

THE
GOSPEL
PROJECT
FOR PRETEENS

OUT OF
EGYPT
VOLUME 2 · LEADER GUIDE





Unit 4, Session 1

Joseph Sent to Egypt

Genesis 37

Story Point: Joseph's brothers sold him into slavery.

Open your Bible and read aloud Genesis 37, or tell the story from the following Bible story script.

Jacob and his family lived in Canaan, the land God had promised to his grandfather Abraham and his family. **Jacob had 12 sons, but his favorite son was Joseph.**

Jacob gave Joseph a colorful robe. **Joseph's brothers saw that Jacob loved Joseph most, and they hated Joseph.**

One day, Joseph told his brothers about a dream he had. He **dreamed that he and his brothers were putting together bundles of grain. Suddenly Joseph's grain stood up and the other bundles bowed down to his. The dream meant that Joseph would rule over his brothers.** Joseph's brothers hated Joseph even more.

Then Joseph had another dream. In this dream, Joseph saw the sun, the moon, and 11 stars bowing to him. This dream meant all of Joseph's family—his brothers, his mother, and his father—would one day bow down to Joseph. Joseph's brothers were more jealous.

Some time later, Jacob sent Joseph to check on his brothers, who were tending to the sheep. When the brothers saw Joseph coming, they decided to kill him.

But Joseph's oldest brother, Reuben, did not want to kill Joseph. "Let's just throw him into a pit," he said.

When Joseph arrived, the brothers took off Joseph's colorful robe and threw him into the pit. Then they saw a caravan of people heading to Egypt. They decided to sell Joseph to the travelers as a servant for twenty pieces of silver. The travelers took Joseph to Egypt.

The brothers dipped Joseph's colorful robe into blood and took it back to their father.

"We found this robe," they said. **Jacob** recognized the robe. He **believed a wild animal had killed Joseph, and he cried loudly because he thought his favorite son was dead.**

Christ Connection: Joseph's brothers turned against him and tried to kill him, but God protected Joseph and used him as part of His plan to rescue his family. In a similar way, people turned against God's Son, Jesus. Jesus' death was God's plan to rescue sinners.



INTRODUCE the Story

WELCOME TIME

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, and help new kids connect to your group. Prompt kids to describe some of their favorite things: color, season, hobby, and so forth. Explain that today kids will hear about Jacob's favorite son.

OPTION 1: Draw conclusions

Form three teams of kids. Explain that you will give three clues about an event or situation. If a group can guess what is happening after one clue, they earn three points. If they guess after two clues, they earn two points. If they guess after three clues, they earn one point. After each clue, allow each team to discuss and come up with one guess. Invite teams to share. If no team guesses correctly, read another clue and allow teams to guess again.

1. Friends come to your house. They sing to you. Everyone eats cake and ice cream.
(*birthday party*)
2. People start shouting loudly. A man throws a ball. A player swings a bat at the ball.
(*baseball game*)
3. You change your clothes. You brush your teeth. You turn out the light. (*bedtime*)

• If someone brought you a coat with blood on it, what might you conclude?

OPTION 2: Model colorful robes

Supplies: 2 large paper bags, masking tape or duct tape, scissors, colorful yarn or streamers, markers

Form two teams of kids. Provide large paper bags, masking tape or duct tape, scissors, colorful yarn or paper streamers, and markers. Instruct each group to designate a model and design a colorful robe for the model to wear. Kids can cut the paper bags down the center of one side to open them, cut arm holes, and tape on yarn or streamers to decorate. After several minutes, call for models to put on the colorful robe and show it off for the class.

- Have you ever felt jealous about something someone else had?



TEACH the Story

The Bible tells us what is true about God and about ourselves. All of the stories in the Bible fit together to tell us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

Today we are going to hear how Jacob's son Joseph was sent to Egypt. Jacob had 12 sons and, like most brothers, they didn't always get along. Whether this is your first time or your tenth time hearing this story, there is always something new to learn in God's Word.

Read Genesis 37.

- What does this story teach us about God?

God hears and rescues His people. Joseph was in a pit, and then Joseph's brothers sold him into slavery. But that wasn't the end of Joseph's story. God can do all things according to His character, and nothing can stop God's plan.

- What was significant about Joseph's dreams?

The dreams meant that one day Joseph would rule over his brothers and his whole family. Joseph's dreams weren't just dreams from his own mind. **These dreams came from God.** God had a plan for Joseph's life, and not even a group of jealous brothers can stop God's plan.

- Form groups of two or three and practice retelling the Bible story in your own words. Think of someone you could share the story with this week.

CHRIST CONNECTION

Joseph's brothers turned against him and tried to kill him, but God protected Joseph and used him as part of His plan to rescue his family. In a similar way, people turned against God's Son, Jesus. Jesus' death was God's plan to rescue sinners.



TEACH the Story

MISSIONS MOMENT

God sent His Son, Jesus, to rescue people from sin. This was His plan all along! This is the gospel, or good news! God wants everyone to hear the gospel. Missionaries take the good news of the gospel to people living all over the world. A majority of people living in South Asia do not know that Jesus came to rescue sinners. We can pray for people in South Asia and the missionaries who share the gospel with them.

PRAY

Lord God, thank You for Your Word. Thank You for stories like Joseph's so we can know You better. You are working in our lives even when we do not realize it. Help us to trust You for everything. Help us remember Jesus, who suffered the most to give us the greatest good—salvation from sin. We love You! Amen.

THE GOSPEL: GOD'S PLAN FOR ME

The gospel is the good news, the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use Scripture and the guide provided below to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.



GOD RULES. Ask: "Who is in charge at home?" Explain that because God created everything, He is in charge of everything. Read Revelation 4:11.



WE SINNED. Ask: "Have you ever done something wrong?" Tell kids that everyone sins, or disobeys God. Our sin separates us from God. Read Romans 3:23.



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



JESUS GIVES. Ask: "What is the best gift you've ever received?" Say that Jesus took our punishment for sin by giving His life, and He gives us His righteousness. God sees us as if we lived the perfect life Jesus lived. This is the best gift ever! Read 2 Corinthians 5:21.



WE RESPOND. Explain that everyone has a choice to make. Ask: "Will you trust Jesus as your Savior and Lord? You can turn from self and sin and turn to Jesus." Read Romans 10:9-10.



APPLY the Story

Big Picture Question

Is there anything God cannot do? God can do all things according to His character.

Joseph was in a pit, and then Joseph's brothers sold him into slavery. But that wasn't the end of Joseph's story.

- Why do you think God allows bad things to happen?
- Can you think of a time God brought something good out of something difficult?

Distribute Bibles. Guide boys and girls to open their Bibles to Genesis 37. Remind kids that the Book of Genesis is the first book of the Bible and the first book of the Pentateuch—the first five books of the Bible, also known as the books of the Law. Choose a volunteer to read aloud Genesis 37:8.

Point out that most of Joseph's brothers were older than him, and they did not like the idea of Joseph ruling over them. So they made a plan to keep Joseph's dreams from coming true. Choose another volunteer to read aloud Genesis 37:8 again. Then lead the group to discuss the following questions.

1. **Have you ever felt jealous about someone else's success? Why should we be happy when God blesses others?**

Guide kids to recognize believers as part of one family—God's family. We honor and love one another by sharing in both joy and trials. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Rom. 12:15.)

2. **How do you think Joseph felt when he was in the pit? How can we react when others mistreat us?**

Invite kids to imagine Joseph's anger, sadness, and fear; point kids to a greater trust that God is ultimately in control and can bring healing and forgiveness through Jesus. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Rom. 12:19-21.)

3. **How can challenges in life actually help us? Why do you think God allows believers to experience hard times?**

Lead kids to consider how difficult circumstances and suffering can help us grow and change to depend on God and be more like Jesus. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Rom. 5:3-4.)



APPLY the Story

KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY

Before the session, write the key passage as phrases on several strips of paper. Instruct kids to open their Bibles to Hosea 13:4. Lead the kids to read the key passage together. Mix up the paper strips and challenge kids to work together to tape them end to end in order. When kids finish, lead them to read the key passage again.

Does anyone know why we memorize Scripture? [*Allow responses.*] We don't always have a Bible with us. Memorizing Scripture helps us remember what is true about God and about ourselves. This is our key passage for the next several weeks. Work on memorizing it when you're at home or in the car. We'll practice it again next week.

PRAY

Invite volunteers to share prayer requests. Then pray, thanking God for comforting us when we suffer. Ask Him to help boys and girls trust that He is in control, even when it seems like everything is going wrong.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY: Brothers echo game

Invite a volunteer to read the names of Jacob's sons from Genesis 35:23-26. Be prepared to assist with pronunciation:

Reuben (RHOoo ben), Simeon (SIM ih uhn), Levi (LEE vigh), Judah (JOoo duh), Issachar (ISS uh kahr), Zebulun (ZEB yoo luhn), Joseph (JOH zif), Benjamin (BEN juh min), Dan (DAN), Naphtali (NAF tuh ligh), Gad (GAD), Asher (ASH uhr).

Read the names again slowly. Encourage kids to pay close attention to the names of Joseph's brothers. Then call out a name. Instruct kids to echo by repeating the name.

Randomly call out names like Noah, David, or Paul. Any kids who echo a name that does not belong to Jacob's sons must sit down. Play until one or two kids remain.



Unit 4, Session 2

Joseph Explained Dreams

Genesis 39–41

Story Point: God gave Joseph power to understand dreams.

Open your Bible and read aloud Genesis 39–41, or tell the story from the following Bible story script.

The travelers who bought Joseph took him to Egypt and sold him to an Egyptian officer named Potiphar. God was with Joseph and made him successful at everything he did. Potiphar put Joseph in charge as his personal assistant.

One day, Potiphar's wife accused Joseph of doing something he didn't do. Potiphar believed his wife, and Joseph went to jail. But God was still with Joseph and blessed him. The jail warden put Joseph in charge of the other prisoners.

One night, two of the prisoners—Pharaoh's cupbearer and baker—both had dreams. They told Joseph about dreams they had. The cupbearer dreamed about a vine with three branches. Grapes grew on the vine, and the cupbearer squeezed them into a cup and gave it to Pharaoh. The baker dreamed that he had three baskets of bread on his head, but the birds were eating out of the top basket.

Joseph told them what the dreams meant. In three days, the cupbearer would serve Pharaoh again; but the baker would not because he would be put to death. Joseph asked the cupbearer to remember him and to tell Pharaoh he did not deserve to be in jail.

The cupbearer did serve Pharaoh again, but he forgot about Joseph. Two years later, Pharaoh had two dreams: Seven fat cows eaten by seven skinny cows, and seven fat heads of grain eaten by seven thin heads. **No one knew what these dreams meant!** Finally, the cupbearer remembered Joseph.

God told Joseph what Pharaoh's dreams meant, and Joseph explained the dreams to Pharaoh. “The dreams represent seven years when plenty of food will grow followed by seven years when no food will grow.”

Pharaoh realized that God was with Joseph, so he made Joseph second in command in all of Egypt. No one was more powerful than Joseph except for Pharaoh himself. **Joseph stored away food during the good years. When the famine came, people from every land came to Egypt to buy grain from Joseph.**

Christ Connection: God sent Joseph to Egypt and blessed him so that he rose to a position of great authority. God used Joseph to help Joseph's family and many others. When Jesus came to earth, He gave up His position of honor in heaven to be the Savior of the world.



INTRODUCE the Story

WELCOME TIME

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, and help new kids connect to your group. Prompt kids to try to think of a dream they had recently. Invite volunteers to share about their dreams.

OPTION 1: There you are!

Supplies: large blanket or sheet

Form two teams of kids. If your kids do not know each other well, review names before playing. Instruct players to sit with their team, several feet away from the other team. Choose two volunteers to hold a blanket between the two teams so players cannot see the other team.

For each round, one player from each team will sit behind the blanket. Count down from three and then the volunteers should drop the blanket. The first player to shout out the name of the other player wins the round. Award a point for each correct identification. Play multiple rounds as time allows.

- Do you think you'd ever forget someone who saved your life?

OPTION 2: What does it mean?

Supplies: chalkboard or dry erase board, chalk or marker

Write several phrases on a dry erase board. Explain that each letter stands for a word. For example, 24 H in a D = 24 hours in a day. Allow kids to determine the meaning of each phrase. Use the examples provided or list your own phrases.

Examples: 26 L in the A (*letters, alphabet*); 7 D of the W (*days, week*); 66 B in the B (*books, Bible*); 39 B in the OT (*books, Old Testament*); 27 B in the NT (*books, New Testament*); 100 C in a D (*cents, dollar*); 60 M in an H (*minutes, hour*); 88 K on a P (*keys, piano*).

- When you don't know what something means, where are some places you might go to find answers?



