingers).

Let's Do The Seven Seconds Challenge!

Below you will find a sample script to help you lead the children through The Seven Seconds Challenge. These are only suggestions. Feel free to make changes.

Good morning, everyone. For the last couple of weeks, we've faced some interesting challenges. What challenges have we faced so far? The Whisper Challenge and the Try Not to Laugh Challenge. So far, our challenges have helped us learn about God's voice and that we need to be joyful even when things aren't going our way. So, now that we know how to listen for God's voice and enjoy the earthly life God has given us, we're going to face a new challenge. This week we're going to be participating in The Seven Seconds Challenge! What kinds of things do you think you can accomplish in seven seconds? Run around the room? Tie your shoe? Count to ten in Spanish? Well, we're going to find out what we can do in that short period of time.

Let me explain the rules: In just a minute I'm going to divide you up into two teams. One teammate will compete at a time. When it's your turn, you will draw a strip of paper from the bowl. It will be your job to complete that task in seven seconds! That's not a lot of time, so be quick! If your teammate is able to accomplish their task in seven seconds, then your team will win a point. The team with the most points at the end wins!

For an example of this game, see: <https://youtu.be/Gan3q2KaU8w>

Supplies:

- Large area for teams to congregate
- List of tasks (below), printed out, cut apart and put into a bowl
- Bowl for tasks

Tasks for The Seven Seconds Challenge:

- | | |
|--|--|
| • Name five barnyard animals | • Name seven shapes |
| • Touch all the walls in the room | • Do five lunges |
| • Say "hi" to every person in the room | • Do five finger push-ups |
| • Name five vegetables | • Name three Bible characters |
| • Name five fruits | • Name the two other challenges we've done |
| • Name five things on the human face | • Find something blue in the room |
| • Make three animal noises | • Find something red in the room |
| • Count backwards from 10 | • Sing part of "Jesus Loves Me" |
| • Touch your nose with your lip | • Reach to the sky and then touch your toes five times |
| • Clap with your knees | • Skip around the room |
| • Name three colors in the rainbow | • Do five jumping jacks |
| • Name the days of the week | • Give five people an air high-five |
| • Draw a rectangle with one hand and a circle with the other | |

Large Group Lesson Discussion

After completing the challenge, lead the following discussion.

What did you think of that challenge? Was it difficult to complete those tasks in seven seconds? Why do you think we complete a challenge with the number seven in it? (Take guesses from the children.) Did you know that the number seven is a significant number in the Bible? The number seven comes up so many times in the Bible. It appears 700 times (there's another seven) in Scripture. The number seven has always been important to God. It was the number of days He took to finish creation, Jesus made seven statements of pain on the cross, Jesus uses seven statements to describe himself, and when Peter asks Jesus how many times we are to forgive each other, Jesus tells him it's not just once, but seven times seventy times. It's a number of completion and perfection.

While there are many examples of the significance of the number seven in the Bible, we are going to be talking about one story in particular. It's the story of Joshua and the Battle of Jericho. It starts out with a man named....(see if children will say Joshua), you guessed it, Joshua! He was the leader of the Israelites at the time. He had been Moses' assistant and was an important man to God's people. He was leading them to the land that God had promised them. It was supposed to be the Paradise they'd been hoping, praying and searching for over the course of many years. The first city on this journey was the city of Jericho. Well, the people of Jericho knew that the Israelites were headed their way and they were afraid. They had heard of the things God was doing and they knew that they probably weren't safe. So, they closed their city and locked it up tight.

The scripture says the whole city was surrounded by a large wall. There were actually two walls—an inner wall and an outer wall. They were both 13 feet high. The inner wall was 13 feet thick, and the outer wall was six and a half feet thick. That is a big structure. So, when the Israelites got to Jericho, what do you think they were thinking? I know I would be thinking, "Um, guys, maybe we should turn around. Are you sure God wanted us to conquer this city?"

Well, Joshua knew that the Lord had told him that it was time to take the city of Jericho even though it seemed like a difficult task. He sent spies into the city to see if they could gain any knowledge about how to conquer this heavily fortified place. While they were there, they were protected by a woman named Rahab. She even helped them escape back outside of the city gates. Because of her kindness, the spies promised to keep her and her family safe when the Israelites took back the land. She hung a scarlet cord outside of her window to remind them of their promise.

The Israelites were now gathered nearby Jericho, on the banks of the Jordan River. Joshua was a little nervous about the big job that God had asked him to do. How was he supposed to conquer a city that was protected by such big walls?

Suddenly, a man with a large sword appeared in front of Joshua. Frightened by this man and his soldier-like appearance, Joshua asked if he was for the Israelites or for their enemies. The man told him, "Neither, but as commander of the army of the Lord I have now come. Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy." (Joshua 5:13-15). Why do you think God sent the commander of the army of the Lord to talk to Joshua? I'm sure God knew that Joshua was scared about the job he had given him. So, he wanted Joshua to know that this was a mission for God and he was with him the whole time.

Let's open our Bibles and read Joshua 6 and find out what happens next.

So, what did God ask Joshua and his army to do? (Allow for answers.) He asked them to march around the city once a day with all the armed men for six days straight with seven priests (there's that number seven!) with trumpets of rams' horns in front of the ark. Then on the—what day?—the SEVENTH day they would march around the city seven times, with the priests blowing the trumpets. After a long blast of the trumpets, the whole army would shout and what would happen? The walls would come down. Do you think Joshua and his army were a little nervous that they'd do all of this and the walls would stand? Those are really thick walls, and it doesn't seem possible that shouting would bring them down. I know I would be nervous. But they were faithful to God's promise and they did exactly as He told them to do. And what happened? The walls came down! How amazing!

So, we can see that the number seven played a big part in this story. We can see that Joshua and the Israelites were rewarded with a portion of their Promised Land because of their faithfulness in God's plan. We can be faithful in our lives as well. We might not have to topple a city, but there will be difficult things that we face along the way, and it is up to us to believe that God will be there with us every step of the way. Just like God sent His army commander to assure Joshua of His plan, He will also show His presence to us when we are facing challenges.

So, your CHALLENGE for this week is to remember God's promises, especially those that involve the number seven, and be faithful and follow God's direction even when you are facing difficult circumstances.

Let's go over our memory verse so we can be reminded of how important the number seven is and of Joshua's faithfulness.

Memory Verse: "Have seven priests carry trumpets of rams' horns in front of the ark. On the seventh day, march around the city seven times, with the priests blowing trumpets." **Joshua 6:4.**

Note: Motions for Memory Verse are provided above.

Kindergarten to 2nd Small Group or Sunday School Discussion & Prayer

Discussion Questions:

Let's open our Bibles and look at Joshua 6.

1. The walls of Jericho were secure so that no one could come in. Who were they trying to keep out?

Answer: The Israelites.

2. The Lord tells Joshua that He has delivered which city into his hands?

Answer: Jericho.

3. How many times were the Israelites supposed to march around the first six days?

Answer: Once a day.

4. How many times was the army supposed to march around the city on the seventh day?

Answer: Seven times.

5. What happened when Joshua and his army and the priests shouted around the city?

Answer: The walls of the city came down and the Israelites were able to take back part of their Promised Land.

Let's say a prayer to help us remember to be faithful when God gives us directions that seem difficult or if we are going through a hard time.

Prayer:

Dear God, thank You for being there for us even when we don't see You. We pray that we can be faithful and remember that You do all things for the good of Your people. Help us to remember Your words and Your promises as we go about our days. In Jesus' name, Amen.

3rd to 5th Grade Small Group or Sunday School Discussion & Prayer

Note: Allow children to tell you what they think. Multiple answers could apply.

Discussion Questions: Let's open our Bibles and look at Joshua 6.

1. How do you think Joshua was feeling as he faced the large walls of Jericho?

Answer: I think he was probably afraid and nervous that he would lead his people into a bad situation.

2. Why do you think Joshua was able to be faithful and believe that God would allow him and his people to destroy Jericho with shouting and trumpets?

Answer: Joshua knew that God had been faithful other times in his life. He knew God wouldn't lead him somewhere he hadn't already been. I also believe that the appearance of the commander of the Lord's army helped Joshua feel like he had some spiritual back-up.

3. How do you think the Israelites felt when they saw these giant walls fall?

Answer: I think they were probably amazed and a little stunned. They might have just stood there for a while, trying to understand what just happened. They were probably also very happy that they had been faithful and followed Joshua's instructions (that were from God).

4. Who else was faithful in the story?

Answer: Rahab was faithful. She believed Joshua's spies that they would spare her and her family when the Israelites took over Jericho. And because she was faithful, her life was spared.

5. Why do you think Joshua says, "Cursed before the Lord is the one who undertakes to rebuild this city of Jericho?"

Answer: God obviously didn't want the city of Jericho to be built on the Promised Land, especially when it was made to keep out His people (the Israelites). I think the city also represents those people who have been unfaithful and who have not followed God's will. So, rebuilding it as it was would be like ignoring God's will again.

Prayer: Dear God, thank You for being there for us even when we don't see You. We pray that we can be faithful and remember that You do all things for the good of Your people. Help us to remember Your words and Your promises as we go about our days. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Hands-on Lesson Review

"Jenga Jericho Walls"

Supplies:

- Three to four Jenga sets (more if you have a larger group)
- A white board or tablet of paper
- Marker or pen
- Flat surface for building

Directions:

Before you begin, remind the children about Joshua and the Battle of Jericho. Let them know that they will be answering questions about the verses they just went over (they may use Bibles if necessary).

This game will be played in three rounds. The children will be divided up into three to four teams (one Jenga set for each team). Each team will be given a white board and a marker or a tablet of paper and a pen to write their team answers for each question. They answer seven questions in each round as a team (they must agree on an answer before writing it down). If they answer the question correctly, they will be given three Jenga tiles. If they do not get the answer correct, they will not get any tiles. At the end of the round, the team will then have seven seconds to build a "wall" with the Jenga tiles they earned. It must be able to stay standing. For the first round, the children will build on a hard surface. During the second round, the teams will have to build on top of their first-round structure. The third-round tiles will be built on their second-round structure. At the end of three rounds, the teams will be asked to march around their structures seven times and then shout (you can omit this if your space doesn't allow for shouting). The team whose structure is (mostly) standing after the marching and shouting will be declared the winner.

Game Questions:

Round One

1. What is the number that we see a lot in the Bible? (seven)
2. Who and what did God deliver into the hands of the Israelites? (Jericho, its king and its fighting men)
3. How many times were the Israelites supposed to march around the city for the first six days? (once)
4. What were the seven priests supposed to carry during the marches around the city? (trumpets of rams' horns)
5. What were the Israelites supposed to do after the priests sounded a long blast on their trumpets? (give a loud shout)
6. Joshua called the priests to them and told them to take up what? (the ark of the covenant of the Lord)

7. Joshua told the army to, "Advance! March around the city, with an armed guard going ahead of what?" (the ark of the Lord)

Round Two

1. Joshua commanded the army not to give what? (a war cry)
2. When does Joshua want the army to shout? (not until he tells them to shout)
3. Where did the army return to each night? (the camp)
4. On the seventh day, what did Joshua command the army to do? (Shout! For the Lord has given you the city!)
5. The city and all that is in it are to be devoted to who? (the Lord)
6. What did Joshua tell his army to stay away from? (devoted things)
7. What would taking devoted things bring about? (destruction)

Round Three

1. Where was the silver, gold and articles of bronze and iron supposed to go? (the Lord's treasury)
2. Who did the Israelites devote the city to? (the Lord)
3. The young men who had done the spying went in and brought out who? (Rahab, her father and mother, her brothers and sisters and all that belonged to her)
4. Where did they take Rahab and her family? (a place outside the camp of Israel)
5. During Joshua's solemn oath, who does he say will be cursed? (the one who undertakes to rebuild this city, Jericho)
6. Who was with Joshua as his fame spread? (the Lord)
7. What is the book of the Bible this story came from? (Joshua)

Bonus Activity: Tumbling Marshmallow Walls with LEGO® City

Note: Make sure to check with parents about food allergies before allowing children to eat the marshmallows in this craft.

Supplies:

- Mini marshmallows
- Toothpicks (multi-colored toothpicks are fun!)
- Pile of LEGOs for each child (enough to build a little structure)
- Plate for each child

Directions:

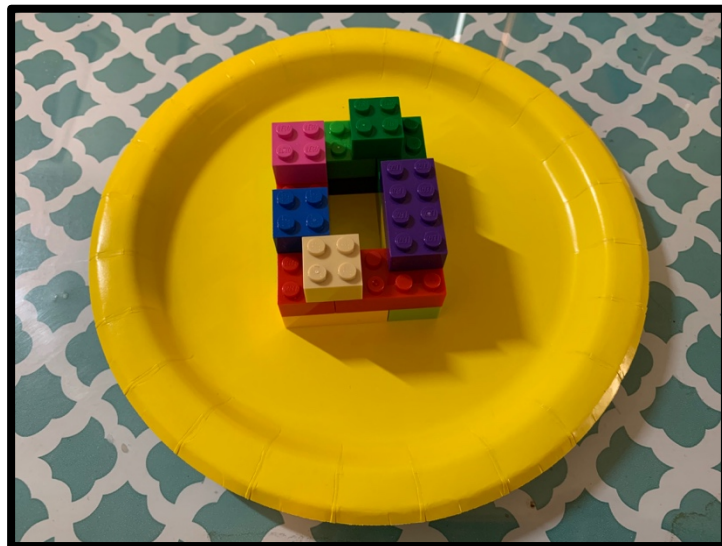
1. Give each child a plate for building their cities and walls.
2. Give each child a pile of LEGOs and instruct them to build their own city of Jericho.
3. Once they're finished building the LEGO city, give them a handful of mini marshmallows and several toothpicks.
4. Instruct children to use the mini marshmallows and toothpicks as building blocks to build a wall around your city of Jericho.
5. After everyone is finished building their wall, recite the Bible verse and do another "shout." Tell the children that they can (nicely) destroy their cities and walls and eat their marshmallows (if no food allergies).

Tumbling Marshmallow Walls with LEGO® City Visual Instructions

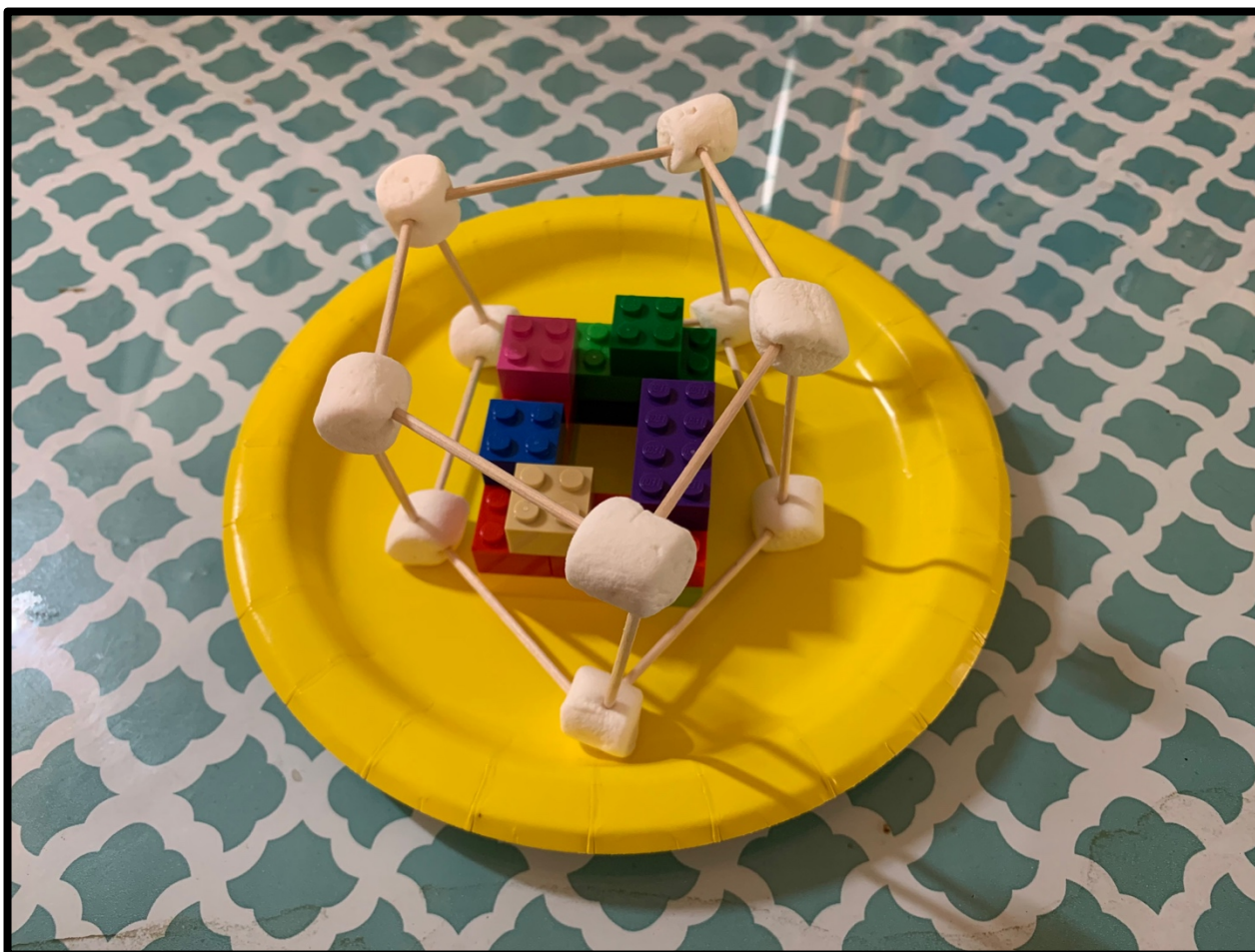
Step 1



Step 2



Step 3



Suggested Resources

Song Suggestion (Kindergarten – 2nd Grade):

“Joshua Fought the Battle of Jericho”

Link: <https://youtu.be/MdQy2l8BegA>

Lyrics:

Joshua fought the battle of Jericho
Jericho, Jericho
Joshua fought the battle of Jericho
And the walls came tumbling down!

You may talk about your men of Gideon
You may talk about your men of Saul
But there's none like good old Joshua
And the battle of Jericho!

Joshua fought the battle of Jericho
Jericho, Jericho
Joshua fought the battle of Jericho
And the walls came tumbling down!

Right up to the walls of Jericho
They marched with spear in hand
"Go blow them ram horns," Joshua cried
"Cause the battle is in my hand"

Joshua fought the battle of Jericho
Jericho, Jericho
Joshua fought the battle of Jericho
And the walls came tumbling down!

Then the lamb, ram
Sheep horns began to blow
And the trumpets began to sound
Joshua told the children to shout that morning
And the walls came tumbling down!

Joshua fought the battle of Jericho
Jericho, Jericho
Joshua fought the battle of Jericho
And the walls came tumbling down!

And the walls came tumbling down!
And the walls came tumbling down!

Song Suggestion (3rd – 5th Grade):

“Jericho” by Andrew Ripp

Link: <https://youtu.be/DANgNI6rqxl>

Lyrics:

I was stacking up the years I spent trading punches with the enemy
Built myself a double thick stone
Tower of lies, higher than the eye could see
Trapped in my flesh and bone
Crying out to You, Lord, I'm desperate
Love, come rattle this cage and set me free

All of my fears like Jericho walls
Gotta come down, come down
All of my fears like Jericho walls
Gotta come down, come down
Oh Lord, my prison turns to ruin
When Your love moves in
All of my fears like Jericho walls
Gotta come down, come down, come down

Truth was crashing through the pride and the blame
Cutting straight into the heart of me
Long before I ever called your name
You were fighting for my victory
Carved in Your flesh and bone
Are wounds that have said my souls forgiven
Oh now, I can feel the darkness trembling

All of my fears like Jericho walls
Gotta come down, come down
All of my fears like Jericho walls
Gotta come down, come down
Oh Lord, my prison turns to ruin
When Your love moves in
All of my fears like Jericho walls
Gotta come down, come down, come down

Rebuild me from the ground up
All I wanna see is You
Terrify the lies with truth

All of my fears like Jericho walls
Gotta come down, come down
All of my fears like Jericho walls
Gotta come down, come down

Oh Lord, my prison turns to ruin
When Your love moves in
All of my fears like Jericho walls
Gotta come down, come down, come down

All of my fears gotta come down
Jericho walls
Gotta come down, come down, come down



Parent Page

Title: The Seven Seconds Challenge

- **Big Idea:** The number Seven is a significant digit to God. He uses this number throughout the Bible to make His points.
- **Key Passage: Joshua 6. The Battle of Jericho.** The Lord tells Joshua that He has delivered Jericho into his hands and then commands him to march around the city seven times. His directions eventually lead to Joshua's victory in the battle.
- **Memory Verse: Joshua 6:4** "Have seven priests carry trumpets of rams' horns in front of the ark. On the seventh day, march around the city seven times, with the priests blowing the trumpets."
- **Challenge:** Remember God's promises, especially those that involve the number seven, and be faithful and follow God's direction even when you are facing difficult circumstances.

Today, we talked about the importance of the number seven in the Bible and how Joshua trusted God's plan to destroy the city of Jericho. We used the popular YouTube challenge – The Seven Seconds Challenge – as a fun way to help them remember the importance of the number Seven and to lead into a discussion about Joshua and his faithfulness.

Questions from Ecclesiastes 3:1-14:

1. The walls of Jericho were secure so that no one could come in. Who were they trying to keep out?

Answer: The Israelites.

2. The Lord tells Joshua that he has delivered what city into his hands?

Answer: Jericho.

3. How many times were the Israelites supposed to march around the first six days?

Answer: Once a day.

4. How many times were they supposed to march around the city on the seventh day?

Answer: Seven times.

5. What happened when Joshua and his army and the priests shouted around the city?

Answer: The walls of the city came down and the Israelites were able to take back part of their Promised Land.

Family Activity:

The Seven Second Challenge

Check out The Seven Second Challenge (<https://youtu.be/Gan3q2KaU8w>) and see if you and your family can complete these tasks in seven seconds.

Supplies:

- Large area for children to spread out in a line
- List of Funny ways to read Ecclesiastes 3:2-8

Directions:

When it's your turn, you will draw a strip of paper from the bowl. It will be your job to complete that task in seven seconds! That's not a lot of time, so be quick! If you are able to accomplish the task in seven seconds, then you will win a point. The person with the most points at the end wins!

Supplies:

- List of tasks (below), printed out, cut apart and put into a bowl
- Bowl for tasks

Tasks for The Seven Second Challenge:

- Name five barnyard animals
- Touch all the walls in the room
- Say "hi" to every person in the room
- Name five vegetables
- Name five fruits
- Name five things on the human face
- Make three animal noises
- Count backwards from 10
- Touch your nose with your lip
- Clap with your knees
- Name three colors in the rainbow
- Name the days of the week
- Draw a rectangle with one hand and a circle with the other
- Name seven shapes
- Do five lunges
- Do five finger push-ups





LESSON 4

Mark 10:52

“Go,’ said Jesus, ‘your faith has healed you.’ Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road.”



The Blindfolded Drawing Challenge

Lesson Summary

- **Big Idea:** It is difficult to move forward when we don't know what will happen. But God wants us to have faith that He will guide us through life and reward us for that faith.
- **Key Passage: Mark 10:46-52. Blind Bartimaeus.** Read through this passage and talk about the faith Bartimaeus had to walk into the arms of Jesus without seeing where he was going. God rewarded his faith with the gift of sight.
- **Memory Verse: Mark 10:52.** "'Go,' said Jesus, 'your faith has healed you.' Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road."
- **Key Life Application:** As you go through this lesson, remind children that even when they can't see what will happen next, they can trust that God wants good things for them and will be with them along the way.

Gospel Connection: The story of Bartimaeus shows us that when we can silence the negative voices around us and walk into the arms of Jesus, we can find what we've always wanted and needed. Jesus wants us to come to Him and trust in Him so that he can heal our hearts from sin and receive the ultimate reward—salvation and eternity with God in Heaven.

Full List of Supplies Needed to Complete the Entire Lesson

- 1 bandana for each pair of students
- List of drawing prompts (below)
- Envelopes to present each partner with their prompts
- Pad or piece of paper
- Pen/marker
- 2 green bandanas
- 3 red bandanas
- 3 blue bandanas
- 9 hula hoops
- Zip ties to tie hula hoops together
- Large area for play (a gym or outside space would be ideal)
- Face template (below)
- Googly eyes
- Markers/crayons
- Yarn
- Glue
- Scissors

Memory Verse Activity

Hand Motions

Say, “Go,’ said Jesus...

Run in place and then make the sign for J ([here's what it looks like](https://www.signingtime.com/dictionary/j/)).
<https://www.signingtime.com/dictionary/j/>

“Your faith has healed you...’

Make a cross with your arms and then bring your hands to your sides.

“Immediately he received his sight...

Swipe your hands over your eyes, and open them wide.

“And followed Jesus...

Use your forefinger and middle finger to walk on your palm. Then make the sign for J.

“Along the road...

Pretend to walk down the road.

“Mark...

Make the sign for the letter “M”

“10:52.”

Make each number with your fingers (i.e., ten, five, two).

Let's Do The Blindfolded Drawing Challenge!

Below you will find a sample script to help you lead the children through The Blindfolded Drawing Challenge. These are only suggestions. Feel free to make changes.

Good morning, everyone. We have become pretty good at facing challenges the past few weeks. Are you up for another one? Great! Can you tell me what challenges we've done so far? The Whisper Challenge, the Try Not to Laugh Challenge, and the Seven Seconds Challenge. This week we're going to be participating in The Blindfolded Drawing Challenge! Do you think this will be an easy or difficult challenge? Let's find out!

Let me explain the rules: In just a minute I'm going to divide you up into pairs. You will take turns trying to get your partner to guess what you're drawing! But the catch is that you will be blindfolded when you're drawing! If your partner is able to guess what you're drawing, you earn a point. Whoever has the most points at the end wins!

For an example of this game, see: <https://youtu.be/Qo7BCVj3IjM>

Supplies:

- 1 bandana for each pair of students
- List of drawing prompts (below)
- Envelopes to present each partner with their prompts
- Pad or piece of paper
- Pen/marker

Directions:

1. Give each child an envelope with three prompts listed on a piece of paper. They will not show these to their partner.
2. When it is their turn to go, they will blindfold themselves (or be assisted by their partner) and look at the first prompt.
3. When the leader says go, they will start drawing the first prompt. They will have one minute to correctly guess what their partner is drawing. If they are successful, then the artist gets the point.
4. Once the first partner is finished drawing, it is the second partner's turn to be blindfolded and draw the first prompt in their envelope.
5. When they have each finished drawing their three prompts, the game will be over. Ask the children how many of them guessed them all correctly.

Prompts for Challenge:

1. An ice cream cone
2. A cat
3. A car

1. A birthday cake
2. A baseball
3. A rain cloud

1. A hamburger
2. Sunglasses
3. A flower

1. An apple
2. A house
3. A rainbow

Large Group Lesson Discussion

After completing the challenge, lead the following discussion.

It seems like some of us were successful and some of us weren't. What was it like to know what you wanted to communicate to your partner, but you couldn't see to do it properly? It was pretty frustrating, wasn't it? Well, the story we're going to talk about today is about Bartimaeus. He was a blind man who had spent years not being able to function in his world the way he wished. He was even forced to beg on the side of the road because he couldn't work to care for himself. Let's read and find out what happens when Jesus encounters Bartimaeus on the road to Jericho. We remember the city of Jericho, don't we? We just talked about it in our last session!

Read Mark 10:46-52 as a class.

What happened when Bartimaeus realized that it was Jesus, the son of David, coming down the road? *(He called out to Jesus to have mercy on him.)* How do you think the man knew how special Jesus was? *(He had probably heard of the miracles he'd performed.)* Why do you think he asked Jesus to have mercy on him? What do you think he wanted from Jesus? *(He wanted Jesus to see that he was faithful and that he needed help.)*

Now, Bartimaeus was faithful that Jesus was the person He said He was. He knew that if Jesus had mercy on him that He might perform a miracle and restore his sight. But because he was a beggar on the street, the other people around him were rebuking him. What does rebuke mean? They were shouting criticisms at him. They were telling him that he shouldn't be speaking to Jesus and calling out to him.

But did Jesus listen to the people's negative words? No! "Jesus stopped and said, 'Call him.'" He was willing to stop what He was doing and silence all of the negative voices to listen to the cries of a blind beggar on the street. And did He rebuke Bartimaeus? No! He told him to cheer up, get on his feet, and come to Him.

Remember, Bartimaeus was blind. He could not see where he was going or who was in the large crowd around Jesus. But did he stay where he was and wait for Jesus to come to him? No, he threw his cloak aside and jumped to his feet and walked to Jesus. Even though Bartimaeus didn't know if there would be obstacles in the road, he walked to Jesus in the dark because he was faithful that Jesus would receive him and have mercy on him. It is the same way with us. Even though we don't necessarily deal with blindness, we don't know what our future will bring. We don't know what obstacles we will encounter. But if we have faith, Jesus will be there to receive us.

And what did Jesus do for Bartimaeus? He gave him his sight. He rewarded his faithfulness. He knew it was difficult for the blind man to walk to Him and trust that Jesus would receive him. Jesus wanted Bartimaeus to know that his faithfulness was a big deal. But Jesus didn't just reward that one person. He rewards everyone with the gift of salvation when we believe in Him. And you can ask Jesus to be in your life at any time. You don't have to wait until you are facing obstacles. You can ask Him today to be



in your heart and forgive your sins. But if you're not quite ready to do that or you've already made a commitment to Jesus, then you can focus on our weekly challenge.

Your CHALLENGE for this week is to walk by faith, not by sight. Remember that Jesus is there for you no matter what the future brings, and He will receive you with open arms.

Let's go over our memory verse so we can be reminded of how

Memory Verse: "Go," said Jesus, 'your faith has healed you.' Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road." **Mark 10:52.**

Note: Motions for Memory Verse are provided above.

Kindergarten to 2nd Grade Small Group or Sunday School Discussion & Prayer

Discussion Questions:

Let's open our Bibles and look at Mark 10:46-52.

1. What city was Bartimaeus begging near?

Answer: Jericho.

2. What did Bartimaeus shout to Jesus as He and His disciples were leaving the city?

Answer: "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"

3. How did the people around Bartimaeus treat him when he called out to Jesus?

Answer: They rebuked him, criticizing him for calling out to Jesus.

4. What did Jesus do when he heard the blind man's second call?

Answer: He asked the disciples to call to him.

5. What did Jesus tell Bartimaeus when he walked to Him and asked for his sight?

Answer: "Go," said Jesus, "your faith has healed you."

Let's say a prayer to help us remember to have faith in Jesus even when we don't know what the future brings.

Prayer:

Dear God, thank You for the reward of salvation. We are so grateful that You have mercy on us every day and help us overcome all of life's obstacles. Please help us to remember to be faithful to You as we walk through good times and hard times. In Jesus' name, Amen.

3rd to 5th Grade Small Group or Sunday School Discussion & Prayer

Note: Allow children to tell you what they think. Multiple answers could apply.

Discussion Questions:

Let's open our Bibles and look at Mark 10:46-52.

1. What was the name of the city Bartimaeus was begging near and what happened there before?

Answer: The city of Jericho. It was the site of the Battle of Jericho where Joshua took back a portion of the Promised Land.

2. Why do you think Bartimaeus was excited to hear that Jesus was nearby?

Answer: Bartimaeus had heard that Jesus was a man of mercy, who had performed miracles and healed others.

3. Why do you think people around Jesus were rebuking Bartimaeus when he called out to Jesus?

Answer: I think they were probably didn't think much of Bartimaeus. He was a blind beggar on the street. They probably thought he wasn't worthy of Jesus' time.

4. How did Jesus treat Bartimaues compared to the others around him?

Answer: He listened to him and asked the disciples to call to him. He showed him love and mercy.

5. Why did Jesus reward Bartimaeus with his sight?

Answer: Jesus knew that Bartimaeus had believed that Jesus would heal him. He had faith that Jesus was who He said He was. Jesus wanted Bartimaeus to know that his faithfulness was valuable.

Let's say a prayer to help us remember to have faith in Jesus even when we don't know what the future brings.

Prayer:

Dear God, thank You for the reward of salvation. We are so grateful that You have mercy on us every day and help us overcome all of life's obstacles. Please help us to remember to be faithful to You as we walk through good times and hard times. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Hands-on Lesson Review

"Blindfolded Tic Tac Toe"

Supplies:

- 2 green bandanas
- 3 red bandanas
- 3 blue bandanas
- 9 hula hoops
- Zip ties to tie hoops together
- Large area for play (a gym or outside space would be ideal)

Directions:

Before You Begin

Zip tie all of the hula hoops together so they form a tic tac toe board (three rows of three). Tell students that they are going to be playing the parts of Jesus and Bartimaeus today. One person will be the "Jesus" of their team and the rest will play the part of Bartimaeus one at a time. The job of the "Jesus" will be to guide the blindfolded Bartimaeus to the tic tac toe board to place one of their team's bandanas on the board. Once at the board, "Jesus" will take the person's blindfold off "revealing their sight," and then they will run back to the rest of the team and blindfold the next person in line.