TEACH the Story

The Bible tells us what is true about God and about ourselves. All of the stories in the Bible fit together to tell us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

Today we are going to hear about a time Joseph explained dreams. Joseph's brothers sold him into slavery and he was a prisoner in Egypt. Whether this is your first time or your tenth time hearing this story, there is always something new to learn in God's Word.

Read Genesis 39–41.

- What does this story teach us about God?

God was with Joseph. He made Joseph successful, and God was still with Joseph when Joseph was put in prison. God helped Joseph by giving him the power to understand dreams. **God is always with us**, and he gives us comfort and hope.

- How did God put Joseph in a position of power?

Pharaoh had a dream that no one could interpret. Finally, the cupbearer remembered Joseph! **God gave Joseph the power to understand dreams.** Joseph explained that the dream meant a famine was coming. Pharaoh made Joseph second-in-command in all of Egypt. So during the years of plenty, Joseph saved up food in Egypt. Then during the years of famine, everyone came to Egypt to buy the food they needed.

- Form groups of two or three and practice retelling the Bible story in your own words. Think of someone you could share the story with this week.

CHRIST CONNECTION

God sent Joseph to Egypt and blessed him so that he rose to a position of great authority. God used Joseph to help Joseph's family and many others. When Jesus came to earth, He gave up His position of honor in heaven to be the Savior of the world.



TEACH the Story

MISSIONS MOMENT

Show a map of South Asia. Identify the countries of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. Explain that South Asia is home to nearly 1.9 billion people (one-fourth of the world's population) but only a small percentage of people are Christians. Pray for missionaries in South Asia and pray that God would bless them as they share the gospel with unbelievers.

PRAY

Lord God, You are good. You are with us, and You bless us in so many ways. Open our eyes to recognize all the good gifts you give us. Make us aware of Your presence. You blessed us in the greatest way by sending Your Son to be our Savior. Help us tell others this good news! Amen.

THE GOSPEL: GOD'S PLAN FOR ME

The gospel is the good news, the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use Scripture and the guide provided below to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.



GOD RULES. Ask: "Who is in charge at home?" Explain that because God created everything, He is in charge of everything. Read Revelation 4:11.



WE SINNED. Ask: "Have you ever done something wrong?" Tell kids that everyone sins, or disobeys God. Our sin separates us from God. Read Romans 3:23.



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



JESUS GIVES. Ask: "What is the best gift you've ever received?" Say that Jesus took our punishment for sin by giving His life, and He gives us His righteousness. God sees us as if we lived the perfect life Jesus lived. This is the best gift ever! Read 2 Corinthians 5:21.



WE RESPOND. Explain that everyone has a choice to make. Ask: "Will you trust Jesus as your Savior and Lord? You can turn from self and sin and turn to Jesus." Read Romans 10:9-10.



APPLY the Story

Big Picture Question

Is there anything God cannot do? God can do all things according to His character.

Sometimes when life feels out of control, it's easy to forget that God is in control. We might wonder if God can even help us.

- How can people know what God is saying to them today?
- How do you feel about studying the Bible, knowing that God speaks to us through His Word?

Distribute Bibles. Guide boys and girls to open their Bibles to Genesis 40. Remind kids that today's Bible story comes from three chapters in Genesis: chapters 39–41. Choose a volunteer to read aloud Genesis 40:8.

Remind kids that God was with Joseph, even when he was in prison! God gave Joseph power to understand dreams. After Joseph interpreted Pharaoh's dreams, Pharaoh made Joseph an important ruler in Egypt. Then lead the group to discuss the following questions.

1. Where does wisdom come from? How can we have wisdom and understanding?

Point out that wisdom doesn't always come with age. Wisdom is understanding how life works best, and because God created everything, wisdom comes from Him. God gives wisdom to anyone who asks for it. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read James 1:5.)

2. How did Joseph have confidence before the most powerful ruler of Egypt?

Guide kids to recognize how Joseph trusted in God's plan for his life. Joseph believed the dreams from God that meant he would one day be a ruler. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Heb. 13:6.)

3. Joseph was in prison for more than two years. How can we trust God's timing in our lives?

Remind kids that God is in control. He sees the bigger picture and works everything for His glory and our good. God's timing is always perfect. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Rom. 5:6.)



APPLY the Story

KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY

Supplies: construction paper, scissors, markers, ziplock bags

Instruct kids to write out Hosea 13:4 on a piece of construction paper. Provide scissors for kids to cut each poster into several large pieces. Provide bags for kids to store the pieces.

Challenge kids to put together their own key passage puzzles. Then prompt them to trade puzzles with a friend and solve the puzzle again. When kids finish, lead them to say the key passage together.

PRAY

Invite volunteers to share prayer requests. Pray, thanking God for Jesus. Give Him the honor He deserves, acknowledging that He humbled Himself to come to earth and save sinners because He loves us.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY: Play charades

Supplies: index cards, marker, watch or timer

Before the session, write several actions, including the following, on separate index cards: *traveling through a desert, sitting in prison, dreaming, running out of food to eat.*

Form two teams of kids. Mix up the cards and place them facedown on a table. Call for a player from team 1 to draw a card from the top of the pile. He should read the card and then silently act out the action. His team will have 30 seconds to guess the action written on the card.

Award 10 points for a correct guess. If a team does not guess in 30 seconds, give the other team a chance to make one guess. If team 2 is correct, award them 5 points. Play again with a player from team 2. Alternate between teams until kids act out all of the actions or as time allows.

Point out if any of the players' motions were surprising based on the card drawn. If the card said, running out of food to eat, did anyone act out skinny cows eating fat cows? (Probably not!) Remind kids that no one could explain Pharaoh's dream but God gave Joseph power to understand dreams.



Unit 4, Session 3

Joseph Saved His Family

Genesis 42–46; 50

Story Point: God sent Joseph to Egypt to establish a remnant.

Open your Bible and read aloud Genesis 42–46; 50, or tell the story from the following Bible story script.

Jacob and his family did not have enough food to eat. No one had enough food to eat. So when Jacob learned that there was food in Egypt, he sent 10 of his sons to buy some grain. His son Benjamin stayed home.

In Egypt, Joseph was in charge of giving out food. The brothers came to him and bowed down. Joseph knew who they were, but they did not recognize him.

Joseph decided to test his brothers. “I think you are spies,” Joseph told them. But the brothers said, “No! We are not spies. We are brothers. There were 12 of us, but our youngest brother is at home with our father and another brother is dead.”

Joseph put his brothers in prison for three days. Then he said, “Bring your youngest brother back to me to prove that you are not spies. But one of you must stay here.”

The brothers went home with food for their families, and one of them stayed in Egypt. They told their father everything that had happened, and their father was very upset. But when all the food was gone, Jacob asked his sons to go back to Egypt. So the brothers

returned to Egypt with their brother Benjamin. They took money to pay for their food, and they took a special gift for Joseph.

Joseph invited all of the brothers to his home for a meal. After the meal, Joseph sent away all of his attendants. He cried and told his brothers, “I am Joseph, your brother! You sold me into Egypt, but do not be afraid. God sent me here so I could save your people, a remnant, from the famine.”

Joseph told his brothers to go home and bring their families back to Egypt, where they would have enough food.

Jacob’s family was blessed in Egypt, but Joseph’s brothers were afraid Joseph would punish them for what they did to him. Joseph said, “You planned evil against me; God planned it for good, so many people could live.” Then Joseph comforted his brothers and spoke kindly to them.

Christ Connection: God had a plan for Joseph’s life. He allowed Joseph to suffer to rescue a whole nation. In a greater way, God planned for Jesus to suffer so that many—people from all nations—would be saved from sin.



INTRODUCE the Story

WELCOME TIME

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, and help new kids connect to your group. Prompt kids to imagine they had to eat one type of food the rest of their lives. What would they choose? If they had to pick one food to never again eat, what would they choose?

OPTION 1: Why? questions

Supplies: paper, pencil

Form teams of three or four kids. Give each team a piece of paper and a pencil. Designate one player on each team to be the team's writer. Explain that when you say go, teams should work together to make a list of questions that begin with the word *why*. For example, *Why is the sky blue?*

After a few minutes, call for teams to stop writing. Call on teams to take turns reading one question. If another team also listed that question, both teams should cross it out. Allow kids to share all of their questions. Award one point for each unique question.

- **What kind of why questions do you have when something hard or painful happens?**

OPTION 2: Plentiful relay

Supplies: large bowl, uncooked rice, 3-ounce paper cups

Position a large bowl of uncooked rice at the front of the room. Form two equal teams of kids. If you have an odd number of kids, choose a volunteer to hold the large bowl at the front of the room. Instruct each team to sit in a single-file line. Give the first player in each line a spoon. Give the other players a 3-ounce paper cup.

Explain that when you say “go,” the first player will go to the bowl of rice, scoop a spoonful, and take it back to pour into the cup of the next player. Then, as the first player returns to the bowl for more rice, players in line will pass the rice by pouring it from cup to cup until it reaches the last empty cup. Continue until every player in line has rice in his cup. The first team to finish wins.

- **Where would you go if you didn't have enough food to eat?**



TEACH the Story

The Bible tells us what is true about God and about ourselves. All of the stories in the Bible fit together to tell us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

Today we are going to hear how Joseph saved his family during a time of famine, when there wasn't enough food. Whether this is your first time or your tenth time hearing this story, there is always something new to learn in God's Word.

Read Genesis 42–46; 50.

- What does this story teach us about God?

God has the power to provide. There is nothing God cannot do! He can do all things according to His character. Joseph realized that God was working out a greater plan all along. He allowed Joseph to suffer to rescue a whole nation from a famine. God sent Joseph to Egypt to establish a remnant.

- Why did God want to save Joseph's family?

A *remnant* is a part of something that is left when other parts are gone. The remnant in our story today is Jacob's family—his 12 sons and their families. There were 70 people in all. They moved to Egypt where there would be enough food, and God spoke to Jacob and promised to one day bring his family back to the promised land. **God was keeping His promise** to grow Abraham's family.

- Form groups of two or three and practice retelling the Bible story in your own words. Think of someone you could share the story with this week.

CHRIST CONNECTION

God had a plan for Joseph's life. He allowed Joseph to suffer to rescue a whole nation. In a greater way, God planned for Jesus to suffer so that many—people from all nations—would be saved from sin.



TEACH the Story

MISSIONS MOMENT

Search online for an image of a Buddhist prayer wheel to share with kids. Explain that many people in Nepal do not know God or the good news of the gospel. They do not know that because of Jesus, they can talk directly to God through prayer. Instead, they recite prayers on prayer wheels and hope the prayers will be answered. Say that God planned for Jesus to suffer, die, and rise again so that people from all nations, like Nepal, would be saved. Then lead kids in prayer, asking that the people of Nepal will hear about Jesus and pray to the one true God.

PRAY

Lord, You worked in Joseph's life for his good and Your glory. Thank You for the Bible so we can know that You are a God of forgiveness. Help us forgive others like You helped Joseph forgive brothers and like You have forgiven us. Amen

THE GOSPEL: GOD'S PLAN FOR ME

The gospel is the good news, the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use Scripture and the guide provided below to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.



GOD RULES. Ask: "Who is in charge at home?" Explain that because God created everything, He is in charge of everything. Read Revelation 4:11.



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JESUS GIVES. Ask: "What is the best gift you've ever received?" Say that Jesus took our punishment for sin by giving His life, and He gives us His righteousness. God sees us as if we lived the perfect life Jesus lived. This is the best gift ever! Read 2 Corinthians 5:21.



WE RESPOND. Explain that everyone has a choice to make. Ask: "Will you trust Jesus as your Savior and Lord? You can turn from self and sin and turn to Jesus." Read Romans 10:9-10.



APPLY the Story

Big Picture Question

Is there anything God cannot do? God can do all things according to His character.

God puts rulers in their place, and ultimately He is the ruler of everything. We saw in today's Bible story how God sent Joseph to Egypt to establish a remnant. We don't always understand why things happen, but we can trust that God is at work and He is good.

- Do you think a person should always be punished for wrongdoing?
- Whom do you need to forgive? How can you repay them with good?

Distribute Bibles. Guide boys and girls to open their Bibles to Genesis 50. Remind kids that the Book of Genesis is the first book of the Old Testament Law—the first five books of the Bible. Challenge kids to recite the names of the first five books. (*Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy*) Choose a volunteer to read aloud Genesis 50:19-21.

Lead the group to discuss the following questions.

1. Why do you think Joseph was able to forgive his brothers?

Point out that Joseph believed that God was in control and working out His plan to rescue His people even through the actions of Joseph's brothers. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Matt. 6:14-15.)

2. What should we do if we have wronged someone?

Guide kids to recognize the importance of being quick to admit when we are wrong and to apologize and seek forgiveness with others and with God. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read James 5:16.)