To Play

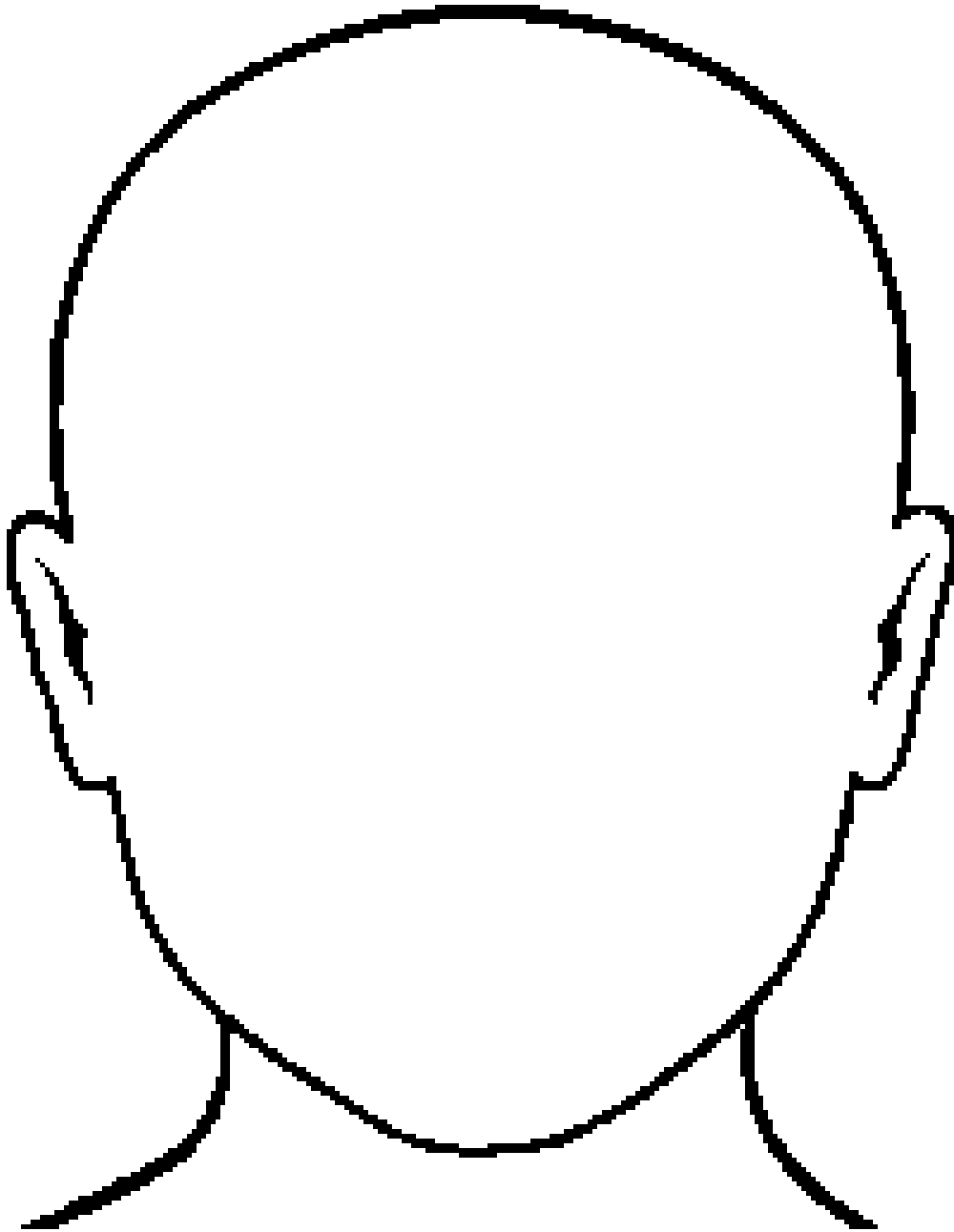
1. Divide the children into two teams. Give one team all of the red bandanas and one green one and the other team all of the blue bandanas and one green one.
2. Explain that the green bandanas will be to blindfold one team member at a time. They will be the "Bartimaeus." It will be their job to walk down to the tic tac toe board and place their team's-colored bandana on the board. They will have to do all of this at the direction of the person playing "Jesus."
3. The "Jesus" will stand at the other end of the play space, next to the board, guiding their blindfolded teammate to the board.
4. After the blindfolded team member places their bandana on the board, it will be the other team's turn to guide their teammate to the board.
5. Once the person has placed their bandana, "Jesus" will remove "Bartimaeus" blindfold and they will run back to their teammates and blindfold the next person.
6. Play continues until all team members have had a chance to either place a bandana or move one of the bandanas that has already been placed (to ensure a tic tac toe). Whoever has a tic tac toe first after all team members have had a chance to play wins.

Note: If time allows, you can play multiple rounds.

Questions for after the game:

1. If you played "Jesus," how difficult was it to guide the person to the tic tac toe board? *(Allow for multiple answers.)*
2. What did it feel like to be blindfolded and have to trust that the person guiding you would keep you out of harm's way and help you find your way? *(Allow for multiple answers.)*
3. Is it sometimes difficult for us to trust that God will guide us to where we need to be? *(Yes. It is hard to follow God when we don't know what's up ahead.)*
4. Why do you think Mark (the author of this book of the Bible) thought it was important to include the story of Bartimaeus? *(The story illustrates that we should let go of our fears and ignore the negative voices around us and walk into the arms of Jesus. He wants the best for us. He rewarded Bartimaeus for his faithfulness.)*

Jesus Rewards Bartimaeus with Sight



“Go,” said Jesus, ‘your faith has healed you.’ Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road.”

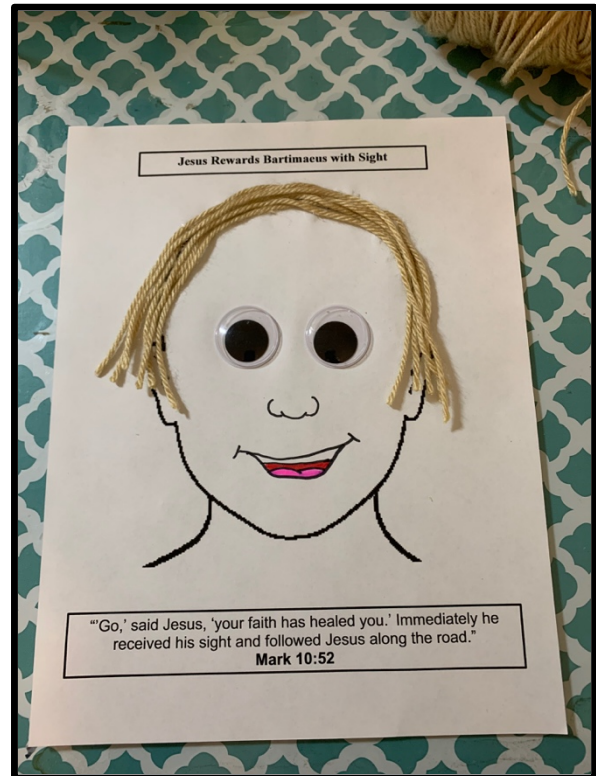
Mark 10:52

Supplies:

- Face template (above)
- Googly eyes
- Markers/crayons
- Yarn
- Glue
- Scissors

Directions:

1. Give each child a face template. Explain that we are going to be creating Bartimaeus. We want to show the emotion and joy on his face when Jesus restored his sight. Remind children that it was because he was faithful that he regained his vision.
2. Tell children they can use the markers/crayons to create the mouth, nose, clothing, background, etc. They can use the yarn, scissors and glue to create Bartimaeus' hair.
3. Once they have finished the other parts of Bartimaeus' face, then you can pass out the googly eyes and have the children give their creation "sight."
4. When everyone is finished, have a few children share about what they thought Bartimaeus looked like (using their illustration) and felt like when he was given his sight. Talk about how they might feel if they were given sight after being blind their whole lives.
5. Recite the verse at the bottom of the template as a class.



Suggested Resources

Song Suggestion (Kindergarten – 2nd Grade):

“Jesus Heals the Blind Man” by Two by 2

Link: <https://youtu.be/8R6Ps6K243w>

Lyrics:

Jesus went to a town called Jericho
Soon he passed a blind man by the road
The man shouted, "Jesus have mercy on me!
“Please heal me so I can finally see!”

The blind man's friends told him to quiet down
But he shouted loud enough to fill the town
The blind man's faith in God would give him sight

Jesus heard the blind man shouting out
So He called to bring him from the crowd
Jesus asked, "What do you want from me?"
Again he cried, "Heal my eyes so I can see!"

Jesus said, "For all you've been through...
“Your endless faith in God has healed you."
And straight away the blind man could see

Instrumental

Jesus said, "For all you've been through
Your endless faith in God has healed you"
And straight away the blind man could see

Jesus said, "For all you've been through
Your endless faith in God has healed you"
And straight away the

Song Suggestion (3rd – 5th Grade):

“Open the Eyes of My Heart, Lord” by Maranatha Music

Link: <https://youtu.be/k9F4hP2AZAw>

Lyrics:

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord
Open the eyes of my heart
I want to see You
I want to see You

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord
Open the eyes of my heart
I want to see You
I want to see You

To see You high and lifted up
Shining in the light of Your glory
Pour out Your power and love
As we sing holy, holy, holy

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord
Open the eyes of my heart
I want to see You
I want to see You

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord
Open the eyes of my heart
I want to see You
I want to see You

To see You high and lifted up
Shining in the light of Your glory
Pour out Your power and love
As we sing holy, holy, holy

To see You high and lifted up
Shining in the light of Your glory
Pour out Your power and love
As we sing holy, holy, holy

To see You high and lifted up
Shining in the light of Your glory
Pour out Your power and love
As we sing holy, holy, holy

Holy, holy, holy
We cry holy, holy, holy
You are holy, holy, holy
I want to see You

Holy, holy, holy
Holy, holy, holy

You are holy, holy, holy
I want to see You

Holy, holy, holy (open the eyes of my heart)
Holy, holy, holy (yeah! open the eyes of my heart)
Holy, holy, holy (I want to see You)
I want to see You (I want to see You, Lord)

You are Holy, holy, holy
(Open the eyes of my heart) Holy, holy, holy
(You are) Holy, holy, holy
I want to see You

Holy, holy, holy
Holy, holy, holy
Holy, holy, holy
I want to see You

Holy, holy, holy
Holy, holy, holy
Holy, holy, holy
I want to see You

Holy, holy, holy
Holy, holy, holy
Holy, holy, holy
I want to see You

Holy, holy, holy
Holy, holy, holy
Holy, holy, holy
I want to see You



Parent Page

Title: The Blindfolded Drawing Challenge

- **Big Idea:** It is difficult to move forward when we don't know what will happen. But God wants us to have faith that He will guide us through life and reward us for that faith.
- **Key Passage: Mark 10:46-52. Blind Bartimaeus.** Read through this passage and talk about the faith Bartimaeus had to walk into the arms of Jesus without seeing where he was going. God rewarded his faith with the gift of sight.
- **Memory Verse: Mark 10:52** "'Go,' said Jesus, 'your faith has healed you.' Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road."
- **Challenge:** Walk by faith, not by sight. Remember that Jesus is there for you no matter what the future brings, and He will receive you with open arms.

Today, we talked about the faithfulness of Bartimaeus, a blind beggar from Jericho. Even though there were negative voices around him, Bartimaeus had faith that Jesus would have mercy on him and receive him with love. Jesus saw how faithful Bartimaeus was and rewarded him with his sight. We talked about how difficult it was for Bartimaeus to get up and walk towards Jesus even though he didn't know what obstacles were in his way. It is much like our walk with Christ. We don't know what the future brings, but we have faith that Jesus will be there to receive us and to walk with us along the way.

Questions from Ecclesiastes 3:1-14:

1. What city was Bartimaeus begging near?

Answer: Jericho.

2. What did Bartimaeus shout to Jesus as he and his disciples were leaving the city?

Answer: "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"

3. How did the people around Bartimaeus treat him when he called out to Jesus?

Answer: They rebuked him, criticizing him for calling out to Jesus.

4. What did Jesus do when he heard the blind man's second call?

Answer: He asked the disciples to call to him.

5. What did Jesus tell Bartimaeus when he walked to him and asked for his sight?

Answer: "'Go, said Jesus, 'your faith has healed you.'"

Family Activity: The Blindfolded Drawing Challenge

Check out The Blindfolded Drawing Challenge <https://youtu.be/Qo7BCVj3ljM> and find out who is the best blindfolded artist in your family.

The Rules:

You will take turns trying to get your family members to guess what you're drawing! But the catch is that you will be blindfolded when you're completing your masterpiece! If your family members are able to guess what you're drawing, you earn a point. Whoever has the most points at the end, wins!

Supplies:

- 1 bandana/blindfold
- List of drawing prompts (below)
- A pad of paper
- Pen/marker

Directions:

1. Write down a list of drawing prompts (or use the ones below). Cut them in strips, fold them and place them in a bowl.
2. Each person will take a turn choosing a prompt from the bowl. They will have to draw what was on the piece of paper while blindfolded.
3. If they are able to get the other players to guess what they were drawing, then they get a point. If no one guesses correctly, then they won't gain any points.
4. The teammate with the most points after each person has taken three turns is the winner!

Suggestions for Blindfolded Drawing Challenge:

- Bunny
- Pencil
- The sun
- Fish
- Ocean
- Shoes
- Cookie
- Baseball bat
- Tree
- Banana





LESSON 5

Acts 20:22

“And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there.”



The “What’s in the Box?” Challenge

Lesson Summary

- **Big Idea:** When we put our hands in a box and don’t know what we’ll pull out, it’s sort of like living your life for God and not knowing what will happen to you.
- **Key Passage: Acts 20. Paul’s farewell to the Ephesian elders.** In Paul’s time, the price of following God was steep. It could mean prison or even death. But Paul knew God was asking him to go to Jerusalem, and he had to face this journey even if he was afraid.
- **Memory Verse: Acts 20:22.** “And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there.”
- **Key Life Application:** As you go through this lesson, remind children that sometimes when we follow God, we don’t know what hardships or obstacles we will face. But what we do know is that God is with us every step of the way, and we don’t need to be afraid.

Gospel Connection: The story of Paul saying goodbye to his brothers in Ephesus shows us that following Jesus is not always going to be an easy job. When we give our lives to Jesus, they are His. He will guide us to places and to people who need Him. We will act as His ambassadors to help bring people to Him. Sometimes we will face challenges, but because we have accepted Jesus into our lives, He will never leave or forsake us.

Full List of Supplies Needed to Complete the Entire Lesson

- 2 cardboard boxes. Prepare these ahead of time. (See details below under **Directions for the “What’s in the box?” Challenge**)
- Containers for each mystery item
- 10 mystery items for players to guess; you can do more if you have more children (See suggestions below.)
- White board and marker to keep score
- Baby wipes/paper towels if your mystery items are messy
- 2 square boxes. Prepare these ahead of time. (See details below under **Directions for the “Large Dice Review Game.”**)
- Paper dots
- Poster marker
- Large space to throw dice
- White board to keep score
- 1 piece of newspaper
- 1 large paper plate
- Markers/crayons
- Tape
- Scissors

Memory Verse Activity

Hand Motions

Say, “And now, compelled by the Spirit...

Run in place and then point to Heaven.

“I am going to Jerusalem...

Point forward and then make a cross with your arms.

“Not knowing...

Shake your head “no” and then point to your temple.

“What will happen to me there.”

Shrug your shoulders and put your arms up like you’re not sure (like the shrugging emoji).

“Acts...

Make the sign for the letter A ([here’s what it looks like](#)).

“20:22.”

Make each number with your fingers (i.e., two, zero, two, two).

Let's Do The "What's in the Box?" Challenge!

Below you will find a sample script to help you lead the children through The "What's in the Box" Challenge. These are only suggestions. Feel free to make changes.

Good morning, everyone. I bet you know what we're doing this morning! Yep! We're going to do another challenge. Today is the "What's in the Box?" Challenge. What do you think that means? (Allow for answers.) That's right. We're going to guess what's in a box, but we won't be able to see anything. We will have to use our other senses to figure it out. Are you ready?

Let me explain the rules: In just a minute I'm going to divide you into two teams. Each team will designate a "chooser" to choose the items that go in the box that the "guessers" will have to guess. The team that guesses their item first in each round receives a point. After everyone (except the chooser) has had the chance to guess, we will add up the points. The team with the most points wins!

For an example of this game, see: <https://youtu.be/rd2jzAZXtPo>

Supplies:

- 2 cardboard boxes. Prepare these ahead of time. (See details below under **Directions**.)
- Containers for each mystery item
- 10 mystery items for players to guess; you can do more if you have more children (See suggestions below.)
- White board and marker to keep score
- Baby wipes/paper towels if your mystery items are messy

Directions:

1. Give each team a cardboard box. The box should have two holes (just big enough for hands to fit through) on either side of the box. The open end of the box should face away from the guessers so they can't see what's in the box.
2. One person from each team will choose the items for each "guesser." The rest of the team (one guesser at a time) will try to guess the items that the chooser puts into the box for each round.
3. Lay out the mystery items in a space that is away from the guessers. Then have the choosers flip a coin to see who will choose an item first. When that is determined, the choosers can place their first items into each box.
4. The first guessers will place their hands through the holes into the box and feel what is in the box. The first person to guess their item correctly gets a point for the round.
5. Continue game play until each person has had a chance to guess what's in the box. The team with the most points at the end of the game wins.



Suggested Mystery Items:

- Spaghetti noodles
- Stuffed animal
- Graham crackers
- Watermelon
- Dry beans
- Crayons
- Cereal
- Popcorn

Large Group Lesson Discussion

After completing the challenge, lead the following discussion.

What was it like to have to reach your hand in the box when you weren't sure what you were going to be touching? Was it scary? Was it nerve-wracking? It can make us anxious when we don't know what's ahead for us. This is true in our lives as Christians as well. We don't know where God will lead us, and that can sometimes be a scary thought. But God is always with us and when we obey God we are rewarded for our obedience. Let's open our Bibles and read about Paul, who was about to leave on a journey that he knew could be dangerous. But because he trusted God and His plan, he knew that he would be taken care of and eventually spend eternity in Heaven with his creator. Open your Bibles to Acts 20:13.

Read Acts 20:13-36 as a class.

How do you think Paul is feeling right now as he is talking to his friends? (Allow for answers.) He is probably feeling overwhelmed with emotions because he is sad to leave them. He is probably feeling nervous and scared because the Holy Spirit has warned him that prison and hardships await him in Jerusalem. Just like today with our challenge, Paul didn't know what he was getting into. He doesn't know what will happen to him when he moves forward. But God knows, and Paul trusts that God's plan is greater than his fears. He knows that his mission is to "finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God's grace."

When we ask Jesus to be the Lord of our lives and we become followers of Christ, we also take on a mission like Paul's. Who knows what Paul is talking about when he says the "good news?" (Allow for answers.) He is talking about Christ's sacrifice for us. The good news is that Jesus died on the cross and sacrificed His life so that we don't have to pay for our sins. If we believe that Jesus died on the cross for our sins and rose again three days later, then we can have the gift of salvation. We can be forgiven for the things we do wrong and still get to Heaven. Jesus did that for us.

People like Paul had witnessed what Jesus did firsthand and they were excited to tell others about it. But there were still people who didn't want to hear the good news. They were stuck in their old ways and weren't ready to hear that God had changed the rules. These people were sometimes not very nice to Paul and his friends and they made it difficult for them to tell others about Jesus. But did Paul and his friends give up? No! Even when they faced prison and hardships, they continued to do God's work and spread the good news so that everyone had the chance to be saved and go to Heaven. That was pretty brave of Paul, wasn't it? Well, you know what? Even though Paul was a pretty great guy, he wasn't extraordinary. He was just a regular guy who decided to follow God's plan. He was just like us. And we can do the same thing that Paul did. We can follow God's plan, even when it's a little scary because we know that God is with us and is helping us along the way.



So, your CHALLENGE for this week is to tell others about the “good news” and don’t worry about what will happen next. Trust that God will be with you along the way and will help you complete His mission.

Let’s go over our memory verse so we can be reminded of how important it is to trust God’s plan and follow His guidance even when we don’t know what the future holds.

Memory Verse: “And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there.” **Acts 20:22.**

Note: Motions for Memory Verse are provided above.

Kindergarten to 2nd Grade Small Group or Sunday School Discussion & Prayer

Discussion Questions:

Let's open our Bibles and look at Acts 20:13-36.

1. Where was Paul headed on his journey?

Answer: Jerusalem.

2. Paul said he taught publicly and from _____ to _____?

Answer: House; house.

3. What did he tell the Jews and Greeks to do?

Answer: To turn to God in repentance and have faith in Lord Jesus.

4. What did the Holy Spirit warn Paul would happen in Jerusalem?

Answer: Prison and hardships.

5. Paul told his friends that they must help the weak and remember what words of Jesus?

Answer: "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

Let's say a prayer to help us remember to tell others the "good news" about Jesus even when we don't know what will happen next.

Prayer:

Dear God, thank You for always guiding us, even when we aren't sure of Your plan. Please help us to remember that You are in control, even when we are facing obstacles and hardships. Help us to share the good news with others and help them become a part of Your kingdom. In Jesus' name, Amen.

3rd to 5th Grade Small Group or Sunday School Discussion & Prayer

Note: Allow children to tell you what they think. Multiple answers could apply.

Discussion Questions:

Let's open our Bibles to Acts 20:13-36

1. Where was Paul headed and what province does he want to avoid on his way there?

Answer: He is headed to Jerusalem and wants to avoid the province of Asia so he can get to Jerusalem quickly.

2. Why do you think Paul wants to remind his friends in Ephesus that he “served the Lord with great humility and tears and in the midst of severe testing by plots of my Jewish opponents?”

Answer: Paul wanted to remind his friends that he was serious about his mission for God and that he was headed to Jerusalem to continue spreading the “good news.”

3. What do you think Paul means when he says, “I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task Lord Jesus has given me”?

Answer: Paul is saying that his life on earth is not as important as the task that Jesus has given to him—to share the good news of God's grace.

4. What does Paul mean when he says, “Be shepherds of the church of God, which He bought with his own blood?”

Answer: He wants the followers of Christ to take care of the people who believe in Jesus (the church) because God sacrificed His only son to give them salvation.

5. Paul tells his friends that they should help the weak and remember what words of Jesus?

Answer: “It is more blessed to give than to receive.”

Let's say a prayer to help us remember to others the “good news” about Jesus even when we don't know what will happen next.

Prayer: Dear God, thank You for always guiding us, even when we aren't sure of Your plan. Please help us to remember that You are in control, even when we are facing obstacles and hardships. Help us to share the good news with others and help them become a part of Your kingdom. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Hands-on Lesson Review

“Large Dice Review Game”

Supplies:

- 2 square boxes. Prepare these ahead of time. (See details below under **Directions, Before You Begin.**)
- Paper dots
- Poster marker
- Large space to throw dice
- White board to keep score

Directions:

Before You Begin: Create two large dice out of the square boxes.

Alternatively, if you don't have square boxes, click here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ic36z bj9T8I> for a video tutorial on how to make large dice out of cardboard.)” This is a pretty neat tutorial from Plano Public Library and it's low-tech, too. Since this series already uses Internet links to help teachers better understand the challenges, this tutorial might be helpful too.

On the first die, use the poster marker to write Paul, Paul, Ephesus Elders, Ephesus Elders, Holy Spirit, and Christians (Early Church) on each of its six faces. On the other die, you will place paper dots (one, two, three, four, five, six) on its six faces. Give the dice a quick roll or two to make sure they will give you different results each time. Have children open their Bibles to Acts 20:13 so they will be prepared to look for answers.

To Play

1. Divide the children into two teams. Each team will appoint a person to go first, but every team member should get a chance to roll the dice and answer a question. The person answering the question can elicit help from their teammates and their Bible.
2. Once the teams have picked one person to go first, they will be tasked with first rolling the die with the dots to see which team will go first. The team that rolls the largest number gets to go first.
3. When it is their turn, the person will roll the die that has the names of the Bible characters written on it. If they land on “Paul,” then they will answer a question about Paul. (The questions are listed below.)
4. If they answer the question correctly, they will get the chance to roll the numbered die to see how many points they receive. That point value is assigned to their team's score.
5. After each person has had the chance to roll the dice, the teams' scores will be added up. The team with the highest score wins.

Questions for Game

Paul

- **Where was Paul headed on his journey?** (Jerusalem.)
- **What province did Paul avoid?** (Province of Asia.)
- **Paul was trying to get to Jerusalem before what?** (The day of Pentecost.)
- **What did Paul do before he left?** (He knelt down and prayed with them.)
- **What was the task Paul was trying to finish?** (The task of testifying to the good news of God's grace.)
- **What did Paul declare the Jews and Greeks should do?** (Turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus.)
- **Who plotted against Paul?** (Jewish opponents.)
- **Paul did not covet anyone's what?** (Silver or gold or clothing.)
- **Pauls' hands supplied what?** (His own needs and that of his companions.)

Ephesus Elders

- **What did Paul tell the elders to be for the church of God?** (Shepherds.)
- **Paul said they should keep watch over what?** (Yourselves and all the flock.)
- **What did they do to Paul before he left?** (Embraced him and kissed him.)
- **Why were they sad when Paul was leaving?** (They would never see his face again.)
- **Paul committed them to the word of God's what?** (His grace.)
- **Where did they accompany Paul?** (To his ship.)
- **Paul showed them that they should be helping who?** (The weak.)

Holy Spirit

- **Where did the Holy Spirit compel Paul to go?** (Jerusalem.)
- **What did God buy with his own blood?** (The church of God.)
- **What did the Holy Spirit make the elders/early church?** (Overseers.)
- **What does the Holy Spirit warn Paul that he will face in every city?** (Prison and hardships.)

Christians (Early Church)

- **Paul preached the whole what to the early Christians?** (The will of God.)
- **What will come in among them when Paul leaves?** (Wolves.)
- **Men will arise and distort what?** (The truth.)
- **Paul tells them they must help who?** (The weak.)
- **Paul tells them it is more blessed to do what?** (Give than receive.)
- **Paul said they would have an inheritance among who?** (All those who are sanctified.)

Bonus Activity: Newspaper Megaphone Craft

Supplies:

- 1 piece of newspaper
- 1 large paper plate
- Markers/crayons
- Tape
- Scissors

Before You Begin:

Talk to the kids about how God wants us to share the “good news” with everyone, just like Paul was doing in our story. Tell them that sometimes people make their voices louder with megaphones, and today we’re going to make a megaphone to tell everyone about Jesus!

Directions:

1. Give each child a piece of newspaper.
2. Have each child place their paper plate on their newspaper. Have them trace the plate so they have a big circle on their paper.
3. When they are finished drawing their circle, have them cut it out and recycle the rest of the newspaper.
4. Children will then decorate the center of their circle in whatever way they choose. Encourage them to write things like “Jesus Loves You” or “Want to Hear the Good News?”
5. When they are finished decorating, have them twist their paper into a megaphone shape and tape it together.
6. When everyone is finished, recite the memory verse as a class and shout (if your space allows) “Jesus Saves!”

Bonus Activity: Newspaper Megaphone Craft Visual Instructions

Step 1



Step 2



Step 3



Step 4



Song Suggestion (Kindergarten – 2nd Grade):

“Made for This” by Maker Fun Factory VBS

Link: <https://youtu.be/jVKuOi3YEAM>

Lyrics:

I was made for this
I live for this
God has a reason
Reason for my life
I’m gonna shout it out
Without a doubt
I was born for this

Song Suggestion (3rd – 5th Grade):

“I Will Follow You” by Chris Tomlin

Link: <https://youtu.be/1ohvhmGSfxl>

Lyrics:

Where You go, I'll go
Where You stay, I'll stay
When You move, I'll move
I will follow

All Your ways are good
All Your ways are sure
I will trust in You alone
Higher than my side
High above my life
I will trust in You alone

Where You go, I'll go
Where You stay, I'll stay
When You move, I'll move
I will follow You
Who You love, I'll love
How You serve I'll serve
If this life I lose, I will follow You
I will follow You

Light unto the world
Light unto my life
I will live for You alone
You're the one I seek
Knowing I will find
All I need in You alone, in You alone

Where You go, I'll go
Where You stay, I'll stay
When You move, I'll move
I will follow You
Who You love, I'll love
How You serve I'll serve
If this life I lose, I will follow You
I will follow You, yeah

In You there's life everlasting
In You there's freedom for my soul
In You there's joy, unending joy
And I will follow

Where You go, I'll go
Where You stay, I'll stay
When You move, I'll move
I will follow
Who You love, I'll love
How You serve I'll serve
If this life I lose, I will follow

Where You go, I'll go
Where You stay, I'll stay
When You move, I'll move
I will follow You
Who You love, I'll love
How You serve I'll serve
If this life I lose, I will follow You, yeah
I will follow You, yeah
I will follow You, yeah
I will follow You, yeah



Parent Page

Title: The “What’s in the Box?” Challenge

- **Big Idea:** When we put our hands in a box and don’t know what we’ll pull out, it’s sort of like living your life for God and not knowing what will happen to you.
- **Key Passage: Acts 20. Paul’s farewell to Ephesian elders.** In Paul’s time, the price of following God was steep. It could mean prison or even death. But Paul knew God was asking him to Jerusalem, and he had to face this journey even if he was afraid.
- **Memory Verse: Acts 20:22.** “And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there.”
- **Challenge:** Tell others about the “good news” and don’t worry about what will happen next. Trust that God will be with you along the way and help you complete His mission.

Today, we talked about Paul and his words to the elders in Ephesus. He wanted to give them words of wisdom before he left on what would probably be a dangerous journey to Jerusalem. He tells the leaders that the Holy Spirit compels him to go there, but he knows that hardships and maybe even prison awaits him because of his devotion to Christ. We talked about how Paul didn’t know what would happen to him next, but he was determined to complete his mission – testifying the good news of God’s grace. Talk with your children about what they learned and how they feel about being a follower of Christ even when it isn’t an easy job.

Questions from Acts 20:13-36:

1. Where was Paul headed on his journey?

Answer: Jerusalem.

2. What did he tell the Jews and Greeks to do?

Answer: To turn to God in repentance and have faith in Lord Jesus.

3. What did the Holy Spirit warn Paul would happen in Jerusalem?

Answer: Prison and hardships.

4. Paul told his friends that they must help the weak and remember what words of Jesus?

Answer: “It is more blessed to give than to receive.”

Family Activity:

The “What’s in the Box?” Challenge

Check out The “What’s in the Box?” Challenge <https://youtu.be/rd2jzAZXtPo> and find out how sharp your senses are.

The Rules:

You will take turns trying to get your family members to guess what you’re drawing! But the catch is that you will be blindfolded when you’re completing your masterpiece! If your family members are able to guess what you’re drawing, you earn a point. Whoever has the most points at the end, wins!

Supplies:

- 2 cardboard boxes (See details below under **Directions.**)
- Containers for each mystery item
- 10 mystery items for players to guess; you can do more if you will have more children (See suggestions below.)
- White board and marker to keep score
- Baby wipes/paper towels if your mystery items are messy

Directions:

1. Give each team a cardboard box. The box should have two holes (just big enough for hands to fit through) on either side of the box. The open end of the box should face away from the guessers so they can’t see what’s in the box.
2. One person from each team will choose the items for each “guesser.” The rest of the team (one guesser at a time) will try to guess the items that the chooser puts into the box for each round.
3. Lay out the mystery items in a space that is away from the guessers. Then have the choosers flip a coin to see who will choose an item first. When that is determined, the choosers can each place their first items into the box.
4. The first guessers will have to place their hands through the holes into the box and feel what is in the box. The first person to guess their item correctly gets a point for the round.
5. Continue game play until each person has had a chance to guess “what’s in the box?”
6. The team with the most points at the end of the game wins.

Suggested Mystery Items:

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------|
| • Spaghetti noodles | • Dry beans |
| • Stuffed animal | • Crayons |
| • Graham crackers | • Cereal |
| • Watermelon | • Popcorn |





LESSON 6

Deuteronomy 5:6-7

**“I am the Lord your God,
who brought you out of
Egypt, out of the land of
slavery. You shall have no
other gods before me.”**



The Brand Name vs. Off-Brand Challenge

Lesson Summary

- **Big Idea:** Buying “off-brand” products at the grocery store is a common practice when you want to save a few dollars. But there’s no “off-brand” God. He is the real deal and there’s no imitation.
- **Key Passage: Deuteronomy 5. Moses and the Ten Commandments.** Moses has received the commandments from God and is explaining them to the Israelites. The first of these is “you shall not have any Gods before me.” God cannot be replicated nor replaced.
- **Memory Verse: Deuteronomy 5:6-7.** “I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me.”
- **Key Life Application:** As you go through this lesson, remind children that as we go through our lives as Christians there will be things that might look okay or even godly, but that there is no imitation for the real thing. We should trust that little voice in our hearts and minds that tells us when things aren’t of God.

Gospel Connection: The verses you’ll cover in this lesson are an analogy for the Christian experience. Like the Israelites we were brought out of slavery, but our enslavement was to our sins. We were brought out of slavery and given the chance at the Promised Land (Heaven) by our belief in the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus. In these verses we see Moses reminding the Israelites of what God has done for them and that these God-breathed commandments are words to live by. And the most important of which is that we should have no other gods before Him. That tells us that God is the only true deity. We should not worship anything else, including things of this world.

Full List of Supplies Needed to Complete the Entire Lesson

- 2 bandanas for blindfolds
- Large container to conceal food items
- 10 name brand food items
- 10 off-brand food items that closely match the brand name food items
- Utensils if necessary
- Cups if necessary
- Plates or napkins
- 1 poster or foam board
- 24 index cards in 4 different colors
- Double-sided tape
- White board for keeping score
- Dry erase Marker
- 1 paper lunch sack per child
- Print out of Ten Commandments
- Scissors
- Glue

Memory Verse Activity

Hand Motions

Say, “I am the Lord your God...

Make an L and cross your body from shoulder to hip. Then point to Heaven

“Who brought you out of Egypt...

Pretend to part the Red Sea (spread arms out wide)

“Out of the land of slavery...

Interlock two cupped hands to mimic linked chains.

“You shall have no other gods before me...’

Shake your finger no and then point to Heaven.

“Deuteronomy...

Make the sign for the letter D ([here's what it looks like in American Sign Language](#)).

“5:6-7.”

Make each number with your fingers (i.e., five, six, seven).

Let's Do The Brand Name vs. Off-Brand Challenge!

Below you will find a sample script to help you lead the children through The Brand Name vs. Off-Brand Challenge. These are only suggestions. Feel free to make changes.

Good morning, everyone. Have you ever been shopping with your parents and you come across a food item that looks like what you're familiar with, but there's something slightly off? It looks like an Oreo, but the package says, "chocolate sandwich cookie?" Do you think they taste the same? Do you think the real thing is better? Well, today we're going to find out if you can guess if something is the brand name item or the off-brand.

Let me explain the rules: In just a minute I'm going to divide you into two teams. One at a time, you will face off against a member of the other team. When it's your turn, you will be blindfolded. One of you will get the brand name item and one of you will get the off-brand. After you've tasted the item you will have to guess if you have the real thing or the imitation. Do you think you'll be able to tell? Let's find out!

For an example of this game, see: <https://youtu.be/BH0uvDkxujs>

Note: Let parents know ahead of time that you are going to do this challenge so that you can be alerted to any food allergies. Make sure to speak with the parent of any new children or visitors before allowing them to participate.

Supplies:

- 2 bandanas for blindfolds
- Large container to conceal food items
- 10 name brand food items
- 10 off-brand food items that closely match the brand name food items
- Utensils if necessary
- Cups if necessary
- Plates or napkins

Directions:

1. Have the food items concealed until you are ready to pull them out for the competition.
2. Blindfold the first two competitors and give them a small amount of the first food item.
3. After they sample the food item, ask them to guess whether they have the brand name item or the off-brand. Have them take off their blindfolds and find out if they are correct. If they are correct, they receive a point.
4. Continue game play until each child has had a chance to take the challenge. The team with the most points at the end of the game wins.

Suggested Brand Name Items:

A trip to the grocery store should provide innumerable options when it comes to brand name and off-brand (or store brand) items. Here are a few suggestions.

- Doritos
- Oreos
- Ritz Crackers
- Cheez-Its
- Fruit Loops or other name brand cereal
- Gatorade
- Graham Crackers
- Applesauce
- Swiss Rolls
- Chips Ahoy

Large Group Lesson Discussion

After completing the challenge, lead the following discussion.

Who was able to tell what was the brand name item (the real thing) and what was the off-brand (the imitation)? It was easy to tell with some of the items, but some of them were more difficult. It is sort of like that with God. Sometimes it is easy for us to tell when something we're hearing or seeing is from God—the real thing—but other times it won't be as obvious. That's when we have to go back to God's word and see if what we're dealing with is the real thing. You might be spending time with a friend who says it's okay to listen to music that has bad words or it's okay to take a pack of gum from the grocery store because no one will miss it. But, when we think about God's word and what He has told us, we can see when something is the real thing and when it is an imitation.