3. How does God forgive us? How should we forgive others?

Lead kids to conclude that God forgives our sins completely, not dealing with our sins as we deserve because Jesus took our punishment for sin. We should forgive others in the same way—completely and without holding a grudge. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Ps. 103:11-12.)



APPLY the Story

KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY

Supplies: chalkboard or dry erase board, chalk or marker

Write the first letter of each word in the key passage on a chalkboard or dry erase board, drawing a short blank after each letter. Guide kids to find Hosea 13:4 in their Bibles and read the verse aloud together once or twice.

Instruct them to close their Bibles. Challenge boys and girls to take turns saying the key passage from memory, using the first letters as prompts.

PRAY

Invite volunteers to share prayer requests. Then pray, asking God to help boys and girls forgive someone who has hurt them, or to forgive them for a time when they hurt someone else.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY: “Sacks of grain” snack mix

Supplies: bowls, spoons, snacks (granola, rice squares cereal, candh-coated chocolate pieces, pretzels, raisins), snack-size ziplock bags, adhesive labels (optional), fine-point permanent markers, Bibles

Arrange bowls on a table. Put one type of snack in each bowl. Provide a spoon for each bowl. Give each kid a ziplock bag.

Instruct kids to find Genesis 50:20 in the Bible and write the verse directly on the bag or on an adhesive label to stick to the bag. When kids finish, invite them to choose and scoop different types of snacks into their bags to create a snack mix. You may choose to allow kids to enjoy their snack or encourage them to seal their bags and eat the snack at home.

As kids work, remind them that God knew that Jacob and his family would need food to survive the famine, and He planned for Joseph to be able to save his family. God sent Joseph to Egypt to establish a remnant.



Christmas, Session 3

Jesus Was Born

Isaiah 9; Luke 2

Story Point: Jesus was born to bring peace between God and people.

Open your Bible and read aloud Luke 2, or tell the story from the following Bible story script.

When sin entered the world, peace between God and people was broken. But God promised to send a Rescuer. Many years later, Isaiah the prophet said, “A child will be born for us, a son will be given to us! He will be called the Prince of Peace.” Isaiah said the Prince of Peace would be from Galilee. **God chose to send His Son, Jesus, to earth as a baby, and He chose Mary to be Jesus’ mother.**

The Roman emperor, Caesar Augustus, announced that everyone needed to be registered for a census. Every person traveled to the town where his family was from. **Mary was engaged to Joseph.** Since Joseph was a descendant of King David, he and Mary left their home in Nazareth of Galilee and traveled to Bethlehem, the city of David.

While they were there, the time came for Mary to have her baby. But every place was full because of all the people there to be counted. So Mary and Joseph found a place where animals were kept, and that is where Mary had her baby. **She wrapped Baby Jesus tightly in cloth, and she laid Him in a manger.**

In the same region, some shepherds were staying out in the fields and watching their sheep to protect them from thieves and

predators. **All of a sudden, an angel of the Lord stood before them.** A bright light shone around the shepherds, and they were terrified! **But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid! I have very good news for you: Today a Savior, who is Messiah the Lord, was born for you in the city of David.”**

Then the angel said, “You will find a baby wrapped tightly in cloth and lying in a manger.” **All of a sudden, many angels appeared, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to people He favors!”**

So the shepherds went straight to Bethlehem to find Baby Jesus. They found Mary and Joseph, and the baby who was lying in the feeding trough. The shepherds went and told others about the baby Jesus. The shepherds returned to their fields, praising God because everything had happened just as the angel had said.

Christ Connection: The birth of Jesus was good news! Jesus was not an ordinary baby. He was God’s Son, sent to earth from heaven. Jesus came into the world to bring peace between people and God. He came to save people from their sins and to be their King.



INTRODUCE the Story

WELCOME TIME

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, and help new kids connect to your group. Prompt kids to share where they were born. Do they know what city they were born in? Were they born in a hospital or at home? Have they seen pictures from when they were a newborn baby?

OPTION 1: What I want to be

Allow kids to take turns acting out what they want to be when they grow up. The other kids should guess what job or role each kid is depicting.

- How long have you known what you want to be when you grow up?
- When do you think Jesus knew what He was going to do with His life?

OPTION 2: Take a census

Supplies: paper, pencils

Form groups of 2 to 10 kids. Groups do not need to have equal numbers of kids. Provide one kid in each group with a piece of paper. She should interview the others in her group to record the required census data—names, genders, ages, places of birth, number of family members. Census takers should also include data about themselves.

Give kids a few minutes to collect census data and list the totals on the census sheet. Prompt each group to examine which group member is the youngest. Who is the oldest? How many of the group members were born in another state? When kids finish, collect the census sheets. Announce some of the data totals. How many boys are in the class? How many girls?

- Why do you think governments collect census data?



TEACH the Story

The Bible tells us what is true about God and about ourselves. All of the stories in the Bible fit together to tell us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

Today we are going to hear the story of Jesus' birth. Whether this is your first time or your tenth time hearing this story, there is always something new to learn in God's Word.

Read Isaiah 9:6-7; Luke 2:1-20.

- **What does this story teach us about God?**

All along, **God was working out His perfect plan.** God spoke through prophets to remind people of His good promise. The prophet Isaiah lived hundreds of years before Jesus was born. God spoke through Isaiah to tell what the Savior's birth would be like. Isaiah said the Messiah would be the Prince of Peace. At just the right time, Jesus was born to bring peace between God and people.

- **Why did God send His Son to earth?**

As soon as sin entered in world with Adam and Eve, people were separated from God. But God gave hope; **He promised to send a Savior to rescue sinners.** Someone in Adam and Eve's family would undo the curse of sin.

- **Form groups of two or three and practice retelling the Bible story in your own words. Think of someone you could share the story with this week.**

CHRIST CONNECTION

The birth of Jesus was good news! Jesus was not an ordinary baby. He was God's Son, sent to earth from heaven. Jesus came into the world to bring peace between people and God. He came to save people from their sins and to be their King.



TEACH the Story

MISSIONS MOMENT

Hold up an apple. Ask if kids have any guesses about what apples have to do with Christmas. Explain that in China, Christmas Eve is called “Peace Night.” The Chinese word for “peace” sounds a lot like the Chinese word for “apple.” Because of this, many people in China give each other apples as gifts at Christmas. But many people in China don’t know that Jesus was born to bring true peace between God and people. Take time to pray that the people of China would hear and believe the gospel.

PRAY

Lord God, Christmas is such a special time of year. Please fix our eyes on Jesus. Help us remember the true reason we have to celebrate: the gift of Your Son. Thank You for keeping Your promise to send a Savior. In Jesus, we have peace with You. We love You. Amen.

THE GOSPEL: GOD’S PLAN FOR ME

The gospel is the good news, the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use Scripture and the guide provided below to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.



GOD RULES. Ask: “Who is in charge at home?” Explain that because God created everything, He is in charge of everything. Read Revelation 4:11.



WE SINNED. Ask: “Have you ever done something wrong?” Tell kids that everyone sins, or disobeys God. Our sin separates us from God. Read Romans 3:23.



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



JESUS GIVES. Ask: “What is the best gift you’ve ever received?” Say that Jesus took our punishment for sin by giving His life, and He gives us His righteousness. God sees us as if we lived the perfect life Jesus lived. This is the best gift ever! Read 2 Corinthians 5:21.



WE RESPOND. Explain that everyone has a choice to make. Ask: “Will you trust Jesus as your Savior and Lord? You can turn from self and sin and turn to Jesus.” Read Romans 10:9-10.



APPLY the Story

Big Picture Question

Is there anything God cannot do? God can do all things according to His character.

Ever since sin entered the world, it affected everything. God had promised to send a Savior, someone to rescue people from sin. But so many years had passed. Some people wondered if God would really keep His promise.

- Why do you think God waited to send Jesus?
- Why is it hard to wait for things? What can you do while you wait?

Distribute Bibles. Guide boys and girls to open their Bibles to Luke 2. Point out that the Bible is divided into two sections, the Old Testament and New Testament. Luke is in the New Testament.

Tell kids that the Old Testament has five divisions, and the New Testament also has five divisions. The Book of Luke is in the division called “Gospels.” The four books in the Gospels division—Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John—tell all about Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection. Choose a volunteer to read aloud Luke 2:10-11. Then lead the group to discuss the following questions.

1. What was unusual about Jesus’ birth?

Guide kids to talk about the humble conditions surrounding Jesus’ birth. God’s own Son wasn’t born in a palace but came humbly. Jesus gave up His high position in heaven to come to earth in the flesh. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read 2 Cor. 8:9.)

2. What does it mean to have peace with God?

Lead kids to realize that apart from Jesus, we are enemies of God who deserve death as punishment for our sins. Jesus brings us into a right relationship with God so we can have forgiveness and eternal life with God as His dearly loved children. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Col. 1:19-22.)

3. What was special about Jesus’ coming to earth?

Prompt kids to consider that Jesus is God in the flesh. His name is Immanuel, God with us. Jesus showed us who God is and what God is like. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read John 1:14.)



APPLY the Story

KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY

Supplies: index cards, marker, Bibles, clothespins (optional)

Write words or phrases of Hosea 13:4 on separate index cards so each kid has one index card. Mix up the cards and distribute them among the kids. You may choose to provide clothespins for boys and girls to clip the cards to the front of their clothing.

Challenge kids to arrange themselves in order to complete the key passage. Then prompt them to say the key passage aloud with each kid saying the word on her card.

PRAY

Invite volunteers to share prayer requests. Then pray, thanking God for providing Jesus to bring peace between God and people.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY: Breaking news drama

Supplies: paper, pencils, Bible times clothing and other props (optional)

Form groups of four or more kids. Instruct kids to review Luke 2:8-20 and use the Bible passage as a guide. Invite kids to imagine the shepherds who visited Jesus were interviewed by the local news agency. Each group of kids should choose one reporter to interview the rest of the group (the shepherds) and ask them questions about their experience looking for the baby Jesus.

As kids prepare, encourage them to make a list of interview questions and practice their skit once or twice before performing it for the rest of the class. If kids need help thinking of interview questions, provide some suggestions: Where were you when the angel appeared? Were you scared? What were the angels saying? Did you find Jesus? What did you do next?

Remind kids that even though Jesus is God's Son, He wasn't born in a fancy palace and the news of His birth wasn't announced throughout the city with trumpets blaring and people celebrating. Jesus was born humbly. Mary laid Him where animals would have eaten their food. Angels announced Jesus' birth to shepherds, and they came to see the baby. Jesus' birth is good news because Jesus was born to bring peace between God and people.



Unit 4, Session 4

Moses Was Born and Called

Exodus 1-4

Story Point: God called Moses to deliver His people from captivity.

Open your Bible and read aloud Exodus 1-4, or tell the story from the following Bible story script.

Years after Joseph brought his family to Egypt, Joseph died. His family became known as Israelites because they came from the family of Jacob, who was called Israel.

A new pharaoh came to power. He was afraid of the Israelites. Pharaoh worried they would join Egypt's enemies and fight against him. **Pharaoh made the Israelites slaves** and gave them very hard work to do, but their families kept growing! Pharaoh ordered for all their baby boys to be killed.

Around this time, a woman gave birth to a son. She hid him as long as she could, and then she put him in a basket and set it along the banks of the Nile River. Soon Pharaoh's daughter went to the river to take a bath. She found the basket and saw the crying baby. Pharaoh's daughter felt sorry for the baby and wanted him to be her son. The princess named the baby Moses.

When Moses grew up, he saw an Egyptian man mistreating an Israelite man. Moses killed the Egyptian. Pharaoh found out what Moses did and he was angry, so Moses fled Egypt. He worked as a shepherd in Midian for many years. Moses had a family. **Still the Israelite people in Egypt were miserable, and they**

cried out to God and God heard them.

One day, Moses saw a burning bush. The bush was not burning up! Suddenly, **God called from the bush: "Moses, Moses!"** Moses replied, "Here I am." God told Moses to take off his sandals because Moses was standing on holy ground. Then **God said, "I have seen how My people are suffering. I want you to lead them out of Egypt to a good land I have for them."**

Moses wondered if the Israelites remembered God. "What if they ask Your name?" God said, "Tell them: I AM has sent me to you."

"What if they don't believe me?" Moses asked. So God gave Moses three miraculous signs to prove that God had appeared to him. **Moses still made excuses and said, "Please send someone else."** Now God was angry, but He agreed to send Moses' brother, Aaron, with him. So Moses went to Egypt.

***Christ Connection:** God saved Moses' life and called him to rescue God's people from slavery. The calling of Moses points to a greater calling and rescue—the call of Jesus to come to earth to save God's people. Jesus gave up His life to save us from slavery to sin.*



INTRODUCE the Story

WELCOME TIME

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, and help new kids connect to your group. Prompt kids to share about a time someone gave them a job to do. Was the job easy or hard?