Today we're going to read about Moses and how God told him the "real rules his people should follow. The first rule he explained was that his people should not have any other gods before Him. He doesn't want you to fall for false gods or be swayed by imitations. He wants you to follow the real thing. Let's open our Bibles to Deuteronomy 5.

Read Deuteronomy 5 as a class.

So, Moses was an important guy, especially to the Israelites. He had led them out of Egypt (with God's help, of course). So, when Moses spoke, the others listened. He has just returned from the mountain and now he is relaying the message that God has given him. He starts by reminding them that the Lord God is real and made a promise to them to deliver them from slavery. Why do you think Moses wants the Israelites to remember what God has done for them? (Allow for answers.)

Moses wants to remind the people that God is powerful and almighty. He is the ultimate authority on everything. He wants to remind them of this so that they will listen to what God has commanded them to do. And what is the first thing God commands them to do? He says, "You shall have no other gods before me." Then he goes on to say, "You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in Heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them."

What does that mean? He is telling them that they cannot worship anything else besides Him because He is the real deal. Even if they find a statue or a person on earth that seems like a god, it isn't the real thing, and they shouldn't worship it. What does He say to make them realize He is serious about this? (Allow for answers.) He says He is a jealous God, and He will punish the children for the sin of their parents to the third and fourth generation. But, if they do believe in Him and worship Him only, then He will show His love for thousands of generations. I think that's a pretty good deal.

It can be easy to be fooled by things that seem godly sometimes. But, just like when we sampled the imitation foods, we had a sense that it wasn't quite right. God gives us

these senses in our hearts and minds so that we know when something isn't right or not godly. God gives us some other rules or commandments to follow. What were the other ones we covered in this verse?

- Do not misuse the name of God
- Observe the Sabbath
- Honor your father and mother
- You shall not murder
- You shall not commit adultery
- You shall not steal
- You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor
- You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, house, land or belongings

After all of these commandments what does Moses say about being obedient to the Lord your God? He says if they walk in obedience, they will "live and prosper and prolong your days in the land that you will possess." Basically, you will be greatly blessed in your earthly life if you do as God has commanded.

So, your CHALLENGE for this week is to listen to that feeling inside your heart and mind when you are faced with something that doesn't feel quite right. And trust that following God's commandments will help you to be blessed and bless others.

Let's go over our memory verse so we can be reminded of how important it is follow God's commandments and worship the one and only God!

Memory Verse: "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me." **Deuteronomy 5:6-7.**

Note: Motions for Memory Verse are provided above.

Kindergarten to 2nd Grade Small Group or Sunday School Discussion & Prayer

Discussion Questions:

Let's open our Bibles and look at Deuteronomy 5.

1. Moses said that God said, "I am the Lord your God, who you brought you out of..."where?

Answer: Egypt.

2. What is the first commandment that God gives the Israelites?

Answer: You shall have no other gods before me.

3. What did God write the commandments on?

Answer: Two stone tablets.

4. God told Moses to tell the Israelites to return to their tents, but he wanted Moses to do what?

Answer: "Stay here with me so that I may give you all my commands, decrees and laws."

5. Moses tells the Israelites to "walk in obedience to all that the Lord your God has commanded you." What reason does he give for following God's laws?

Answer: So that you may live and prosper and prolong your days in the land that you will possess.

Let's say a prayer to help us remember to trust God's voice and follow His commandments.

Prayer:

Dear God, thank You for speaking through Moses and giving us commandments to follow. Help us to remember that You are the ultimate authority in our lives and that You will guide us in our decision making. We pray that we will trust in Your truth and be able to tell when something is not of You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

3rd to 5th Grade Small Group or Sunday School Discussion & Prayer

Note: Allow children to tell you what they think. Multiple answers could apply.

Discussion Questions:

Let's open our Bibles to Deuteronomy 5.

1. Moses reminds the Israelites that God was the one who spoke with them and made a promise to them. Why do you think Moses wanted to remind them of this?

Answer: He wanted them to remember all that God had done for them. He wanted them to know that God was in control and they were favored (special) by Him.

2. Why do you think God says, "You shall have no other gods before me" first?

Answer: God wants to remind them of His authority and power. He wants them to realize that there are no imitations. He is the one true God, and they should follow Him.

3. What does God say He will show the people who love and follow Him?

Answer: He says He will show "love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments."

4. Did you know all of the commandments? What is one that you are surprised about?

Point for discussion: It is interesting that God says you shouldn't want what your neighbor has, whether that's his wife or house or land or animals. God wants us to know that we should be happy with what we have.

5. Why do you think God wrote the commandments on the two stone tablets instead of just letting Moses give His message?

God wanted Moses to not only have the truth to teach the Israelites, but also proof that God had given these commandments to Moses.

Let's say a prayer to help us remember to trust God's voice and follow His commandments.

Prayer:

Dear God, thank You for speaking through Moses and giving us commandments to follow. Help us to remember that You are the ultimate authority in our lives and that You will guide us in our decision making. We pray that we will trust in Your truth and be able to tell when something is not of You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Hands-on Lesson Review

"Ten Commandments Jeopardy"

Supplies:

- 1 poster or foam board
- 24 index cards in 4 different colors
- Double-sided tape
- White board for keeping score
- Dry erase Marker

EDIBLE RHYME TIME	BOOKS IN GERMAN	3 "T"s	CHOP CHOP!	THEY SAID IT WOULDN'T LAST	THEY WERE RIGHT
\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200
\$400	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$400
\$600	\$600	\$600	\$600	\$600	\$600
\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800
\$1000	\$1000	\$1000	\$1000	\$1000	\$1000

Directions:

Before You Begin

Create a Jeopardy board before the children arrive. Have it sitting up on a table or on a white board so it can be easily seen by the children when it is time for game play. Take one index card of each color and write these things on each one. These will be your four categories:

- Commandments
- Apply Your Knowledge
- He said, He said
- All About the Israelites

Then use the remainder of the cards to create 100, 200, 300, 400, and 500 cards for each color. Once you have these written out, attach them to the board with double-sided tape.

To Play

1. Divide the children into two teams. Each person will have a chance to answer a question. The child answering the question is allowed to get help from their teammates. Remind them that they must answer in the form of a question: For example, "What is the Ten Commandments?" instead of just, "The Ten Commandments!" If they don't answer this way, they don't get a point.
2. The teams will play "Rock, Paper, Scissors" to determine who goes first. That team will then choose a category and a number (e.g., All About the Israelites for 100).
3. The leader will read the hint (see below). If the person answering is correct, they earn those points. If not, the other team has the chance to steal. (They can have their Bibles open for the game if you think they will feel more confident and to make game play more fun.)

4. After each category and number is chosen, it is removed from the board. Game play continues until all of the categories are removed. The team with the biggest score wins.

Bonus Play

In the event of a tie, you can ask the tiebreaker question (listed below). You could also put the words “Daily Double” under one or a few of the cards so that when the students choose that category and number and get the question correct, they will get double the points.

Hints for Game Play

Commandments

- **The first commandment and the one we focused on today.** (What is “You shall have no other gods before me?”)
- **The day God tells us to keep holy.** (What is the Sabbath?)
- **God want us to honor these people.** (Who are your mother and your father?)
- **The name should we not misuse.** (What is the name of God?)
- **The commandment that says we should not steal.** (What is the 8th Commandment?)

Apply Your Knowledge

- **If you are jealous of your friend’s new Xbox.** (What is the 10th Commandment? [You shall not covet.]
- **If you see your friend take a pack of gum from the store.** (What is the 8th Commandment?> [You shall not steal.]
- **If you blame your little sister for something she didn’t do.** (What is the 9th Commandment? [You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.]
- **If you built a statue and decided to worship it.** (What is the 2nd Commandment> [You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below.]
- **f you call your mom and dad a bad name.** (What is the 5th Commandment?)

He said, He said

(Note: They should answer with Moses or God)

- **He said, “The decrees and laws I declare in your hearing today?”** (Who was Moses?)
- **He said, “The Lord our God made a covenant with us at Horeb?”** (Who was Moses?)
- **He said, “I am _____, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery?”** (Who is God?)

- He said, “When you heard the voice out of the darkness, while the mountain was ablaze with fire, all the leaders of your tribes and your elders came to me?” (Who was Moses?)
- He said, “I have heard what this people said to you. Everything said was good.” (Who was Moses?)

All About the Israelites

- **What Moses brought to the Israelites after he'd been on the mountain?** (What were the commandments?)
- **He stood in between the Israelites and God?** (Who was Moses?)
- **The Israelites thought this would happen to them if they heard the voice of God.** (What is death?)
- **God says that he wants the Israelites' hearts to be inclined to do these two things.** (What is fear God and keep His commands always?)
- **Moses says to walk in obedience with God so that the Israelites might do this.** (What is to live and prosper and prolong your days in the land you will possess?)

Tiebreaker Question:

God tells Moses that the Israelites should return to what this place while He gives Moses the laws and decrees? (What were their tents?)

Bonus Activity: Paper Bag Commandments

Supplies:

- 1 paper lunch sack per child
- Print out of Ten Commandments
- Scissors
- Glue

Before You Begin:

Remind the children that God gave these commandments to Moses so that the Israelites would know how to live a Godly life and “live and prosper and prolong your days in the land that you will possess.” These were important words that God wanted the Israelites to know and take to heart. Tell them that we are going to create something to help us remember these important commandments.

Directions:

1. Give each child a paper lunch sack, a printout of the Ten Commandments, a pair of scissors and some glue.
2. Instruct children to cut up one side of their sack and across the top so that their sack opens up and lays flat. Have them round the edges of each side to look like the two stone tablets that Moses received from God.
3. Once they’ve done this, have them crumple their new creation into a ball and then spread it back out. This will give the paper the look of stone.
4. After they’ve flattened their sack out, they can cut out the Ten Commandments from the printout (provided below) and glue them in order on the two stones tablets.
5. When they are finished, they can write “Deuteronomy 5:6-7” at the bottom of their creation.

Ten Commandments Printout

1. You shall have no other gods before me.

2. You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below.

3. You shall not misuse the name of the lord your god.

4. Observe the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

5. Honor your father and mother.

6. You shall not murder.

7. You shall be faithful to your spouse.

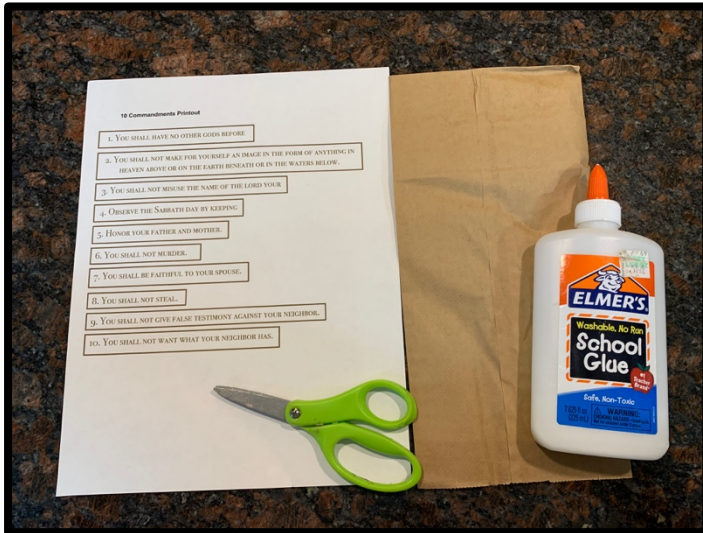
8. You shall not steal.

9. You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

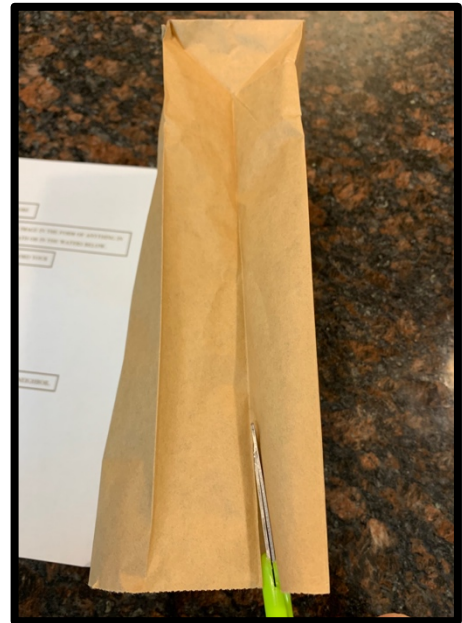
10. You shall not want what

Bonus Activity: Paper Bag Commandments Visual Instructions

Supplies



Step 1



Step 2



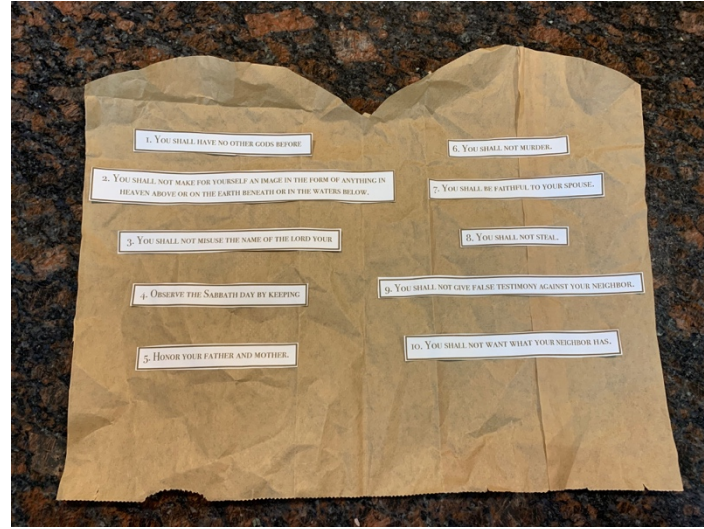
Step 3



Step 4



Step 5



Additional Resources

Song Suggestion (Kindergarten – 2nd Grade)

“Ten Commandment Song for Kids”

Link: <https://youtu.be/IB3A7RcP89E>

Lyrics:

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9
10, The Ten Commandments
You'll discover how to love God and each other
If you keep the Ten Commandments
1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9
10, The Ten Commandments
You'll discover how to love God and each other
If you keep the Ten Commandments

God first
No idols
Don't misuse God's name

Worship and rest
Honor your parents
This will bring God fame!
When you keep the....

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9
10, The Ten Commandments
You'll discover how to love God and each other
If you keep the Ten Commandments

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9
10, The Ten Commandments
You'll discover how to love God and each other
If you keep the Ten Commandments

No murder
No adultery
Don't steal
Don't lie
Don't covet
I know you're gonna love it!
By God's grace you're gonna fly.
When you keep the....

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9
10, The Ten Commandments
You'll discover how to love God and each other

If you keep the Ten Commandments

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9

10, The Ten Commandments

You'll discover how to love God and each other

If you keep the Ten Commandments

Keep the Ten Commandments

Keep the Ten Commandments

Song Suggestion (3rd – 5th Grade)

"One True God" by Steven Curtis Chapman

Link: <https://youtu.be/uN9anMOoS4Q>

Lyrics:

One voice in the dark,

A song that lights up the stars

One breath that gives life

One sovereign in power

Who speaks with thunder and fire

One Lord one King

There is no other that can compare to You

You are the one alone in greatness

The one who never changes

Jesus, You are!

The one who rose in power

The one who reigns forever

Jesus the one true God!

One man on a cross

And one light of the world

One name one word

One way to be saved

And one lamb that was slain

One love above all

There is no other that can compare to You!

And we have seen His Glory of

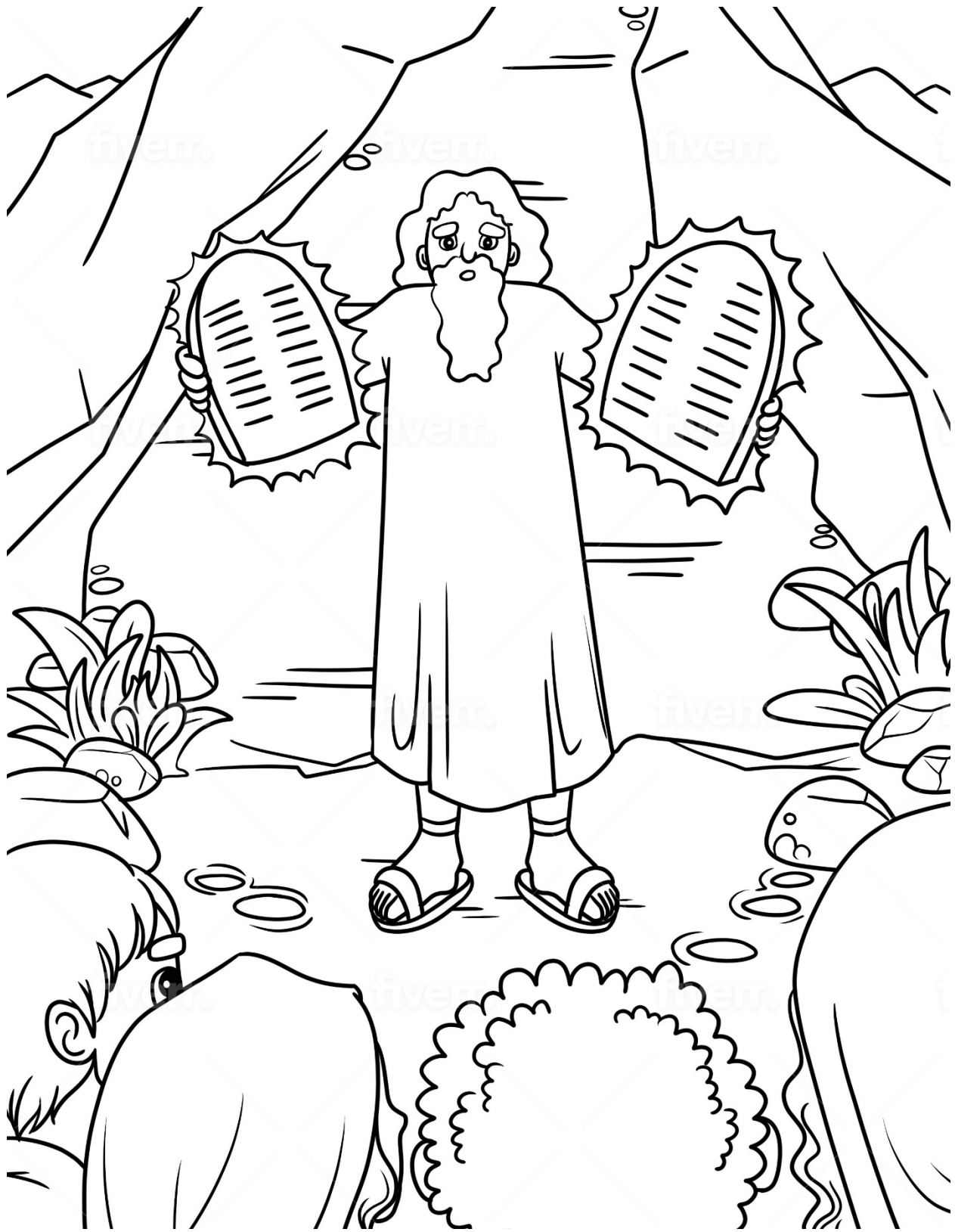
The one and only son of God

The one and only son of God

The one and only son of God

The one and only son of God

And You are!