OPTION 1: Facts and footwear

Instruct each kid to take off one shoe and pile it in the middle of the room. Guide kids to stand in a circle around the shoe pile. Explain that when you say go, each kid should grab a shoe from the pile that does not belong to him. Kids should find the person to whom the shoe belongs and find out three facts about her.

After a few minutes, calls for kids to stand in a circle. Each player should announce whose shoe he is holding and share the three facts he learned about that person. Continue around the circle until every kid has shared.

- Have you ever met someone and been asked to take off your shoes?

OPTION 2: Animal identity

Supplies: index cards, masking tape, marker

Before the session, write the name of animals on separate index cards. Create one per kid. (Suggestions: *dolphin, lion, zebra, eagle*, and so forth.)

Use masking tape to affix an animal identity index card to the back of each child. Invite kids to ask each other yes-or-no questions to help reveal their animal identity, such as “Does my animal live in the jungle?”

- How you ever have trouble remembering people's names?
- What would you think if someone said his name is “I AM”?



TEACH the Story

The Bible tells us what is true about God and about ourselves. All of the stories in the Bible fit together to tell us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

Today we are going to hear about the birth of Moses and how God called Moses to help His people. Whether this is your first time or your tenth time hearing this story, there is always something new to learn in God's Word.

Read Exodus 1–4.

- What does this story teach us about God?

Moses asked God what His name was. Does anyone remember God's answer? *[Allow kids to respond.]* Yes! God said His name is "I AM WHO I AM." God's name means that **He is in control and He never changes.** Moses tried to make excuses. How would you feel about going to speak to one of the most powerful people in the world? But not even Moses could stop God's plan to lead His people to freedom.

- Why did God plan to rescue the Israelites?

Long before Moses was born, God made a covenant with Abraham. God told Abraham that his descendants would live in a foreign land and become slaves there. The people would be slaves for 400 years, but God would free them. God saw everything the Israelites were experiencing. He heard their cries for help, and God called Moses to deliver His people from captivity. **God would keep His promise to Abraham through the people of Israel.**

- Form groups of two or three and practice retelling the Bible story in your own words. Think of someone you could share the story with this week.

CHRIST CONNECTION

God saved Moses' life and called him to rescue God's people from slavery. The calling of Moses points to a greater calling and rescue—the call of Jesus to come to earth to save God's people. Jesus gave up His life to save us from slavery to sin.



TEACH the Story

MISSIONS MOMENT

Show a map of Nepal or point out its location on a globe. Inform kids that the Bagbys* are missionaries living in Nepal because God has called them to go share the gospel there. They are normal Christians who have been given an important job to share with the Tibetan people in Nepal about God's message of salvation. Praise God for the ways He is using the Bagby family to share the gospel with the Tibetan people. (*Name changed for security reasons.)

PRAY

Lord God, thank You for Your Word. The Bible shows us that You care for Your people. You provide what we need, and You are in control of all things. Help us to come to You with our needs. Lord, You hear us when we cry out to You. Help us rely on You and not on ourselves. Amen.

THE GOSPEL: GOD'S PLAN FOR ME

The gospel is the good news, the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use Scripture and the guide provided below to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.



GOD RULES. Ask: "Who is in charge at home?" Explain that because God created everything, He is in charge of everything. Read Revelation 4:11.



WE SINNED. Ask: "Have you ever done something wrong?" Tell kids that everyone sins, or disobeys God. Our sin separates us from God. Read Romans 3:23.



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



JESUS GIVES. Ask: "What is the best gift you've ever received?" Say that Jesus took our punishment for sin by giving His life, and He gives us His righteousness. God sees us as if we lived the perfect life Jesus lived. This is the best gift ever! Read 2 Corinthians 5:21.



WE RESPOND. Explain that everyone has a choice to make. Ask: "Will you trust Jesus as your Savior and Lord? You can turn from self and sin and turn to Jesus." Read Romans 10:9-10.



APPLY the Story

Big Picture Question

Is there anything God cannot do? God can do all things according to His character.

Isn't it amazing to think about God being the same today as He was when He heard the cries of His people in Egypt? God cares about us. He loves us, and He is with us.

- **How can you know if God wants you to do something?**
- **How can you be obedient to God if He wants you to do something?**

Distribute Bibles. Guide boys and girls to open their Bibles to Exodus 2. Explain to kids that the Book of Exodus was written more than 1,400 years before Jesus was born. Remind kids that Moses had grown up in Egypt, and then he left and went to the land of Midian. He was a shepherd there and probably thought his time in Egypt was over. But many years later, God called Moses to deliver His people from captivity.

Choose a volunteer to read aloud Exodus 2:23-25. Then lead the group to discuss the following questions.

1. **How did Moses first react when God called him to deliver His people from captivity?**

Lead kids to recall that Moses had a lot of questions and excuses for why he wasn't the right person. Moses even asked God to send someone else. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Ex. 4:10.)

2. **What kind of people does God use in His plans?**

Guide kids to recognize that God often uses ordinary people as part of His plan to show His power through them. God, working through Moses, would lead His people out of Egypt. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Acts 13:17.)

3. **Do you think God could use you in His plan? In what ways?**

Point out that God can use us even in our weaknesses. Moses wasn't a strong speaker but confronted Pharaoh because God was with him. Emphasize that we can rely on God's strength through us. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read 1 Cor. 1:26-27.)



APPLY the Story

KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY

Supplies: ball or beanbag, Bibles

Instruct kids to stand in a circle. Guide them to find Hosea 13:4 in their Bibles and lead kids to read it aloud together. Then give one kid a ball. Instruct him to say the first word of the key passage and then toss the ball to another player. She should say the second word, pass it to someone else who will say the third word, and so on.

Continue until kids say the entire key passage. If a player drops the ball, instruct kids to start over. If kids complete the passage quickly, remove the poster and challenge them to play again and say the key passage from memory.

PRAY

Invite volunteers to share prayer requests. Then pray, asking God to help kids boast only in the Lord. Pray that God would call them for His purposes and that He would be glorified in their lives.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY: Create a hero

Supplies: cardstock or heavyweight paper, scissors, markers

Give each kid markers and a piece of heavyweight paper. Instruct kids to fold the paper in half and turn it so the folded edge is at the top. Invite kids to draw a person figure on one side of the paper. The figure's head should touch the top folded edge. Explain that kids should illustrate who they think of when they hear the word hero.

After several minutes, provide scissors and tell kids to cut out their heroes, being careful not to unfold the paper or cut across the top fold. If they wish, kids may color the other side of the paper as the backside of the hero.

Then kids can open their papers slightly and stand up their hero like a table tent. Ask volunteers to share what makes their hero powerful.

Explain that God uses people who aren't powerful because it shows that He is strong. God is the only One who has the power we need in every area of our lives. He has the power to free us from our sin. God called Moses to deliver His people from captivity, but Moses wasn't the biggest hero in the story. The all-powerful God was! We aren't the heroes of our story either, but when we obey God and rely on Him, we show the world that He is strong.



Unit 4, Session 5

The Plagues and the Passover

Exodus 5–12

Story Point: God delivered His people and proved that He is the one true God.

Open your Bible and read aloud Exodus 5–12, or tell the story from the following Bible story script.

God's people were slaves in Egypt. They cried out to God, and God called Moses to rescue them. So Moses and his brother Aaron went to Pharaoh: “This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: Let My people go.” But Pharaoh responded, “Who is the LORD? Why should I obey Him? Israel may not go!” So God sent ten plagues to punish the Egyptians.

First, God turned the water in the Nile River into blood. But Pharaoh would not let the people go. God sent frogs into Egypt. Pharaoh said, “Ask your God to take away the frogs. Then I will let the people go.” But when God removed the frogs, Pharaoh refused to let the people go. So God sent gnats into Egypt that bit the people and animals. Then God sent flies, and He caused all the livestock to die. Still, Pharaoh did not let the people go.

God sent boils that covered the people in Egypt. Not even a terrible hailstorm changed Pharaoh's mind. Locusts ate up the plants, and then darkness covered the land for three days. But still Pharaoh said no. God told Moses, “I will bring one more plague. After that, Pharaoh will let you go.”

Moses warned Pharaoh: Every firstborn male in Egypt will die, but the Israelites will

be safe. Pharaoh ignored Moses. So God told every Israelite family to kill a lamb and sprinkle its blood on the doorposts of their houses. This would be a special mark that God would see and “pass over.” No one in the Israelites’ families would die.

At midnight, God struck every firstborn in the land of Egypt. There was a great cry in the land of Egypt because there wasn't a house without someone dead. Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron. “Go!” he said. The Israelites were ready! A whole army of them—600,000 men and their families—left Egypt quickly. They asked the Egyptians for gold, silver, and clothing. The Egyptians gave them what they wanted. God led His people out of Egypt. He was preparing a place for them in a land called Canaan. For 430 years, the Israelites had been slaves in the land of Egypt. They were finally free!

Christ Connection: By His grace, God spared the Israelites from judgment by requiring the blood of a lamb. Jesus is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. His death was the ultimate sacrifice, and those who trust in Christ are under His saving blood and will be passed over in the final judgment.



INTRODUCE the Story

WELCOME TIME

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, and help new kids connect to your group. Prompt kids to name a local, national, or world leader they'd like to have lunch with.

OPTION 1: Going on a journey

Instruct kids to sit in a circle. Choose a player to begin. The first player will say, “I’m going on a journey, and I’m taking along a(n) *[name an item]*.” For example, “... I’m taking along a hairbrush.” The second player will repeat the first player’s sentence and add a second item: “... I’m taking along a hairbrush and a book.” Continue around the circle. Each player will add an item, repeating the previous items in order.

If a player forgets an item, begin with the first player and review the items. Challenge kids to see how many items they can remember.

- **What would you take if you were fleeing the country?**

OPTION 2: Hailstorm!

Supplies: laundry basket, beach towel, bucket of table tennis balls, duct tape or heavy dumbbell, watch or timer

Tape one end of a towel to the floor at one side of the room. Position a laundry basket across the room, about 15 feet away. Choose two players to go first. Player 1 should stand or kneel behind the towel. Player 2 will place a table tennis ball on the towel. Player 1 should hold the free end of the towel with two hands and snap it up and down to launch the ball toward the laundry basket. Give the players 60 seconds to see how many table tennis balls they can land in the laundry basket.

Allow other pairs of players to participate. If your group is large, provide additional supplies for multiple teams to play at once.

- **Have you ever been in a hailstorm? What was it like?**



TEACH the Story

The Bible tells us what is true about God and about ourselves. All of the stories in the Bible fit together to tell us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

Today we are going to hear the story of the plagues and the Passover, when God rescued His people from slavery in Egypt. Whether this is your first time or your tenth time hearing this story, there is always something new to learn in God's Word.

Read Exodus 5–12.

- What does this story teach us about God?

God showed that He is the one true God. You see, the Egyptians worshiped false gods. They had a false sun god, a false river god, a false god for this, and a false god for that. Pharaoh and his magicians thought their false gods were just as powerful as the Israelites' God, but the plagues showed the Egyptians that the Lord is the one true God. God also confirmed to the Israelites that He is the one true God. The area of Egypt where the Israelites lived did not experience most of the plagues. For three days, the Egyptians lived in total darkness. But the Israelites had light where they lived. God showed His power to the Israelites.

- What happened during the tenth plague?

God warned Moses about what would happen, and He instructed the Israelites about how to get ready. The Israelites fixed a meal with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. They marked their doorways with the blood of a lamb. They were dressed and ready to go. When the Lord passed through Egypt, **the firstborn in every house died** except for the houses marked by blood. God passed over them, and then Pharaoh let the people go

- Form groups of two or three and practice retelling the Bible story in your own words. Think of someone you could share the story with this week.

CHRIST CONNECTION

By His grace, God spared the Israelites from judgment by requiring the blood of a lamb. Jesus is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. His death was the ultimate sacrifice, and those who trust in Christ are under His saving blood and will be passed over in the final judgment.



TEACH the Story

MISSIONS MOMENT

Remind kids where Nepal is located and prompt them to recall that the Bagbys are a missionary family living in Nepal. Explain that the Bagbys moved to Nepal because they know and love Jesus and they want the people of Tibet to know that all good things work for the good of those who love God—even when things are difficult. The Bagbys shared God’s love through the gospel after an earthquake destroyed many homes in Nepal. Pray for Nepal.

PRAY

Lord, You are the one true God. We hear the story of the plagues and the Passover, and we remember that You have rescued us from slavery to sin. We put our hope in Jesus. Amen.

THE GOSPEL: GOD’S PLAN FOR ME

The gospel is the good news, the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use Scripture and the guide provided below to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.



GOD RULES. Ask: “Who is in charge at home?” Explain that because God created everything, He is in charge of everything. Read Revelation 4:11.



WE SINNED. Ask: “Have you ever done something wrong?” Tell kids that everyone sins, or disobeys God. Our sin separates us from God. Read Romans 3:23.



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



JESUS GIVES. Ask: “What is the best gift you’ve ever received?” Say that Jesus took our punishment for sin by giving His life, and He gives us His righteousness. God sees us as if we lived the perfect life Jesus lived. This is the best gift ever! Read 2 Corinthians 5:21.



WE RESPOND. Explain that everyone has a choice to make. Ask: “Will you trust Jesus as your Savior and Lord? You can turn from self and sin and turn to Jesus.” Read Romans 10:9-10.



APPLY the Story

Big Picture Question

Is there anything God cannot do? God can do all things according to His character.

When God rescued the Israelites from slavery in Egypt, He didn't just send them out into the wilderness to fend for themselves. God had a plan for them. He wanted to take them as His people and to be their God. He wanted to guide them into the promised land.

- Do you think God causes natural disasters? Why or why not?
- How can you trust God when you see bad things happening?

Guide kids to open their Bibles to Psalm 105. Explain to kids that the Book of Psalms is full of songs or hymns that show people how to praise and worship God. Psalm 105 reminds us of God's faithfulness to His people. Guide kids to read Psalm 105:26-38, each kid reading one verse at a time until they read the entire passage. Then lead the group to discuss the following questions.

1. Why is Jesus called the Lamb of God?

Help kids connect the story of the Passover to Jesus' sacrifice to spare believers from God's judgment against sin. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read John 1:29.)

2. Pharaoh asked, "Who is the L ORD?" would you answer this question?

Invite kids to share based on what they've learned from the Bible. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Ps. 18:2.)

3. God rescued the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. How are people slaves to sin?

Guide kids to conclude that when sin is our master, we cannot resist it. Emphasize that Jesus frees us from the power of sin. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Rom. 6:6.)



APPLY the Story

KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY

Guide kids to find Hosea 13:4 in their Bibles and invite them to read it aloud. Then instruct them to close their Bibles. Form two teams. Explain that you will read the key passage. If a player hears you say an incorrect word, she should shout, “Gotcha!” Award a point to the first team to call out. If a player shouts for a correct word, take away one point.

Play a few rounds, replacing three or four words of the key passage each time. (Sample substitutions underlined: “I have been the Lord your God ever since the land of Canaan; you know no leader but me, and no Rescuer exists besides me.” Hosea 13:2)

PRAY

Invite volunteers to share prayer requests. Then pray, thanking God for sending Jesus, the Lamb of God.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY: Rockin’ truth

Supplies: Bibles; smooth medium-sized stones, 1 per kid; fine-point permanent markers, 1 per kid

Give each kid a smooth medium-sized stone and a fine-point permanent marker. Review the key passage and instruct kids to use their marker to write Hosea 13:4 on their stone. Write the first half of the verse on one side of the rock and the second half on the other side of the rock.

Explain that the highest mountain in the world is Mount Everest. This enormous, rocky mountain is located in Nepal, where the Bagbys are missionaries. The Bagbys are trekking mountains to share this truth and the saving message of the gospel with the Tibetans living there.

Remind kids they don’t have to live in another country to share the gospel. Challenge them to pray about whom they could show their rock to this week so that they might also share the gospel with someone who needs to hear.



Unit 4, Session 6

The Red Sea Crossing

Exodus 13–15

Story Point: God parted the Red Sea for His people to cross.

Open your Bible and read aloud Exodus 13–15, or tell the story from the following Bible story script.

After the first Passover, the Israelites quickly left Egypt. The Lord led the people toward the Red Sea and the wilderness. As they traveled, the Lord went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud to lead them during the day. At night, God was in a pillar of fire to give them light, so they could travel by day or by night.

God told Moses to have the people camp near the sea. God said that Pharaoh would change his mind one more time and chase the Israelites. God planned to prove to the Israelites that He is God.

Pharaoh and his officials did change their minds. Pharaoh got in his chariot and took his army with him. He pursued the Israelites and caught up with them where they were camping near the sea.

The Israelites saw the Egyptians coming and they were afraid. “We are going to die!” they said. “We should have never left Egypt!”

But Moses said, “Do not be afraid. God brought you here, and He will fight for you.”

God told Moses what to do: “Stretch out your hand over the sea, and divide it so that the Israelites can go through the sea on

dry ground.” Then God moved behind the Israelites to hold back the Egyptians for the night. In the morning, **Moses stretched out his hand and divided the sea.** The Israelites walked through with walls of water on both sides.

The Egyptians went after them. As soon as the Israelites were safely on the other side of the sea, Moses stretched out his hand again and the waters returned, covering the Egyptians and killing all of Pharaoh’s army. None of them survived.

When the Israelites saw what had happened, they feared God and believed that He had sent Moses to lead them.

Moses and the Israelites sang a song to the Lord. “The LORD is my strength and my song,” they said. “He has become my salvation.”

***Christ Connection:** Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt, and God provided a way for them to escape through the Red Sea. The Bible says that Jesus is greater than Moses. (Hebrews 3:3) People who trust in Jesus escape the penalty of sin and have eternal life.*



INTRODUCE the Story

WELCOME TIME

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, and help new kids connect to your group. Prompt kids to share about a time when they felt stuck. Did anyone help them get unstuck?

OPTION 1: Broad jump contest

Supplies: masking tape or painter's tape, tape measure, permanent marker (optional)

Invite kids to take turns performing a standing long jump. Use masking tape to mark a line on the floor. Be sure a 7- or 8-foot distance in front of the line is clear of obstacles.

Call for a kid to go first. He should stand behind the line. He may swing his arms and bend his knees to jump forward as far as possible, landing on both feet without falling backwards. Use a small strip of tape to mark his distance and measure it from the start line. You may choose to write the jumper's name on his tape strip.

Repeat with additional kids. If time allows, give each kid three attempts. Announce the winning distance.

- If you needed to get across a river but you didn't have a boat and couldn't jump across, how would you do it?

OPTION 2: Part the sea

Supplies: 25 inflated blue balloons, 2 rolls of masking tape

Form two groups of kids. Place the balloons in the middle of the room. Direct each group to stand at opposite sides of the room. Give each group a roll of masking tape. Explain that kids will take turns racing to pick up a balloon and return to their group's side of the room.

Kids should use the tape to secure the balloon to the wall. When the balloon is attached, another player may retrieve another balloon. Continue until kids secure all balloons on the walls like a parted sea, or as time allows.

- If you were being chased by an enemy and came to the edge of a sea, what would you do?



TEACH the Story

The Bible tells us what is true about God and about ourselves. All of the stories in the Bible fit together to tell us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

Today we are going to hear how the Israelites crossed the Red Sea. After Pharaoh agreed to let God's people go from Egypt, the Israelites made it to the wilderness when Pharaoh changed his mind and began to chase them. Whether this is your first time or your tenth time hearing this story, there is always something new to learn in God's Word.

Read Exodus 13–15.

- What does this story teach us about God?

God is so powerful! Generations of future Israelites would hear the story of how God parted the Red Sea for His people to cross. All night, God held back the sea with a powerful wind. He kept a pillar of cloud between the Egyptians and His people. The Israelites crossed on dry ground. The Egyptians went after the Israelites, but the sea came back together and none of the Egyptian army survived. When the Israelites saw that their enemies were dead, and they feared the Lord and believed in Him.

- How do you think the Israelites felt when they saw the Egyptians coming after them?

Imagine the **fear** the Israelites felt to look backward and see an Egyptian army approaching and to look ahead and see a large sea. But Moses spoke words of comfort: “Don’t be afraid. ... The LORD will fight for you, and you must be quiet” (Ex. 14:13-14).

- Form groups of two or three and practice retelling the Bible story in your own words. Think of someone you could share the story with this week.

CHRIST CONNECTION

Christ Connection: Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt, and God provided a way for them to escape through the Red Sea. The Bible says that Jesus is greater than Moses. (Hebrews 3:3) People who trust in Jesus escape the penalty of sin and have eternal life.



TEACH the Story

MISSIONS MOMENT

Remind kids that the Bagbys are missionaries in Nepal. Invite them to “join” the Bagbys on their trek through the mountains. Instruct them to run in place and listen for obstacles the Bagbys might encounter. (river, avalanche, blizzard, rain, yak, fallen rocks) When they hear an obstacle, they must make a move to get through it. Randomly call out an obstacle and give an example by moving your body too. (Examples: swim through a river, run from an avalanche, cover your head through rain, sidestep a yak, dodge falling rocks, and so on)

PRAY

Lord, who is like You? You threw Pharaoh’s chariots and his army into the sea. You brought Your people through the sea on dry ground. You are faithful. Help us tell others of Your mighty works, for Your glory. Amen.

THE GOSPEL: GOD’S PLAN FOR ME

The gospel is the good news, the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use Scripture and the guide provided below to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.



GOD RULES. Ask: “Who is in charge at home?” Explain that because God created everything, He is in charge of everything. Read Revelation 4:11.



WE SINNED. Ask: “Have you ever done something wrong?” Tell kids that everyone sins, or disobeys God. Our sin separates us from God. Read Romans 3:23.



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



JESUS GIVES. Ask: “What is the best gift you’ve ever received?” Say that Jesus took our punishment for sin by giving His life, and He gives us His righteousness. God sees us as if we lived the perfect life Jesus lived. This is the best gift ever! Read 2 Corinthians 5:21.



WE RESPOND. Explain that everyone has a choice to make. Ask: “Will you trust Jesus as your Savior and Lord? You can turn from self and sin and turn to Jesus.” Read Romans 10:9-10.



APPLY the Story

Big Picture Question

Is there anything God cannot do? God can do all things according to His character.

Isn't it amazing to see how God cares for His people? God parted the Red Sea for His people to cross, and He received glory by proving to the Egyptians that He is the Lord.

- How can God help you when you are afraid?
- How does the story of the Red Sea help you trust God when you feel afraid?

Distribute Bibles. Guide boys and girls to open their Bibles to Exodus 13. Remind kids that the Book of Exodus tells how God saved His people from slavery in Egypt. Choose a volunteer to read aloud Exodus 13:17-18. Then lead the group to discuss the following questions.

1. What kinds of things did the Israelites complain about? Do you think they believed God could do anything?

Guide kids to recognize that the Israelites thought Moses had taken them into the wilderness to die, but Moses assured them that the Lord would fight for them against the Egyptians. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Ex. 14:14.)

2. What kinds of things do you complain about? Do you believe God can do anything?

Invite kids to share. When possible, point out what some of their complaints might show they believe about the goodness of God or those who are in charge. Remind kids that God is good, and God can do all things according to His character. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Phil. 2:14-15.)

3. How did the Israelites show faith as Moses led them out of Egypt? How does faith save us?

Lead kids to recall that the Israelites showed faith by crossing the Red Sea and believing it would not crash down on them. We are saved by faith—by trusting and believing that God is who He says He is. We trust in Jesus' finished work on the cross for our sins. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Heb. 11:27-29.)



APPLY the Story

KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY

Invite kids to sit around tables. Give each kid a pencil. Instruct them to find Hosea 13:4 in their Bibles and lead them to read it aloud.

Give a piece of paper to one kid at each table. Instruct him to write down the first word of the key passage and pass the paper to the person on his right. That person will write down the second word, pass the paper to her right, and so on. Kids will pass the paper around the table, writing one word at a time until they finish the key passage.

When kids finish, invite groups one at time to say the key passage together.

PRAY

Invite volunteers to share prayer requests. Then pray, thanking God for providing the way for our salvation. Confess that we do not always trust Him, especially when it seems like there is no way forward. Pray that boys and girls would follow Him in faith and that He would receive glory.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY: “We’re moving!” postcards

Supplies: 4-by-6-inch blank postcards or heavyweight paper cut to size, markers, Bibles

Guide boys and girls to think about what it was like for the Israelite children during the people’s exodus from Egypt.

Invite each kid to create a postcard proclaiming the news of the Israelites’ move from Egypt. Kids may write or draw to give an account of the plagues, the Passover, or the Red Sea crossing. Provide Bibles for kids to review details in Exodus 5–15.

Ask kids to describe any personal experiences moving to a new house, city, or state. Challenge them to imagine moving a group of 600,000 Israelite men plus their families—without moving vans or cars! Suggest kids give their postcards to a friend or family member this week and tell them about the Israelites’ escape from Egypt. Tell them about Jesus, who is greater than Moses. People who trust in Jesus escape the penalty of sin and have eternal life.



Unit 5, Session 1

Bread from Heaven

Exodus 15–17

Story Point: God provided for the physical needs of His people.

Open your Bible and read aloud Exodus 15–17, or tell the story from the following Bible story script.