Parent Page

Title: The “Name Brand” vs. “Off-Brand” Challenge

- **Big Idea:** Buying “off-brand” products at the grocery store is a common practice when you want to save a few dollars. But there’s no “off-brand” God. He is the real deal and there’s no imitation.
- **Key Passage: Deuteronomy 5. Moses and the Ten Commandments.** Moses has received the commandments from God and is explaining them to the Israelites. The first of these is “you shall not have any Gods before me.” God cannot be replicated nor replaced.
- **Memory Verse: Deuteronomy 5:6-7.** “I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me.”
- **Challenge:** Listen to that feeling inside your heart and mind when you are faced with something that doesn’t feel quite right. And trust that following God’s commandments will help you to be blessed and bless others.

Today, we talked about how God *is* the real deal. There is no imitation for God, even though the world sometimes tells us that there is. We have to trust that small voice inside of our hearts and minds that wants us to follow God. We also talked about the Ten Commandments and how the first commandment is, “you shall have no other gods before me.” We talked about how this is important because God is the only true god, and we should trust Him with all of our hearts.

Questions from Acts 20:13-36:

1. Moses said that God said, “I am the Lord your God, who you brought you out of where?”

Answer: Egypt.

2. What is the first commandment that God gives the Israelites?

Answer: You shall have no other gods before me.

3. What did God write the commandments on?

Answer: Two stone tablets.

4. God told Moses to tell the Israelites to return to their tents, but he wanted Moses to do what?

Answer: “Stay here with me so that I may give you all my commands, decrees and laws.”

Family Activity:

The Brand Name vs. Off-Brand' Challenge

Check out The Brand Name vs. Off-Brand Challenge (here: <https://youtu.be/BH0uvDkxujs>) and find out how sharp your senses are.

The Rules:

Divide into two teams. One at a time, you will face off against a member of the other team. When it's your turn, you will be blindfolded. One of you will get the brand name item and one of you will get the off brand. After you've tasted the item you will have to guess if you have the real thing or the imitation.

Supplies:

- 2 bandanas for blindfolds
- Large container to conceal food items
- 10 name brand food items
- 10 off-brand food items that closely match the brand name food items
- Utensils if necessary
- Cups if necessary
- Plates or napkins

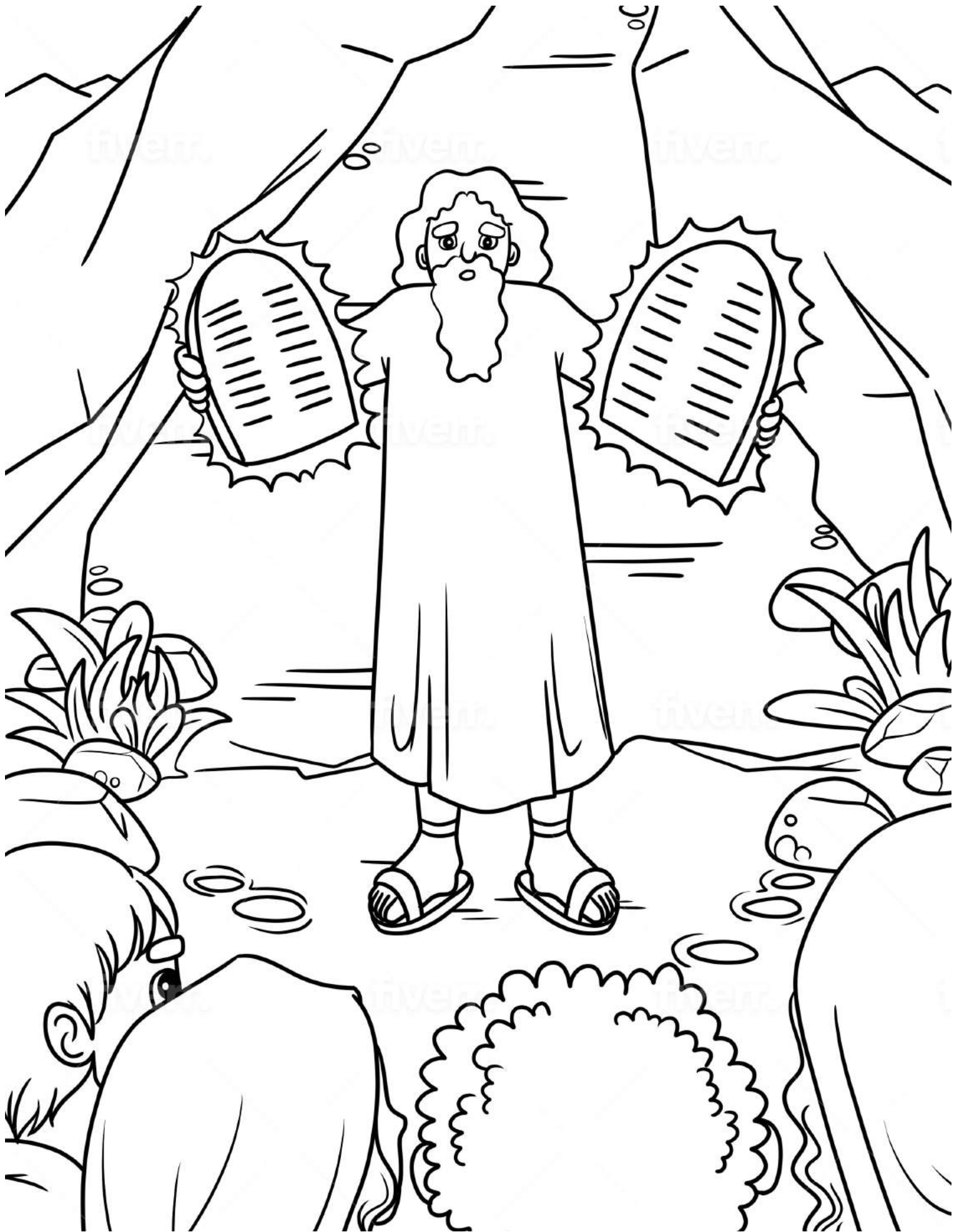
Directions:

1. Have the food items concealed until you are ready to pull them out for the competition.
2. Blindfold the first two competitors and give them a small amount of the first food item.
3. After they sample the food item, ask them to guess whether they have the brand name item or the off-brand. Have them take off their blindfolds and find out if they are correct. If they are correct, they receive a point.
4. Continue game play until each person has had a chance to take the challenge. The team with the most points at the end of the game wins.

Suggested Brand Name Items:

A trip to the grocery store should provide innumerable options when it comes to brand name and off-brand (or store brand) items. Here are a few suggestions.

- | | |
|--|-------------------|
| • Doritos | • Gatorade |
| • Oreos | • Graham Crackers |
| • Ritz Crackers | • Applesauce |
| • Cheez-Its | • Swiss Rolls |
| • Fruit Loops or other name brand cereal | • Chips Ahoy |





LESSON 7

Esther 5:8

“If the king regards me with favor and if it pleases the king to grant my petition and fulfill my request, let the king and Haman come tomorrow to the banquet I will prepare for them. Then I will answer the king’s question.”



The Pause Challenge

Lesson Summary

- **Big Idea:** It is easy to want to do things in our own time. We want what we want when we want it. But God wants us to pause and listen to what He has to say before we act on our own will.
- **Key Passage: Esther 5:1-8. Esther's patience.** Instead of jumping at the chance to talk to King Xerxes about saving her people, she waited for God's guidance to speak at the right time. Her patience proved to be a saving grace for her people.
- **Memory Verse: Esther 5:8.** "'If the king regards me with favor and if it pleases the king to grant my petition and fulfill my request, let the king and Haman come tomorrow to the banquet I will prepare for them. Then I will answer the king's question.'"
- **Key Life Application:** As you go through this lesson, remind children that it's okay to PAUSE. We live in a world of instant satisfaction and it is difficult to wait on things, especially God's timing. But it is important for us to listen for God's voice and His guidance so that we know we are going down the right path.

Gospel Connection: We can learn to PAUSE in our lives so that we can find rest, listen for God's voice, and to make sure we are making the right choices. But we can also PAUSE to think about the sacrifice that Jesus made for us so that we can find rest and peace in God's love and grace. If Jesus hadn't PAUSED and thought about all of us, He might have run from the cross and we wouldn't have the chance to be saved from our sins and spend eternity in Heaven.

Full List of Supplies Needed to Complete the Entire Lesson

- 1 remote control (any will do)
- Large, open space for children to spread out
- List of Esther words (provided below), cut into strips
- Bowl or container for word strips
- 1 Bingo card for each child
- List of Esther words for students
- Dried beans to use as markers
- Dixie cups to hold beans
- 1 sharpened pencil for each child
- 1 Styrofoam ball for each child
- 5 different spools of washi tape (more for additional options)
- Hot glue gun with glue sticks
- School glue
- Sequences
- Sharpies (a variety of colors)

Memory Verse Activity

Hand Motions

Say, “If the king regards me with favor...

Pretend to put a crown on your head and then bow

“And if it pleases the king...

Put hands out like your presenting something, then pretend to put on a crown

“To grant my petition and fulfill my request...

Point to self with thumbs and then put hands out like you’re holding a piece of paper. Do this twice

“Let the king and Haman come tomorrow...

Pretend to put on a crown and then point behind you with your thumb like you’re pointing to tomorrow

“To the banquet I will prepare for them...

Spread your hands out like you are presenting a table full of food

“Then I will answer the king’s question.’

Pretend to put a crown on and then shrug your shoulders

“Esther...

Make the sign for the letter E ([here’s what it looks like in American Sign Language](#)).

“5:8.”

Make each number with your fingers (i.e., five, eight).

Let's Do The Pause Challenge!

Below you will find a sample script to help you lead the children through the Pause Challenge. These are only suggestions. Feel free to make changes.

Good morning, everyone. Let's talk about the word "pause." What does it mean to pause? It means we were doing something and we kind of stopped for a minute to take a break, right? We even have a pause button on our TVs. What does the pause button do? (Allow for answers.) Yes, it allows you to stop the show you're watching so you can go to the bathroom or get a snack. Well, today, we are going to be using the pause button on each other. We're going to be taking the Pause Challenge.

Let me explain the rules: To begin the game, I will have everybody choose a number between 1 and 20. Whoever is the closest without going over the number I'm thinking of is the one who will be "it" first. The person who is it will be the one who pauses everyone else. Everyone will spread out and find a spot in the room. When I say go, you will begin doing an action like hopping on one foot or doing jumping jacks (see below for the list of actions). You can move around, but there will be no running. The person with the remote control will go to the people moving around and try to "pause" them. If you are paused, then you must freeze in the position you were in. A player who is not frozen can un-pause you by giving you a fist bump. The person who is it will have two minutes to pause as many people as possible. When the time is up, it will be a new person's turn.

For an example of this game, see: <https://youtu.be/8pOtuiJDrpw>

Supplies:

- 1 remote control (any will do)
- Large, open space for children to spread out

Directions:

1. Have children choose a number between 1 and 20. Whoever is the closest without going over the number you're thinking of is the one who will be it first.
2. The person who is it will be the one who pauses everyone else. Everyone will spread out and find a spot in the room. When you say go, you will tell the children to do an action like hopping on one foot or doing jumping jacks (see below for the list of actions).
3. Remind children that they can move around, but there will be no running.
4. The person with the remote control will go to the people moving around and try to "pause" them. If they are paused, then they must freeze in the position they were in.
5. A player who is not frozen can un-pause them by giving them a fist bump. The person who is it will have two minutes to pause as many people as possible. When the time is up, it will be a new person's turn.

6. Continue until each child has had a chance to be it. (Note: You can shorten the time for each round to 1 minute or 30 seconds if you have a lot of children.)

Suggested Actions:

- Hopping on one foot
- Skipping
- Fast walking
- Jumping jacks
- Crab walking
- Walking like an elephant (big, heavy steps)
- Turning in a circle (slowly)

Large Group Lesson Discussion

After completing the challenge, lead the following discussion.

What did you think about the pause challenge? Was it easy to stay paused and not move around when you were supposed to be frozen? It can be difficult for us to remember to slow down in our daily lives and pause. What could be the benefits to pausing our busy lives? (Allow for answers.) We can find rest. We can stop and look around us and pay attention to other people. And we might even hear the voice of God, guiding us down the right path. Let's open our Bibles to Esther 5:1-8 and learn about how Esther paused and waited for the right time to execute the plan God put on her heart.

Read Esther 5:1-8 as a class.

Esther was already a special person to King Xerxes. So, when he saw her standing there in her royal robes in the inner court, he was happy to see her. What did he hold out to her to welcome her into the king's hall? (The gold scepter.) That's, right. The gold scepter. Does anyone know what a scepter is? It's sort of like a fancy stick with a ball on the end of it; a scepter represents the king's wealth and power. By holding the scepter out to Esther, he was saying, "I see you and I want you to come into the king's hall to speak with me."

Now, Esther was worried when she came to the king's hall. She knew that Haman, the king's aid, had a plot to get rid of all of the Jews, which were Esther's people. Esther's uncle, Mordecai, who had raised her, heard about the plot and begged Esther to help since she had a special relationship with the king. So, she was waiting for the right moment to approach the king.

The beginning of the chapter says, "On the third day Esther put on her royal robes and stood in the inner court of the palace, in front of the king's hall." We know that the number three is significant in the Bible, so I don't think it's a coincidence that Esther decided that on the third day she would dress in her royal robes and try to get the king's attention.

Once she was in the king's hall, the king asked Esther about her request. She was so special to him that he said she would be given up to half of the kingdom. In that moment, Esther could have taken the riches and power and forgotten about her people. But did she do that? No! She **PAUSED** and thought about the consequences of her actions and the people she would be hurting if she just thought about herself. So, she decided to be careful about how she approached the king. She invited him and Haman to a banquet to talk to them there. But even when she had the king's ear once more, she **PAUSED** and realized it still was not the right moment and asked them to come to another banquet the next night. Eventually, Esther was successful in asking the king to spare her people. Do you think she would have been able to save them if she had just blurted out her request at the first banquet? No. She probably would have been



punished for bringing it up at all. She PAUSED and waited on God's timing. She knew it was important to make her request at the right time.

It can be easy to make quick decisions in our lives, especially when it is something we want. But if we PAUSE and think about the consequences our actions and wait on God's timing, we will be rewarded.

So, your CHALLENGE for this week is to PAUSE when you have a decision or a request to make, and think about how it will affect not only you, but those around you and the ones you love.

Let's go over our memory verse so we can be reminded of how important it is PAUSE and wait for God's guidance.

Memory Verse: "If the king regards me with favor and if it pleases the king to grant my petition and fulfill my request, let the king and Haman come tomorrow to the banquet I will prepare for them. Then I will answer the king's question." **Esther 5:8.**

Note: Motions for Memory Verse are provided above.



Kindergarten to 2ndGrade Small Group or Sunday School Discussion & Prayer

Discussion Questions:

Let's open our Bibles and look at Esther 5:1-8.

1. Who is Esther trying to get the attention of?

Answer: King Xerxes.

2. What did the king hold out to Esther?

Answer: A gold scepter.

3. What did Esther invite the king and Haman to?

Answer: A banquet.

4. What did she want from the king?

Answer: She wanted the king to spare her people from Haman's plot to get rid of the Jews.

5. What did the king tell Esther she could have?

Answer: Up to half of the kingdom.

6. What do you think would have happened if Esther hadn't waited for the perfect timing to make a request to the king?

Answer: She might not have been able to save her people, or she could have been punished.

Let's say a prayer to help us remember to PAUSE and wait for God's timing.

Prayer:

Dear God, thank You for showing us the right time to make decisions and make requests. Help us to pause when we need to pause, and act when we need to act. We pray that You will always be the one leading our path. In Jesus' name, Amen.