Moses led God's people away from the Red Sea, and they came **to the wilderness**. They were hungry. They complained to Moses. "We wish we had died in Egypt! At least there was food to eat," they said. "**You brought us out here to starve to death!**" But Moses had not brought them out there to die. God knew what He was doing.

God said, "I have heard the complaints of the Israelites. Tell them: In the evening you will eat meat, and in the morning you will eat bread until you are full. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God."

So at evening, quail came into the camp. In the morning, fine flakes like frost were on the ground. "What is it?" the Israelites asked.

Moses said, "It is the bread the LORD has given you to eat."

The Israelites called the bread manna, which means "what is it?" God gave the people instructions. **He told them to collect just enough to eat for the day.** If they collected too much, the leftovers went bad. **He told them to collect twice as much on the sixth day, because the seventh day was** the Sabbath, a day to rest.

The Israelites did not always follow God's instructions. Sometimes they collected too much manna, and sometimes they tried to collect manna on the Sabbath day. Moses was angry that the people refused to obey God. **The Israelites ate manna for 40 years while they were in the wilderness.**

The Israelites moved about the wilderness as the Lord told them to do. **One day, they came to a camp with no water.** "Give us something to drink," they told Moses. "Why are you complaining to me?" Moses asked. "**You brought us out here to die,**" the Israelites said. **They forgot that the Lord had a plan for them.**

"Lord, what should I do?" Moses cried out. **God showed Moses a rock and instructed him to hit it with his staff. Water came out of it, and the people drank.** It was a sign that **the Lord was with them.**

Christ Connection: In the New Testament, Jesus said that He is the Bread of life. (John 6:31-35) God provided manna from heaven for His people's physical hunger, and later He provided His Son, Jesus, for our spiritual hunger. The Israelites needed bread to live for a little while, but whoever has Jesus will live forever!



INTRODUCE the Story

WELCOME TIME

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, and help new kids connect to your group. Prompt kids to imagine they are going to spend a year in the desert. What would they bring with them?

OPTION 1: Water bag demonstration

Supplies: ziplock bag, sharpened pencils, water, large bowl or tub

Fill a ziplock bag half full of water. Seal the bag and ask kids what they think would happen if you pushed a sharp pencil through the bag. Hold the top of the bag with one hand. Use your other hand to push a sharpened pencil through one side of the bag and halfway out the other side. (Tip: Use round pencils rather than hexagonal.) No water should leak from the bag.

Push additional pencils into the bag or let kids take a turn. Explain that the plastic bag forms a seal around the edge of the pencil to keep the water from escaping.

- If you were going on a long trip, what kind of container might you use to carry water?
- If you don't have drinking water with you, where might you find it?

OPTION 2: Scavenger hunt

Supplies: chalkboard or dry erase board, chalk or marker

Form groups of three or four kids. Give each group a pencil and a scavenger hunt list. Instruct the groups to look around the room for items that match the descriptions on the scavenger hunt list. Kids should write down the name of the object but should not move the object from its place. Encourage kids to find items other groups may not notice.

After several minutes, call for kids to gather and read their lists. Ask if there are any descriptions kids couldn't find an object for.

- Have you ever searched for something and been unable to find it?



TEACH the Story

The Bible tells us what is true about God and about ourselves. All of the stories in the Bible fit together to tell us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

Today we are going to hear about a time God provided food for His people in the wilderness. Whether this is your first time or your tenth time hearing this story, there is always something new to learn in God's Word.

Read Exodus 15–17.

- What does this story teach us about God?

God provided for the physical needs of His people by sending quail and manna. He also provided water to drink. God heard the complaints of His people, and He cared about them. What is God like? **God is holy, good, and loving.** No one is like God. He cares for us and always does what is right.

- What did the people think would happen to them in the wilderness?

God's people had just escaped from Egypt in a mass exodus—when many people leave a place at the same time—and one of the first things they did was start complaining. It's hard to go very long without food and water, especially if you're doing a lot of walking. **The people thought Moses had brought them out into the wilderness to die.** Of course, we can see the bigger picture of what was happening because we have the whole Bible to read.

- Form groups of two or three and practice retelling the Bible story in your own words. Think of someone you could share the story with this week.

CHRIST CONNECTION

In the New Testament, Jesus said that He is the Bread of life. (John 6:31-35) God provided manna from heaven for His people's physical hunger, and later He provided His Son, Jesus, for our spiritual hunger. The Israelites needed bread to live for a little while, but whoever has Jesus will live forever!



TEACH the Story

MISSIONS MOMENT

God provided for the physical needs of the Israelites, and He provides for our needs today. Pastor Jamie started Reborn Community Church in Garfield Park, Illinois. Since then, God has been using the church to meet the needs of people, like Frank, who live in that community. Most importantly, through the church, people are hearing the gospel of Jesus Christ. Who in your community could you invite to church?

PRAY

Lord God, You are holy, loving, and good. Thank You for Your Word so we can know You more. Help us to trust You. You already provided for our greatest need by giving us Jesus. We love You. Amen.

THE GOSPEL: GOD'S PLAN FOR ME

The gospel is the good news, the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use Scripture and the guide provided below to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.



GOD RULES. Ask: "Who is in charge at home?" Explain that because God created everything, He is in charge of everything. Read Revelation 4:11.



WE SINNED. Ask: "Have you ever done something wrong?" Tell kids that everyone sins, or disobeys God. Our sin separates us from God. Read Romans 3:23.



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



JESUS GIVES. Ask: "What is the best gift you've ever received?" Say that Jesus took our punishment for sin by giving His life, and He gives us His righteousness. God sees us as if we lived the perfect life Jesus lived. This is the best gift ever! Read 2 Corinthians 5:21.



WE RESPOND. Explain that everyone has a choice to make. Ask: "Will you trust Jesus as your Savior and Lord? You can turn from self and sin and turn to Jesus." Read Romans 10:9-10.



APPLY the Story

Big Picture Question

What is God like? God is holy, good, and loving.

God provided bread for His people in the wilderness, and God provided for us by sending Jesus to be our Savior. God satisfies our deepest longing by giving us Himself!

- Is it OK to complain if your parents make a decision you don't like?
- How can you show gratitude and generosity this week?

Distribute Bibles. Guide boys and girls to open their Bibles to Exodus 15. Choose a kid to read aloud Exodus 15:2-3. Explain that God had brought His people out of Egypt and despite what they thought, He did not bring them into the wilderness to die. God provided for the physical needs of His people. God wanted the people of Israel to be a great nation—one that God would use to bring His Son—the promised Messiah—into the world.

Then lead the group to discuss the following questions.

1. In what ways did God provide for the Israelites?

Prompt kids to recall that God provided water to drink, and He provided manna and quail to eat. Everyone had enough. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read John 6:32.)

2. Does God always give you everything you ask for? Why or why not?

Help kids understand that God knows what is best for us, and He gives us what we need to do His plan. He is our loving, heavenly Father. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read 2 Cor. 12:8-10.)

3. How can we have a good attitude when our circumstances are difficult?

Avoid downplaying the pain of suffering, but do encourage kids to consider what is temporary (lasting for a short time) and what is eternal (lasting forever). For those who trust in Jesus, we have the hope of peace and life with God forever. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Phil. 4:8.)



APPLY the Story

KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY

Supplies: Bibles, index cards, marker

Before the session, write the key passage in words or phrases on separate index cards. Invite kids to open their Bibles and read Matthew 22:37-39 aloud. Then instruct them to close their Bibles. Mix up the key passage cards and spread them over a floor or table. Challenge kids to arrange them in the correct order. Show the key passage poster for kids to check their work. If time allows, mix up the cards for kids to arrange again.

PRAY

Invite volunteers to share prayer requests. Then pray, thanking God for His Word and acknowledging that He is holy, loving, and good. Pray that God would help boys and girls trust Him no matter what their circumstances are.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY: Collecting manna

Supplies: cups, 1 per team; spoons or sets of chopsticks, 1 per kid; pom-poms

Form teams of three or four kids. Position one cup per team on a table and assign each team to a specific cup. Provide a spoon or set of chopsticks for each player. Scatter pom-poms over the floor and explain that teams will have five minutes to put as many pom-poms in their cup as they can. Emphasize that players may not use their hands to pick up the pom-poms.

After five minutes or when kids have gathered all of the pom-poms, instruct teams to count the pom-poms in their cups. The team with the most pom-poms wins.

Remind kids that in the wilderness, the Israelites couldn't go to the grocery store or a restaurant to get food. They were completely dependent on God. God provided for the physical needs of His people. We can trust God to provide for our needs today.



Unit 5, Session 2

Jethro Helped Moses

Exodus 18

Story Point: Moses needed help to lead God's people.

Open your Bible and read aloud Exodus 18, or tell the story from the following Bible story script.

Moses and the Israelites were camping in the wilderness near the mountain of God, the same place where God had spoken to Moses through the burning bush. **Moses' father-in-law, Jethro, lived nearby in the land of Midian. He had heard about the Israelites' escape from Egypt. Moses' wife and sons were staying with Jethro, and they all came to the wilderness to see Moses.** When Jethro was on his way, he sent a message to Moses. "I'm coming to see you," he said, "and your wife and sons are with me."

Moses hurried out to meet them. He greeted Jethro and invited him into his tent. **Moses told Jethro about everything God had done for the Israelites**—how God had punished the Egyptians and stopped Pharaoh, and how God provided for His people and protected them. **Jethro praised God for all the good things He had done.**

The next day, Moses sat down to judge the people. The people stood around all day and waited for Moses to listen to their case. Jethro asked Moses, "Why are you the only one judging the people? They have to stand around you all day."

Moses said, "The people want answers. Whenever they have a disagreement, I listen to

their problems and tell them what God's laws are." **"This is not good," Jethro said. "This job is too big for one person."**

Then **Jethro gave Moses some advice:** "You can be the person who speaks to God for the Israelites. Teach the people God's laws. Show them how to live. Tell them what God wants them to do. **But choose trustworthy men from all the people to lead smaller groups of people. They can judge the people's less important cases and bring the most important ones to you.** This way, you won't get worn out from doing everything by yourself, and the people will be happy because they don't have to stand around all day to get an answer."

So **Moses took Jethro's advice.** He chose men from all of Israel and made them leaders over the people. They judged the smaller cases and brought the big cases to Moses. **Then Jethro returned to his own land.**

Christ Connection: Moses needed others to help him lead God's people and teach them God's laws. God does not want believers to follow Jesus alone. He gives us brothers and sisters of faith who can help us love God, obey God, and tell others about Him.



INTRODUCE the Story

WELCOME TIME

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, and help new kids connect to your group. Prompt kids to think of things that are easier to do with other people instead of alone.

OPTION 1: Timed task

Supplies: deck of cards, stopwatch or timer

Choose one kid to try a task. Give him a deck of cards and challenge him to arrange them by color or value. Time how long it takes for him to complete the task. Then allow him to choose a partner. Mix up the cards and time how long it takes the pair to complete the task. Time them with two more helpers. Finally, invite everyone to work together.

- Was it better to arrange the cards by yourself or with help?

OPTION 2: Good idea, bad idea

Supplies: paper, markers, tape

Write *Good Idea* on one piece of paper and *Bad Idea* on another. Tape the pages to opposite walls in the room. Instruct kids to stand in the middle of the room. Give scenarios one at a time. Use the examples or provide your own. For each scenario, kids should decide if it is a good idea or bad idea and move to the appropriate wall. When applicable, call on a kid who chose *Bad Idea* to give advice for improving the situation. Examples:

- Your mom told you to clean your room, but you keep playing your video game.
- You don't know the answer to a test question, so you peek at your classmate's test.
- Your brother is distracted from his homework, so you turn off the TV.
- Your friend asks for a piece of candy, but you pretend you don't have any left.
- You forgot to have your dad sign a permission slip, so you sign it yourself.

- How can you tell if something is a good idea or a bad idea?



TEACH the Story

The Bible tells us what is true about God and about ourselves. All of the stories in the Bible fit together to tell us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

Today we are going to hear about a time when Moses' father-in-law, Jethro, gave Moses some advice. Whether this is your first time or your tenth time hearing this story, there is always something new to learn in God's Word.

Read Exodus 18.

- What does this story teach us about God?

God didn't just deliver Israel from Egypt and leave them alone; He was with them and had a plan for them. He is patient like a loving father is with his children. **God is holy, good, and loving.**

- What was Moses' job as the leader of the Israelites?

One of Moses' jobs was to judge the people. If there was a disagreement or argument between two people, they came to Moses. He listened to them, and then he decided what they should do. It was a lot of work! People stood in line all day to see Moses, and sometimes there wasn't even time for everyone to talk to him. Moses needed help to lead God's people.