3rd to 5th Grade Small Group or Sunday School Discussion & Prayer

Note: Allow children to tell you what they think. Multiple answers could apply.

Discussion Questions:

Let's open our Bibles to Esther 5:1-3.

1. What did Esther do to make herself noticeable to the king?

Answer: She dressed in her royal robes and stood in the inner palace in the king's hall.

2. What was the King's reaction to seeing Esther?

Answer: He was happy to see her and invited her into the hall. He even said she can have up to half the kingdom if she requested it.

3. Why do you think Esther invited Haman along with the king?

Answer: Esther didn't trust Haman and wanted him to be close by when she was speaking to the king. I think she was also waiting to show the king the kind of person Haman really was.

4. What does Esther say when the King asked again about her request?

Answer: She said, "If the king regards me with favor [basically, if I am special to the king,] and if it pleases the king to grant my petition and fulfill my request, let the king and Haman come tomorrow to the banquet I will prepare for them. Then I will answer the king's question."

5. Why do you think Esther waited again to make her request?

Answer: She wanted to be sure that it was God's timing. She wanted to make sure it was the right time to save her people. She knew she only had one chance, and she wasn't going to rush to a decision.

Let's say a prayer to help us remember to PAUSE and wait for God's timing.

Prayer:

Dear God, thank You for showing us the right time to make decisions and make requests. Help us to pause when we need to pause, and act when we need to act. We pray that You will always be the one leading our path. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Hands-on Lesson Review

"Esther Bingo"

Supplies:

- List of Esther words (provided below) cut into strips
- Bowl or container for word strips
- 1 bingo card for each child
- 1 pencil for each child
- List of Esther words for students
- Dried beans to use as markers
- Dixie cups to hold beans

Directions:

Before You Begin

Print out the list of Esther words and cut them into strips. Place them into a container that you will draw from during the game. Make sure you fold the strips a couple of times so the kids can't see which words you are choosing. Print out copies of the Esther bingo card and the Esther words for each child.

To Play

1. Give each child an Esther bingo card and the list of Esther words. Have them choose 25 words from the list to fill up their card. Tell them to write one word in each box on the bingo card. They can't repeat any words, but they can put them in any order they choose.
2. Give each child a Dixie cup full of dried beans to use as markers.
3. When everyone has filled out their bingo card, you can begin the game. Choose a strip of paper from the container and read it aloud. Tell the children that if they have that word on their card, they can place a bean on that word.
4. Continue to pull words out of the container until someone gets a "bingo." A bingo would be five in a row—up and down, across, or diagonally.
5. If you want to do multiple rounds, have the kids clear their cards of beans and place the used words back in the container.

Note: If you have children who aren't comfortable writing out the words on their bingo card, offer them the opportunity to cut the words out and glue them on their card.

Esther Words

Esther

Haman

King Xerxes

Request

Banquet

Gold

Scepter

Jews

King's Hall

Inner Court

Palace

Kingdom

Queen

Petition

Prepare

King's Question

Mordecai

Royal Robes

Third Day

PAUSE

God's Timing

God's Voice

God's Guidance

Decision

Choices

Save Her People

Plot

Esther 5

Favor

Tomorrow

Esther Bingo

		FREE		

Bonus Activity: Royal Scepters

Supplies:

- 1 sharpened pencil for each child
- 1 Styrofoam ball for each child
- 5 different spools of washi tape (more for additional options)
- Hot glue gun with glue sticks
- School glue
- Sequences
- Markers (in a variety of colors)

Before You Begin:

Remind the children that King Xerxes extended his gold scepter to Esther because she was a special person to him. If she had not proved herself worthy of his trust and adoration, she might have never had the opportunity to ask the king to spare her people. The scepter will help them remember that Esther paused and did what God wanted her to do.

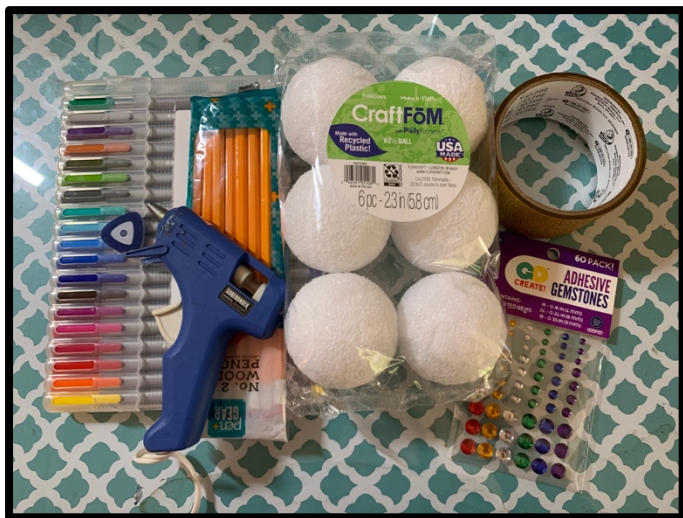
Optional: Before the children arrive, you can hot glue the sharpened pencils to the Styrofoam balls to save time.

Directions:

1. Give each child a sharpened pencil and foam ball. Have the children use the Sharpies to color their ball and use the washi tape to decorate their pencil.
2. When they are finished, hot glue the pencil to the foam ball to create a scepter-like structure. (Make sure the children are safely away from the glue gun when it is in use.)
3. Give each child their scepter and have them use washi tape to create two crossing pieces of tape across the surface of the ball.
4. Then, have them glue the jewels onto the scepter to finish their masterpiece.
5. Set them aside to dry.

Bonus Activity: Royal Scepter Visual Instructions

Step 1



Step 2



Step 3



Step 4



Step 5



Additional Resources

Song Suggestion (Kindergarten – 2nd Grade):

“Esther’s Song” by Kurtis Parks and Friends

Link: <https://youtu.be/0Rt5pAWifl0>

Lyrics:

Esther was a girl from far away
She lived a simple life and loved the Lord
A king was looking for his bride-to-be
He fell in love and called this girl his queen
Her people were the chosen ones of God
Living in a distant land as slaves
The king had put God’s people in harm’s way
But God had chosen to be Esther brave

“For I know the plans I have for you,” says the Lord.
Not to harm you, but to prosper, plans to give you hope and future.”
“For I know the plans I have for you,” says the Lord.
Not to harm you, but to prosper, plans to give you hope and future.”

You might be scared but hold onto the truth.
Our God provides and He will not leave you.
And when you feel alone remember you are His.
For you were called for such a time as this.

“For I know the plans I have for you,” says the Lord.
Not to harm you, but to prosper, plans to give you hope and future.”
“For I know the plans I have for you,” says the Lord.
Not to harm you, but to prosper, plans to give you hope and future.”

Song Suggestion (3rd – 5th Grade):

“Born for This (ESTHER)” by Mandisa

Link: <https://youtu.be/iZvZWUZFevI>

Lyrics:

Feels like I’ve been holding my breath
Trying to still my restless heart

Everything hangs on my next step
Finding my nerve, playing my part
I found shelter underneath his crown
Found favor inside his eyes
Rock this boat, and I just might drown
Honesty seems to come with a price

There's a time to hold your tongue
Time to keep your head down
There's a time but it's not now

Sometimes you gotta go, uninvited
Sometimes you gotta speak when you don't have the floor
Sometimes you gotta move
When everybody else says you should stay
No way, no, not today
You gotta ask if you want an answer
Sometimes you gotta stand apart from the crowd
Long before your heart could run the risk
You were born for this (born for this)
Hey, you were born for this (born for this)

I'm leaning on the ones before me
My father's father's dreams
I'm standing on the top of their shoulders
Calling the One delivering me

There's a time to hold your tongue
Time to keep your head down
There's a time but it's not now

Sometimes you gotta go, uninvited
Sometimes you gotta speak when you don't have the floor
Sometimes you gotta move
When everybody else says you should stay
No way, no, not today
You gotta ask if you want an answer
Sometimes you gotta stand apart from the crowd
Long before your heart could run the risk
You were born for this (born for this)
Hey, you were born for this (born for this)

One step, one move
Born to trust You
Made to lay my
Life before You

So I gotta go, uninvited
Sometimes you gotta speak when you don't have the floor

Sometimes you gotta move
When everybody else says you should stay
No way, no, not today
You gotta ask if you want an answer
Sometimes you gotta stand apart from the crowd
Long before your heart could run the risk
You were born for this (born for this)
You were born for this (born for this)
You were born for this
You were born for this (born for this)
You were born for this



Parent Page

Title: The Pause Challenge

- **Big Idea:** It is easy to want to do things in our own time. We want what we want when we want it. But God wants us to pause and listen to what he has to say before we act on our own will.
- **Key Passage: Esther 5:1-8. Esther's patience.** Instead of jumping at the chance to talk to King Xerxes about saving her people, she waited for God's guidance to speak at the right time. Her patience proved to be a saving grace for her people.
- **Memory Verse: Esther 5:8.** "'If the king regards me with favor and if it pleases the king to grant my petition and fulfill my request, let the king and Haman come tomorrow to the banquet I will prepare for them. Then I will answer the king's question.'"
- **Challenge:** PAUSE when you have a decision or a request to make, and think about how it will affect not only you, but those around you and the ones you love.

Today, we talked about how God is the real deal. There is no imitation for God, even though the world sometimes tells us that there is. We have to trust that small voice inside of our hearts and minds that wants us to follow God. We also talked about the Ten Commandments and how the first commandment is, "You shall have no other gods before me." We talked about how this is important because God is the only true god, and we should trust Him with all of our hearts.

Questions from Esther 5:1-8:

1. Who is Esther trying to get the attention of?

Answer: King Xerxes.

2. What did the king hold out to Esther?

Answer: A gold scepter.

3. What did Esther invite the king and Haman to?

Answer: A banquet.

4. What did she want from the King?

Answer: She wanted the king to spare her people from Haman's plot to get rid of the Jews.

Family Activity:

The Pause Challenge

Check out The Pause Challenge <https://youtu.be/8pOtuiJDrpw> and find out who is best at staying still.

Supplies:

- 1 remote control (any will do)
- Large, open space for everyone to spread out

Directions:

1. Have everyone in the family roll a die. Whoever has the highest number will be "it" first.
2. The person who is "it" will be the one who pauses everyone else. Everyone will spread out and find a spot in the room. When you say go, you will call out an action like hopping on one foot or doing jumping jacks (see list of actions below).
3. Remind everyone that they can move around, but there will be no running.
4. The person with the remote control will go to the people moving around and try to "pause" them. If they are paused, then they must freeze in the position they were in.
5. A player who is not frozen can un-pause them by giving them a fist bump. The person who is it will have two minutes to pause as many people as possible. When the time is up, it will be a new person's turn.
6. Continue until every person has had a chance to be it. *(Note: You can shorten the time for each round to 1 minute or 30 seconds for more of a challenge.)*

Suggested Actions:

- Hopping on one foot
- Skipping
- Fast walking
- Jumping jacks
- Crab walking
- Walking like an elephant (big, heavy steps)
- Turning in a circle (slowly)





LESSON 8

Acts 16:31

**“They replied, “Believe
in the Lord Jesus, and
you will be saved—you
and your household.”**



The Decision Challenge

Lesson Summary

- **Big Idea:** We can choose to follow Jesus even when we are faced with challenges. God gives us instructions to follow to be saved and spend eternity with Him in Heaven.
- **Key Passage: Acts 16:16-40. Paul and Silas in prison.** The two Christ-followers are thrown into jail because of their beliefs. They begin singing and an earthquake rips through the prison. The jailer asks Paul what he must do to be saved and Paul tells him he must believe in the Lord.
- **Memory Verse: Act 16:31.** "They replied, 'Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household.'"
- **Key Life Application:** As you go through this lesson, remind children that they will be faced with decisions every day. They will have to decide if they want to follow after God or the world. Explain that the jailer in the story chose to believe in Jesus and he and his whole family were saved.

Gospel Connection: The most important decision we can make is the decision to believe in Jesus. And like Paul said, believing in Jesus is the way to salvation. The jailer listened to Paul and knew that following Jesus was the right thing to do. Not only was he saved, but his family was saved as well.

Full List of Supplies Needed to Complete Entire Lesson

- List of "This or That" cards (provided below)
- Paul and Silas trivia game printout (provided below)
- Hula hoops (1 for each team)
- Shoebox or other container(1 for each team)
- Different colored bandanas
- Piece of paper or white board
- Markers or dry-erase markers
- 1 printout of chain links for each child
- 1 template of Paul and Silas
- Markers/Crayons
- Scissors
- Glue

Memory Verse Activity

Hand Motions

Say, "They replied..."

Put your hand on your mouth and then lay it flat in front of you.

"Believe in the Lord Jesus..."

Make an L and cross your chest from left shoulder to your right hip. Then make the sign for J ([here's what it looks like](#)).

"And you will be saved..."

Put your wrists together as if they are chained together and then break them.

"You and your household."

Point with your pointer finger and then sweep both hands out in front of you.

"Acts..."

Make the sign for the letter A ([here's what it looks like](#)).

"16:31."

Make each number with your fingers (i.e., one, six, three, one).



Let's Do The Decision Challenge!

Below you will find a sample script to help you lead the children through the Decision Challenge. These are only suggestions. Feel free to make changes.

Good morning, everyone. We have been challenged a lot over the last few weeks, but hopefully you've had some fun, too! Today is going to be our last challenge and it's going to be all about making decisions. Who here is good at making decisions? If you have some birthday or Christmas money and you go to the store, how long does it take you to choose what to buy? I know a few kids who have a hard time choosing what to get. Decision making can be difficult, especially when it comes to big decisions like whether or not to follow Jesus. Right now, we're going to do a challenge that will get you think about decisions.

Let me explain the rules: This is called the Decision Challenge. You will have to decide between two different items. You can take a "this" or a "that." Everyone will get a chance to choose.

For an example of this game, see: <https://youtu.be/gQZmH-uEtSE>

Supplies:

- List of This or That cards (provided below)

Directions:

1. If you have a large group, have them sit or stand in a circle. If you have a small group, you can stay seated at the table.
2. Draw a card from the deck of this or that cards and ask the person closest to your right. You can go around the room or the circle counter-clockwise.
3. The person answering the question can either choose this or that. Once they've chosen, it's the next person's turn.

Which would choose as a pet?

THIS: A buffalo you can ride to school

THAT: A squirrel that understands humans.

Which would you choose?

THIS: A nose growing on your forehead.

THAT: An eye on the back of your head.

Which would you choose?

THIS: Candy for every meal for a month.

THAT: Candy once a day for a whole year.

Which would you choose?

THIS: Design a new toy you can never play with.

THAT: Direct a movie where cats are the actors.

Which would you choose?

THIS: Be ten years older.

THAT: Be four years younger.

Which would you choose?

THIS: Live on the moon with your favorite foods.

THAT: Live on Mars with your whole family.

Which would you choose?

THIS: Live in a bird house (you'd be small enough)

THAT: Live in a doghouse.

Which would you choose?

THIS: Having a cat tail.

THAT: Have peacock feathers.

Which would you choose?

THIS: Eat a container of ketchup.

THAT: Eat a cup of hot sauce.

Which would you choose?

THIS: No sugar for a year.

THAT: No TV for a year.

Which would you choose?

THIS: Be super fast.

THAT: Be super strong.

Which would you choose?

THIS: Have the power of invisibility.

THAT: Have the power to read people's thoughts.

Which would choose?

THIS: Be an art teacher.

THAT: Be a PE teacher.

Which would you choose?

THIS: Eat french fries for every meal for a year.

THAT: Eat chocolate cake once a day for a year.

Which would you choose?

THIS: Live on the beach.

THAT: Live in the park.

Which would you choose?

THIS: Have to “moo” after every sentence.

THAT: Have to bark when you leave a room.

Which would you choose?

THIS: Go to the dentist once a week.

THAT: Go to the doctor once a week.

Which would you choose?

THIS: Eat at your favorite fast food restaurant once a year.

THAT: Eat as much of your least favorite fast food as you want.

Which would you choose?

THIS: Play baseball in the rain.

THAT: Play soccer in the snow.

Which would you choose?

THIS: Discover pirate’s treasure.

THAT: Discover a new dinosaur.

Which would you choose?

THIS: Go bungee jumping.

THAT: Go skydiving.

Which would you choose?

THIS: Go to a waterpark fully clothed.

THAT: Ride on a rollercoaster in a bathing suit.

Which would you choose?

THIS: Breakfast on the Eiffel Tower.

THAT: Dinner on the International Space Station.

Which would you choose?

THIS: Always be in dress clothes.

THAT: Always wear your pajamas.

Large Group Lesson Discussion

After completing the challenge, lead the following discussion:

How did you feel about this challenge? Was it easy or difficult to choose a this or a that? Were some of the decisions easier to make? That's how it is in life. Some of our decisions are easy and some are more difficult. Today we're going to talk about some people who made some important decisions. We'll see how that affected their lives. Let's open up our Bibles to Acts 16:16.

Read Acts 16:16 as a class.

Paul and Silas are on a journey to preach the Good News to people everywhere. Even though they are kind and peaceful wherever they go, people still don't like when they come into their town and talk about changing the way they've always believed. So, Paul and Silas come into the town of Philippi and right away they meet a slave woman who is possessed by a spirit that allows her to predict the future. She even says, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved." But how does Paul react? He is annoyed. The reason that he is annoyed is because the people of Philippi thought the Most-High God was Zeus, not the true God. Paul didn't want the people to think that he was there to preach about Zeus.

So, what does Paul do when he gets annoyed? That's right, he calls the spirit out of the woman in the name of Jesus. Suddenly, the spirit is gone, and she can no longer predict the future. While this would be great if she was a Christian, it isn't good for her slave owner who is making money from her skills. The slave owner gets angry that Paul did this and brings them to the magistrates (those who make decisions about law and order). The crowd around them begins to attack Paul and Silas and the two men are eventually locked up in the inner cell with their feet in stocks.

Let's stop and talk about this. Paul and Silas didn't have to stay in Philippi. They could have made the decision to leave the city when they started to become annoyed with the slave woman. They could have escaped from the crowd and run away. But they didn't. They knew that God had led them there for a reason. And what did Paul and Silas do when they were locked up in prison? Did they cry out to God and say, "Why me?" No! They began singing hymns to God.

How does God let them know that He hears them? He shakes the earth with a violent earthquake and the prison doors fly open and everyone's chains become loose. Paul and Silas have been freed. They could just run away from the prison, but do they do that? No! They made the decision to stay where God had placed them. The jailer, who was supposed to make sure the prisoners were secure, thinks they have escaped and is very scared. He thinks he will be killed for not being able to keep them in the prison. But Paul calls out to him and says, "Don't harm yourself! We are all here!"

The jailer, who realizes this is an act of God, comes trembling to Paul and Silas and asks, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" This jailer could have run to the magistrates and told them that Paul and Silas were still in the jail and been praised for doing his job well. But this man made the decision to come to know Jesus and be saved.

Paul tells the man that all he needs to do to be saved is to "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household." The jailer listened to what these men had to say, washed their wounds, brought them home for a meal, and became baptized. His family was also baptized, and they were filled with joy.

If Paul and Silas had made the decision to leave Philippi at any time, this man and his family would not have been saved. Their decisions were important. And the man and his family made the decision to believe in Jesus and become saved. God gives us the chance to make our own decisions, but He hopes that we will choose Him in the end. He wants to spend eternity with all of His children, and we know that we must believe in His son, Jesus, to make that happen.

So, your CHALLENGE for this week is to think about the decisions you make every day and decide if they will bring you closer or further away from your heavenly father. And if you're ready to decide to follow Jesus, your leaders are here to help you do that.

Let's go over our memory verse so we can be reminded of how important it is to think about the decisions you make every day and decide if they will bring you closer or further away from your heavenly father.

Memory Verse: "They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household." **Acts 16:31.**

Note: Motions for Memory Verse are provided above.

Kindergarten to 2nd Grade Small Group or Sunday School Discussion & Prayer

Discussion Questions:

Let's open our Bibles and look at Acts 16:16-40.

1. Who did Paul and Silas encounter that predicted the future?

Answer: A slave woman.

2. What did Paul do when the woman continued to annoy them?

Answer: He called the spirit out of her.

3. What happened to Paul and Silas after they called the spirit out of the woman?

Answer: They were sent to jail.

4. What happened when Paul and Silas began singing hymns to God?

Answer: The earth shook with a violent earthquake and the prison doors flew open.

5. What did the jailer ask Paul and Silas?

Answer: "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

6. What happened to the jailer and his family after their encounter with Paul and Silas?

Answer: They were all saved and baptized.

Let's say a prayer to help us remember to make godly decisions.

Prayer:

Dear God, thank You for always being there whether we make the right decision or not. We pray that we will come to know Jesus and make godly decisions. I pray that if anyone doesn't know You, Lord, that they will make the choice to know and believe in You. In Jesus's name, Amen.

3rd to 5th Grade Small Group or Sunday School Discussion & Prayer

Note: Allow children to tell you what they think. Multiple answers could apply.

Discussion Questions:

Let's open our Bibles to Acts 16:16-40.

1. Why was Paul annoyed with the female slave?

Answer: Because she was possessed by a spirit that was giving her the ability to predict the future. And she was telling everyone that Paul and Silas were servants of the Most High God, which the people of Philippi thought was Zeus.

3. What did Paul do when the woman was annoying them?

Answer: Paul called the spirit out of the woman in the name of Jesus Christ.

4. How did the slave owner react when the woman could no longer tell the future?

Answer: He was angry that he could no longer make money from the woman's abilities, so he took Paul and Silas to the magistrates.

5. Why do you think seeing the prison break apart during the earthquake made the jailer want to be saved?

Answer: He saw that Paul and Silas were in fact servants of a powerful god. He could see that they made the choice not only to sing praises to God while they were locked up, but they also made the decision to stay in the prison after they were set free so that the jailer would not be punished.

Let's say a prayer to help us remember to make godly decisions.

Prayer:

Dear God, thank You for always being there whether we make the right decision or not. We pray that we will come to know Jesus and make godly decisions. I pray that if anyone doesn't know You, Lord, that they will make the choice to know and believe in You. In Jesus's name, Amen.

Hands-on Lesson Review

"Paul and Silas Trivia and Human Chain Relay"

Supplies:

- Paul and Silas trivia game printout (provided below)
- Hula hoops (1 for each team)
- Shoebox or other container (1 for each team)
- Different colored bandanas
- Piece of paper or white board
- Markers or dry-erase markers

Directions:

Before You Begin

Print out the Paul and Silas trivia game and cut into puzzle-shaped pieces. Mix them up and place inside of a shoebox or another container (you will need one container of pieces per team). Tie up the container with the bandanas (1 color for each team) so that it will be challenging to open.

To Play

1. Divide the children up into teams. Assign each team a color that corresponds to the bandana colors. Explain that when you say, "Go," two members from the team will run to the container and untie the box.
2. Once they open the box, they will bring the puzzle pieces to two other members who will put the puzzle together.
3. Once they have the puzzle put together, they will have to write down the answers to each question. If they think they have them all correct, they will signal the leader to check. If the leader approves, then the whole team will go to the open space in the room and hold hands.
4. They will then weave a hula hoop over everyone in the group. (For an example, see <https://youtu.be/nOJwXAZHYwQ>.) When the last person has gone through the hoop the whole team will sit down. The first team to get through all of the tasks and sit down is the winner.

Paul and Silas Trivia

1. Who was able to predict the future and made money through fortune-telling?

- A. Paul B. a female slave
- C. One of the magistrates

2. Why were Paul and Silas seized and dragged into the marketplace to face the authorities?

- A. They were fortune-telling
- B. They asked to be locked up.
- C. Paul asked the Lord to rid the female slave of a bad spirit

3. What did they do to Paul and Silas' feet?

- A. Fastened them in the stocks
- B. Washed them
- C. Painted their toenails

2. What did the jailer ask Paul and Silas after he realized the prisoners had not escaped?

- A. "Why did the earth shake?"
- B. "How can I get out of here?"
- C. "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

Paul and Silas Trivia

1. Who was able to predict the future and made money through fortune-telling?

- A. Paul B. a female slave
- C. One of the magistrates

2. Why were Paul and Silas seized and dragged into the marketplace to face the authorities?

- A. They were fortune-telling
- B. They asked to be locked up.
- C. Paul asked the Lord to rid the female slave of a bad spirit

3. What did they do to Paul and Silas' feet?

- A. Fastened them in the stocks
- B. Washed them
- C. Painted their toenails

2. What did the jailer ask Paul and Silas after he realized the prisoners had not escaped?

- A. "Why did the earth shake?"
- B. "How can I get out of here?"
- C. "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

Bonus Activity: Paul and Silas Set Free

Supplies:

- 1 printout of chain links for each child
- 1 template of Paul and Silas
- Markers/Crayons
- Scissors
- Glue

Before You Begin:

Remind the children that Paul and Silas were in prison, bound in chains, but the Holy Spirit broke them free. Once they were free of the chains, they led others to Christ. We can do the same thing! Jesus died to give us freedom from our sins. We don't have to be bound by our wrongdoings. We can ask for forgiveness through Jesus.

Directions:

1. Give each child a printout of the Paul and Silas template and a printout of the chain links.
2. Once they have their papers, you can instruct them to color the chain links. The first set of links have the memory verse written on them. The second set is for the children to write sins that they are struggling with (i.e., talking back to parents, fighting with siblings, stealing a sibling's toy, etc.).
3. They should then cut out the links. The memory verse links will be glued together and then linked together one at a time. The finished chain will be stapled to Paul's hand.
4. The second set of links will be glued and linked together and stapled to Silas' hand.
5. Remind children that Jesus sets us free and recite the memory verse together.

“They replied,

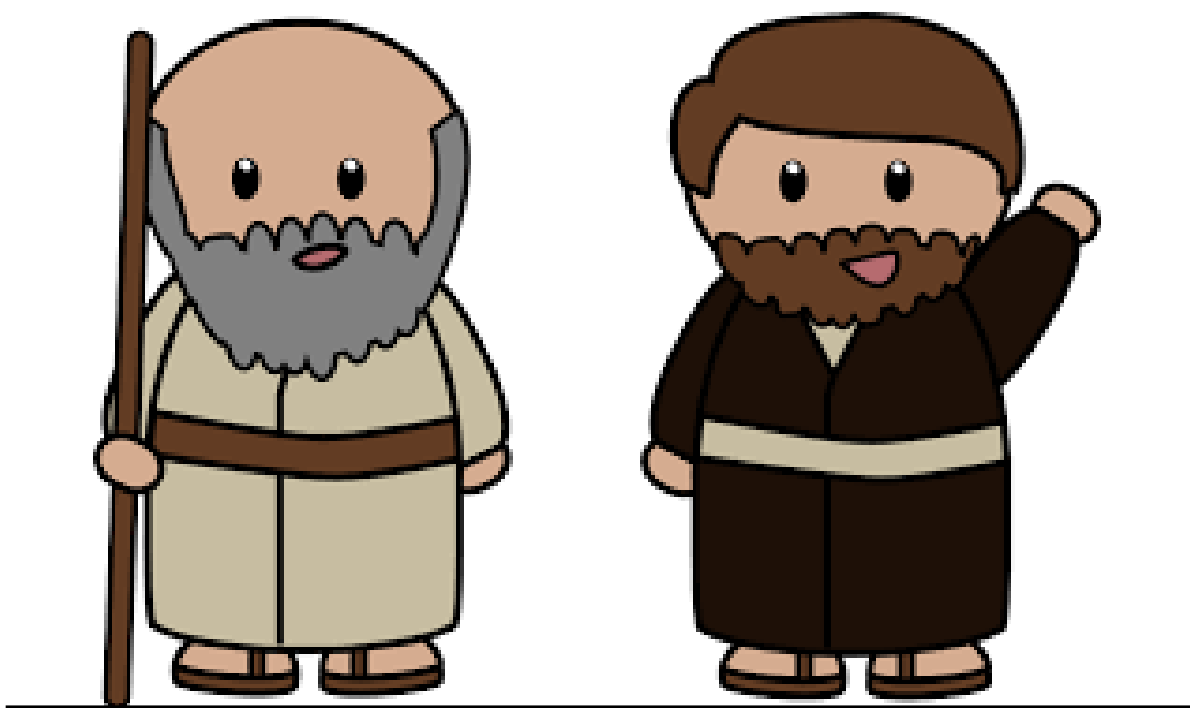
‘Believe in the Lord Jesus,

And you will be saved—

You and your household.’”

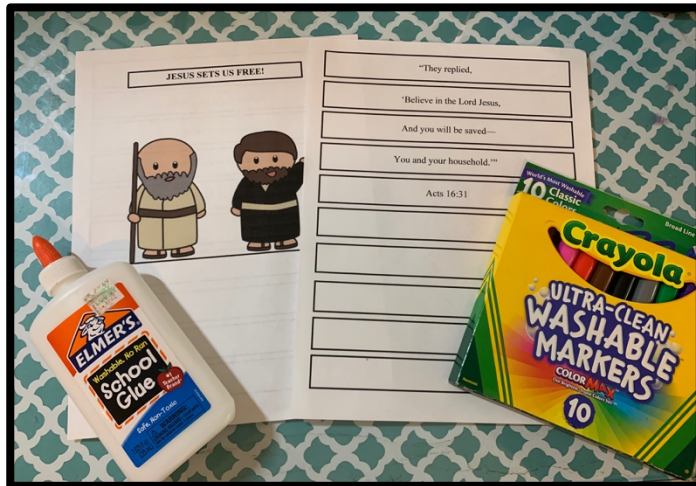
Acts 16:31

JESUS SETS US FREE!

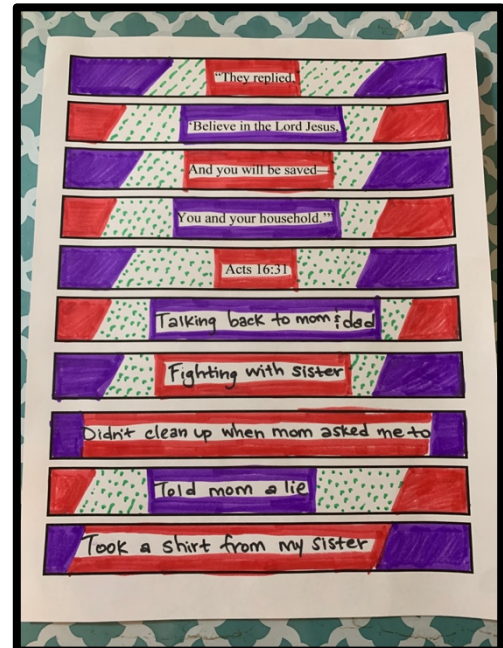


Bonus Activity Visual Instructions: Paul and Silas Set Free

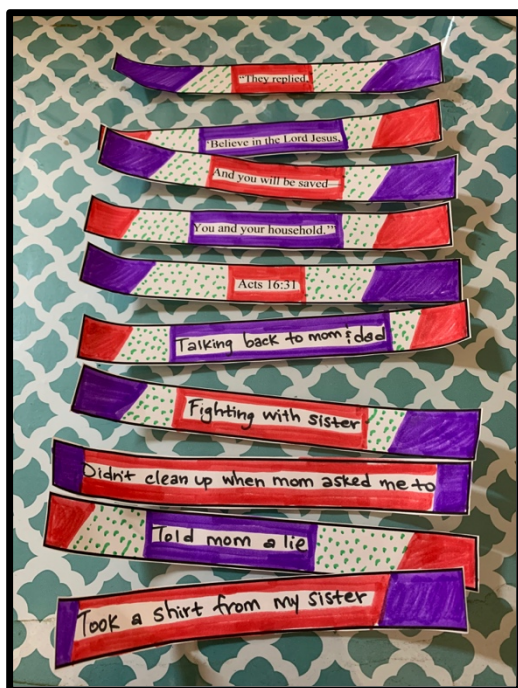
Supplies



Step 1



Step 2



Step 3



Additional Resources

Song Suggestion:

"Freedom" by Bethel Music Kids

Link: <https://youtu.be/lrgViuuyY AQ>

Lyrics:

You came to set the captives free
You came to bring us liberty
My sin and my rejection
Your blood and my acceptance
Now I'm alive to bring You praise

Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom
Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom
Every chain is broken through You, Jesus
Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom

Whoa oh, oh, oh

Your blood has covered every sin
Your grace empowers me to win
My pain and my oppression met
Your blood and my acceptance
Now I'm alive to bring You praise

I'm free I'm free, I'm free to dance and sing
I'm free, I'm free, I'm free to shout it out
I'm free, I'm free, I'm free to dance and sing
I'm free, I'm free, I'm free to worship You
I'm gonna worship You



Parent Page

Title: The Decision Challenge

- **Big Idea:** We can choose to follow Jesus even when we are faced with challenges. God gives us instructions to follow to be saved and spend eternity with Him in Heaven.
- **Key Passage: Acts 16:25-40. Paul and Silas in prison.** The two Christ-followers are thrown into jail because of their beliefs. They begin singing and an earthquake rips through the prison. The jailer asks Paul what he must do to be saved and Paul tells him he must believe in the Lord.
- **Memory Verse: Act 16:31.** “They replied, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household.”
- **Challenge:** Think about the decisions you make every day and decide if they will bring you closer or further away from your heavenly father.

Today, we talked about decisions. We have to make decisions every day. Some are easy to make, and others are difficult. We must think about the consequences of our actions and their effect on our lives, especially our spiritual lives. The best decision we can make is to follow Jesus and believe in him.

Questions from Acts 16:25-40:

1. Who did Paul and Silas encounter that predicted the future?

Answer: A slave woman.

2. What did Paul do when the woman continued to annoy them?

Answer: He called the spirit out of her.

3. What happened to Paul and Silas after they called the spirit out of the woman?

Answer: They were sent to jail.

4. What happened when Paul and Silas began singing hymns to God?

Answer: The earth shook with a violent earthquake and the prison doors flew open.

5. What did the jailer ask Paul and Silas?

Answer: “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”

6. What happened to the jailer and his family after their encounter with Paul and Silas?

Answer: They were all saved and baptized.

Family Activity:

The Decision Challenge

Check out The Decision Challenge <https://youtu.be/gQZmH-uEtSE> and find out what your family members would choose.

Supplies:

- List of This or That cards (provided below)

Directions:

1. Have everyone sit at a table together.
2. Draw a card from the deck of This or That cards and ask the youngest person first. Go around the table counter-clockwise. You can come up with your own this or that questions when the cards run out.
3. The person answering the question can either choose “this” or “that.” Once they’ve chosen, it’s the next person’s turn.

This or That Cards:

Which would you choose?

THIS: Have to “moo” after every sentence.

THAT: Have to bark when you leave a room.

Which would you choose?

THIS: Go to the dentist once a week.

THAT: Go to the doctor once a week.

Which would you choose?

THIS: Eat at your favorite fast food restaurant once a year.

THAT: Eat as much of your least favorite fast food as you want.

Which would you choose?

THIS: Play baseball in the rain.

THAT: Play soccer in the snow.

Which would you choose?

THIS: Discover pirate’s treasure.

THAT: Discover a new dinosaur.

Which would you choose?

THIS: Go bungee jumping.

THAT: Go skydiving.