- Form groups of two or three and practice retelling the Bible story in your own words. Think of someone you could share the story with this week.

CHRIST CONNECTION

Moses needed others to help him lead God's people and teach them God's laws. God does not want believers to follow Jesus alone. He gives us brothers and sisters of faith who can help us love God, obey God, and tell others about Him.



TEACH the Story

MISSIONS MOMENT

In advance, arrange to have a guest speaker whose life was changed because someone invited him or her to church or shared the gospel. Remind kids that last week we heard a missions story about Frank. His life was changed because someone in his neighborhood loved him enough to tell him about Jesus. Sharing the gospel with people in our communities is one way to love our neighbors.

PRAY

God, we confess that we need You. We need one another as we follow You. Thank You for friends, for brothers and sisters in Christ. Give us humility to ask for and accept help. Amen.

THE GOSPEL: GOD'S PLAN FOR ME

The gospel is the good news, the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use Scripture and the guide provided below to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.



GOD RULES. Ask: "Who is in charge at home?" Explain that because God created everything, He is in charge of everything. Read Revelation 4:11.



WE SINNED. Ask: "Have you ever done something wrong?" Tell kids that everyone sins, or disobeys God. Our sin separates us from God. Read Romans 3:23.



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



JESUS GIVES. Ask: "What is the best gift you've ever received?" Say that Jesus took our punishment for sin by giving His life, and He gives us His righteousness. God sees us as if we lived the perfect life Jesus lived. This is the best gift ever! Read 2 Corinthians 5:21.



WE RESPOND. Explain that everyone has a choice to make. Ask: "Will you trust Jesus as your Savior and Lord? You can turn from self and sin and turn to Jesus." Read Romans 10:9-10.



APPLY the Story

Big Picture Question

What is God like? God is holy, good, and loving.

Moses' father-in-law, Jethro, saw everything Moses was trying to do and said, "What you're doing is not good. You will wear yourself out. You can't do this alone." So Moses took Jethro's advice and chose trustworthy men to take on some of the work.

- When should we ask for help?
- Who has God put in your life to help you in different situations?

Distribute Bibles. Guide boys and girls to open their Bibles to Exodus 18. Remind kids that the Book of Exodus is the second book of Old Testament Law. Then lead the group to discuss the following questions.

1. Why was it good for Moses to get help?

Lead kids to recall that the Israelites numbered more than 600,000. When Moses was the only judge, he worked all day and the people waited a long time to talk to him. When he divided the work, Moses' load was lightened and the people were satisfied. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Eccl. 4:9.)

2. Why do we sometimes resist getting help from others?

Guide kids to consider how admitting we need help requires a level of humility. We must acknowledge that we are not God and we cannot do everything alone. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Gal. 6:2.)

3. What are some ways you can help others?

Invite kids to share needs they could meet. Encourage them to reach out to someone else this week to help "lighten the load." (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Phil. 2:4)



APPLY the Story

KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY

Distribute Bibles and invite kids to read Matthew 22:37-39 aloud. Then lead them to make up motions for some of the key words in the passage. Allow kids to suggest motions, or practice the following: cross hands over chest (*love*), point upward (*Lord*), point to chest (*heart*), open arms wide (*soul*), point to head (*mind*), hold up one finger (*greatest*), hold up two fingers (*second*), gesture toward others (*neighbor*), hold two thumbs toward your body (*yourself*).

Remind kids that Jesus said these words to remind the people of two commands from the Old Testament.

PRAY

Invite volunteers to share prayer requests. Then pray, thanking God for His gracious gift of fellow believers who help us follow Him. Pray kids would humbly acknowledge their weaknesses and live by God's strength.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY: Who's your neighbor?

Supplies: poster board or dry erase board, marker, paper, pens or pencils

Write the following questions on a poster board or dry erase board: *Where were you born? Do you have brothers or sisters? Do you have any pets? What is your favorite food? What is one interesting fact about you?*

Give each kid a piece of paper and a pen or pencil. Explain that you will give kids time to interview others in the group using the questions you've written on the board. Kids should make notes on things they learn about one another. Give kids enough time to talk to three or four others and then spend time sharing some of what they discovered with the interviews.

Ask kids to think of the people living in their neighborhood. Challenge them to get to know and share the gospel with someone who lives nearby. Emphasize that the best way we can love our neighbors is to tell them about Jesus.



Unit 5, Session 3

The Ten Commandments

Exodus 19–20

Story Point: God gave rules to show how to love Him and others.

Open your Bible and read aloud Exodus 19–20, or tell the story from the following Bible story script.

Three months after the Israelites left Egypt, they came into the Wilderness of Sinai (SIGH nigh). They camped in front of the mountain. God had a plan to make the Israelites His special people. **God wanted to make a covenant, or agreement, with the people of Israel.**

Moses went up the mountain. God called to him, saying, “This is what you should tell the Israelites: ‘You have seen what I did to the Egyptians and how I rescued you and brought you to Me. If you listen carefully to Me and you keep My covenant, you will be My people.’”

Moses went back to the people and told them what God had said. All the people responded together, “We will do all that the Lord has spoken.”

On the morning of the third day, Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain. God came down on Mount Sinai in a fire, and smoke covered the mountain. The mountain shook, and the sound of the trumpet got louder and louder. God said, “I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt. I freed you from slavery.”

God gave Moses the Ten Commandments. The first four commandments told the Israelites what it looks like to have a right relationship with God: “Do not have other gods besides Me. Do not make an idol for yourself. Do not misuse the name of the Lord your God. Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.” The last six commandments told the Israelites what it looks like to have a right relationship with each other: “You must honor your father and your mother. You must not murder. You must keep your marriage promises. You must not steal. You must not lie. You must not want what belongs to someone else.”

Moses was on the mountain for 40 days. God gave Moses many more laws. **When God was finished speaking to Moses on Mount Sinai, He gave Moses two stone tablets that He had written on with His own finger.**

Christ Connection: God is holy and separate from sin. His law shows us what He requires—perfect righteousness. Our sin separates us from God, but Jesus came to bring us back to God. Jesus is perfectly righteous. When we trust in Jesus, He takes away our sin and welcomes us into God’s family.



INTRODUCE the Story

WELCOME TIME

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, and help new kids connect to your group. Prompt kids to talk about rules they have at home or in the classroom. Why do people have rules? What would life be like without rules?

OPTION 1: Target practice

Supplies: masking tape or painter's tape, beanbags

Before the session, create a target (graduated circles) on the floor with masking tape. Challenge kids to stand at a distance and toss beanbags at the target.

- Did anyone hit the bull's-eye every time?
- Is anyone perfect? Is God perfect?

OPTION 2: True or false commandments

Ask if anyone thinks they know all of the Ten Commandments. Instruct the kids to give a thumbs-up (true) or thumbs-down (false) to indicate which rules are part of the Ten Commandments:

- Do not have other gods besides Me. (true, Ex. 20:3)
- You must pray every day. (false)
- You must go to church every week. (false)
- Do not make an idol for yourself. (true, Ex. 20:4-5)
- Do not steal. (true, Ex. 20:15)
- You must give God ten percent of your money. (false)
- Do not misuse the name of the Lord. (true, Ex. 20:7)
- You must read the Bible every day. (false)
- Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. (true, Ex. 20:8)

- Why do you think God gave His people commandments?



TEACH the Story

The Bible tells us what is true about God and about ourselves. All of the stories in the Bible fit together to tell us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

Today we are going to hear about the Ten Commandments. Whether this is your first time or your tenth time hearing this story, there is always something new to learn in God's Word.

Read Exodus 19:1–20:21.

- What does this story teach us about God?

God is holy, good, and loving. God loved the Israelites and wanted them to be His people. God gave the laws to be a type of boundary to guide His people to always follow and obey Him. God wants His people to be holy like Him. We were made to bring glory to God by reflecting Him.

- Can people be completely holy like God is?

No. Who is the only human to ever be completely holy? [*Allow kids to respond.*] That's right, Jesus. Jesus is God's Son. Only Jesus was completely holy like God is completely holy. Because of our sin, we aren't completely holy. The Bible tells us in Romans 3 that the law God gave the Israelites helps us understand that we sin and need a Savior. Everyone except Jesus has broken God's rules.

- Form groups of two or three and practice retelling the Bible story in your own words. Think of someone you could share the story with this week.

CHRIST CONNECTION

God is holy and separate from sin. His law shows us what He requires—perfect righteousness. Our sin separates us from God, but Jesus came to bring us back to God. Jesus is perfectly righteous. When we trust in Jesus, He takes away our sin and welcomes us into God's family.



TEACH the Story

MISSIONS MOMENT

When a boy named Demaj (dih MAH jay) went to a church in his neighborhood for help with his school work, he also learned about God. God gave rules to show how to love Him and others. Now, Demaj loves Jesus. He is loving his neighbors by inviting them to church. Who can you invite to church?

PRAY

Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus to obey all Your commands and to die in our place. We confess that we try to do things to please You, but You are pleased when we trust in Jesus by faith. Change our hearts so we trust in Jesus for our salvation and obey You because we love You. Amen.

THE GOSPEL: GOD'S PLAN FOR ME

The gospel is the good news, the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use Scripture and the guide provided below to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.



GOD RULES. Ask: "Who is in charge at home?" Explain that because God created everything, He is in charge of everything. Read Revelation 4:11.



WE SINNED. Ask: "Have you ever done something wrong?" Tell kids that everyone sins, or disobeys God. Our sin separates us from God. Read Romans 3:23.



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



JESUS GIVES. Ask: "What is the best gift you've ever received?" Say that Jesus took our punishment for sin by giving His life, and He gives us His righteousness. God sees us as if we lived the perfect life Jesus lived. This is the best gift ever! Read 2 Corinthians 5:21.



WE RESPOND. Explain that everyone has a choice to make. Ask: "Will you trust Jesus as your Savior and Lord? You can turn from self and sin and turn to Jesus." Read Romans 10:9-10.



APPLY the Story

Big Picture Question

What is God like? God is holy, good, and loving.

God's plan was to rescue His people from captivity. And He did! Three months after God rescued the Israelites from physical captivity in Egypt, He led them into the desert to Mount Sinai. God told Moses to tell the Israelites, "If you will listen to Me and carefully keep My covenant, you will be My own possession." God gave rules to show how to love Him and others.

- Why did God give us rules if He knew we would break them?
- Why is it hard to follow rules?

Distribute Bibles. Guide boys and girls to open their Bibles to Exodus 19. Choose a kid to read aloud Exodus 19:5-6. Then lead the group to discuss the following questions.

1. How does sin impact our relationship with God and others?

Allow kids to share their thoughts and experiences. Remind them that God gave rules to show how to love Him and others. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Rom. 6:23.)

2. What rules do your parents give you? Why?

Invite kids to share. Guide them to conclude that rules help us know what is best. Point out that God's rules show us His standard for living a holy life. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Eph. 6:1-4.)

3. What should we do if we disobey God?

Lead kids to recognize the need for repentance—turning away from sin and turning toward God. Emphasize that Jesus was our substitute, obeying perfectly yet taking the punishment we deserve, so that we can have forgiveness and eternal life. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Deut. 6:5.)



APPLY the Story

KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY

Supplies: 8 craft sticks per kid, markers, chalkboard or dry erase board, chalk or marker, rubber bands

Before the session, write out the key passage on a chalkboard or dry erase board in eight separate phrases. Display the key passage phrases where kids can see them. Give each kid a marker and eight craft sticks. Instruct kids to copy the key passage from the board, writing each phrase on a separate stick.

Then instruct kids to mix up their sticks and then quickly rearrange the phrases in the correct order. Kids may work individually or in pairs. Provide rubber bands for kids to bundle their sticks and keep them as a method of practicing the key passage during the week.

PRAY

Invite volunteers to share prayer requests. Then pray, thanking God for sending His perfect Son to die for us.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY: Church partners

In advance, identify a local ministry in your community that your church partners with or supports. (Examples: a nursing home, homeless shelter, or refugee center) Invite a volunteer from the ministry to share more about their work, or be prepared to share more about the ministry yourself.

Remind kids that Demaj (dih MAH jay) first learned about Jesus because Reborn Community Church offered a study program. Church volunteers help him with school work and also met his greatest need: to know about Jesus.

If possible, coordinate a ministry project that specifically helps the ministry kids just learned about, or invite them to make cards for the people whom the ministry serves.

Review the gospel plan with kids and invite them to make cards that show God's love for the people who will receive the cards. End in prayer for the ministry. Emphasize that meeting physical needs is important, but what people need most is to hear the gospel.



Unit 6, Session 1

The Golden Calf

Exodus 32; 34

Story Point: God disciplined His people for worshiping a golden calf.

Open your Bible and read aloud Exodus 32; 34, or tell the story from the following Bible story script.

God had delivered the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. The Israelites came to Mount Sinai (SIGH nigh), and they camped there in front of the mountain. Moses went up the mountain, and God spoke to him. God had a lot to tell Moses, and **Moses was up on Mount Sinai for 40 days and 40 nights. Meanwhile, the Israelites were getting impatient.** They began to wonder, *Where is Moses? What is taking him so long? Is he still alive?*

The Israelites went to Moses' brother, Aaron. "Make us a god to lead us," they said. "We don't know what has happened to Moses." So Aaron made a golden calf that they could worship. God saw what the people were doing, and He was angry because of their sin. God told Moses to go down the mountain. "I will destroy these people," God said. "Please forgive them," Moses said. "Remember the great promise You made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. You promised to give them as many offspring as there are stars in the sky. You promised to bless them and give them land." So God decided not to destroy the people.

Moses went down the mountain. He carried two stone tablets on which God had written the

laws. Moses **saw that the people were dancing before the golden calf! He threw down the stone tablets**, smashing them at the bottom of the mountain. **Then he destroyed the calf they made. The next day, Moses went back up the mountain to talk to God. "These people have sinned against You," Moses said. "Please forgive their sin."** God told Moses to return to the people. "When the time comes, I will punish them for their sin," God said. Then the Lord sent a plague—a terrible sickness—to the people because they worshiped the golden calf.

One morning, Moses went up the mountain to meet with God. **God said, "The LORD is a compassionate and gracious God ... but He will not leave the guilty unpunished."** Moses bowed down and worshiped God. "Lord, please go with us," he said. "Forgive our sin, and accept us as Your people."

Christ Connection: God's people sinned against God, and Moses asked God to forgive them. Moses acted as their mediator, standing for them before God. Moses could not do anything to make up for their sin, but we have a better Mediator—Jesus. Jesus paid for our sin on the cross and stands for us before God. When we trust in Jesus, our sins are forgiven.



INTRODUCE the Story

WELCOME TIME

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, and help new kids connect to your group. Prompt kids to think of a time it was really hard to wait for something special. What were they waiting for, and why was it hard to wait?

OPTION 1: Text

Supplies: various craft supplies (paper, craft sticks, markers, ribbons, scissors, tape)

Spread out the craft supplies for the kids to see. Challenge them to create something beautiful in less than five minutes. Kids may work as one group, form teams, or create individual designs. After five minutes, guide kids to present their creations.

- Can these creations do anything for us?
- Do these creations deserve our worship?

OPTION 2: Who will help me?

Supplies: index cards, marker, helping items (bandage, pencil, water bottle, coat, snack, umbrella, ice pack)

Before the session, write simple scenario statements on separate index cards that indicate a need that can be met by the helping items. Example: *I fell down and my knee is bleeding requires a bandage.*

Select a volunteer to be the helper. Distribute the cards to the rest of the kids. Position the helping items next to you for the helper to see. Invite kids to read their cards one at a time. The helper must come to you and ask for the most appropriate item for each need. When kids finish, thank the helper for getting each person what he or she needed.

- What does a helper do? What does a mediator do?



TEACH the Story

The Bible tells us what is true about God and about ourselves. All of the stories in the Bible fit together to tell us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

Today we are going to hear what the Israelites did while Moses was on a mountain talking with God. Whether this is your first time or your tenth time hearing this story, there is always something new to learn in God's Word.

Read Exodus 32; 34.

- What does this story teach us about God?

Only God deserves our worship. Worship is celebrating the greatness of God. The Israelites took their eyes off the greatness of God and made a golden idol instead. God is the One who loved them, rescued them, and had a plan for them.

- What happened after the Israelites worshiped an idol?

God disciplined His people for worshiping a golden calf. He got their attention fast so they would put their focus—their worship—back where it belongs: on Him.

- Form groups of two or three and practice retelling the Bible story in your own words. Think of someone you could share the story with this week.

CHRIST CONNECTION

God's people sinned against God, and Moses asked God to forgive them. Moses acted as their mediator, standing for them before God. Moses could not do anything to make up for their sin, but we have a better Mediator—Jesus. Jesus paid for our sin on the cross and stands for us before God. When we trust in Jesus, our sins are forgiven.



TEACH the Story

MISSIONS MOMENT

Explain that in some places, people worship in Buddhist temples that were not built to honor the one true God. These people are like many others around the world who don't know that God sent Jesus to save people from sin. Japan is a country filled with temples. In the coming weeks, we will hear about a missionary family that is telling the people of Japan about Jesus. Pray, asking that many people in Japan will hear and believe the good news about Jesus! Pray specifically for people who worship in Buddhist temples.

PRAY

Lord God, You love us and care for us! Help us remember the truth so we will not turn away from You. Only You deserve our worship. Amen.

THE GOSPEL: GOD'S PLAN FOR ME

The gospel is the good news, the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use Scripture and the guide provided below to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.



GOD RULES. Ask: "Who is in charge at home?" Explain that because God created everything, He is in charge of everything. Read Revelation 4:11.



WE SINNED. Ask: "Have you ever done something wrong?" Tell kids that everyone sins, or disobeys God. Our sin separates us from God. Read Romans 3:23.



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



JESUS GIVES. Ask: "What is the best gift you've ever received?" Say that Jesus took our punishment for sin by giving His life, and He gives us His righteousness. God sees us as if we lived the perfect life Jesus lived. This is the best gift ever! Read 2 Corinthians 5:21.



WE RESPOND. Explain that everyone has a choice to make. Ask: "Will you trust Jesus as your Savior and Lord? You can turn from self and sin and turn to Jesus." Read Romans 10:9-10.



APPLY the Story

Big Picture Question

What is worship? Worship is celebrating the greatness of God.

We worship God by celebrating the greatness of God. We can do that with our thoughts, our words, and our actions. We can also worship God with our voices as we sing.

- **How can you know if something or someone is an idol?**
- **What types of things or people might you be tempted to worship?**

Distribute Bibles. Guide boys and girls to open their Bibles to Exodus 32. Remind kids that the Book of Exodus is the second book of the Bible. The word *exodus* means “departure.” Explain that the Book of Exodus is about the departure of God’s people from Egypt and their travels afterward. Then lead the group to discuss the following questions.

1. Being disciplined is never fun. But why is it necessary and even helpful?

Help kids recognize that discipline often helps us learn from our mistakes. It also helps us see the severity of our wrongdoing—the greater the offense, the greater the discipline. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Heb. 12:11.)

2. How does God’s discipline show that He loves us?

Help kids recognize that God disciplines us because He loves us. If He didn’t love us, He wouldn’t care what we did. He wants us to follow His rules because He knows what’s best for us. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Prov. 3:11-12.)

3. What would happen if we were never disciplined?

Help kids recognize that without discipline, everyone would do their own thing. There would be no order and no way to hold people accountable for their actions. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Prov. 12:15.)



APPLY the Story

KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY

Supplies: chalkboard or dry erase board, chalk or marker, erase

Before the session, write the key passage on a chalkboard or dry erase board. Form two teams. Invite kids to read Exodus 15:2 aloud. Choose a volunteer from team 1 to erase one word of the key passage. Challenge team 2 to read the key passage, providing the missing word.

Then allow a volunteer from team 2 to erase a word. Team 1 will read the key passage and supply the missing words. Continue back and forth, erasing one word at a time until both teams can say the key passage from memory.

PRAY

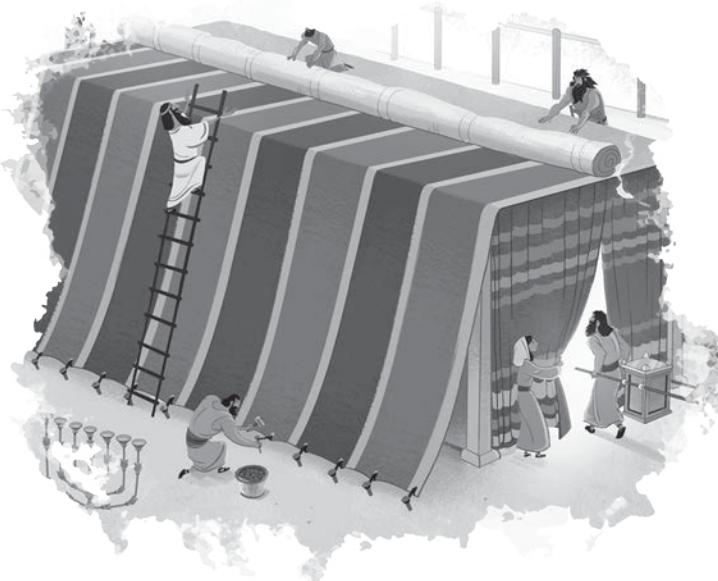
Invite volunteers to share prayer requests. Then pray, thanking God for being compassionate and gracious to us by sending Jesus as our Mediator and Savior.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY: Today's idols

Supplies: play dough or modeling clay, random objects

Arrange several objects on a table. Give each kid a lump of clay. Challenge kids to choose an item and make a clay model of it. After a few minutes, invite kids to display their model. Prompt kids to point out which version is better, the actual item or the model. (*the actual item*)

Point out that not many people today set up a golden calf in their home as an idol to worship, but people still worship idols. Remember, an idol is anything that we worship in the place of God. People might worship other people, possessions, or even themselves. Nothing can rightfully take the place of God in our lives. He is better than anything and anyone else.



Unit 6, Session 2

The Tabernacle Was Built

Exodus 35–40

Story Point: God told His people how to build the tabernacle where He would dwell with them.

Open your Bible and read aloud Exodus 35–40, or tell the story from the following Bible story script.

When Moses was on the mountain with God, God said, “Tell the Israelites to make a tabernacle for Me so that I may dwell among them.” God gave Moses very specific instructions for building a tabernacle. The tabernacle would be a really big tent that the Israelites could take with them. The tabernacle would be where God met with His people. “Make it exactly like I show you,” God said.

So Moses gathered all the Israelites together. He told them everything God had said. **He asked them to bring materials. God gave two men, Bezalel (BEHZ uh lehl) and Oholiab (oh HOH lih ab), special skills for building and creating things.** Bezalel, Oholiab, and all the other skilled craftsmen came together to build the tabernacle for God. At the same time, people kept bringing offerings of what they had. Pretty soon, the craftsmen came to Moses and said, “The people are bringing more than enough. We don’t need all of this.” So Moses told the Israelites to stop bringing their offerings.

They built the tabernacle just as God had instructed. The tabernacle had 10 curtains made out of linen, and each curtain was 42

feet long. Eleven curtains made out of goat hair formed a tent over the tabernacle. Inside the tabernacle, the people made a veil. They made an ark, a table, a lampstand, and many other parts. **Every part had its special purpose and was made just as God had said.** When the time came, God told Moses how to set up the tabernacle. God told him how to anoint the tabernacle so that it would be holy. Moses did exactly what God commanded, and the tabernacle was finally finished.

God had led the Israelites from a cloud, and now the cloud covered the tabernacle. God’s glory filled the tabernacle. **God made a sign for the people: If the cloud covered the tabernacle, the people would stay where they were. When the cloud lifted from the tabernacle, the Israelites would move and take the tabernacle with them. The cloud of the Lord was on the tabernacle during the day, and fire was inside the cloud at night. All the Israelites could see it as they traveled.**

Christ Connection: God instructed the Israelites to build a tabernacle where He would dwell with them. God desires to be with His people. As part of His plan to save sinners, God sent Jesus to “tabernacle,” or dwell, with people on earth.



INTRODUCE the Story

WELCOME TIME

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, and help new kids connect to your group. Prompt kids to share about a time they followed a recipe to cook something. Why was it important to follow the instructions?

OPTION 1: Building materials list

Supplies: large sheets of paper, markers

Explain that before building a house, you need to know what materials are required. Announce that you will give kids five minutes to list as many building materials as they can think of that they would need to build a house. The team with the most items wins.

Form teams of three or four kids. Distribute a marker and piece of paper to each team. Give the teams a 2-minute and a 30-second warning as they work. When time is up, instruct them to count their items and write their total at the end of the page. Allow them to share their lists.

- What do you think you would need to build a special house for worshiping God?

OPTION 2: Give an offering

Supplies: slips of paper, pencils, offering plate(s)

Ask kids what they would expect you to do if you were giving an offering. [Allow kids to respond. Most will assume giving money.] Emphasize that we can offer God more than just money. In Bible times, people also offered jewelry, animals, or grain. An offering can be any gift you give to God.

Distribute a pencil and several slips of paper to each kid. Encourage them to write something they can offer God. After a few minutes, pass the offering plate and collect the slips of paper. Read the slips and discuss how God could use what's written down as part of His plan.

- Who gives us our time, talents, and possessions?



TEACH the Story

The Bible tells us what is true about God and about ourselves. All of the stories in the Bible fit together to tell us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

Today we are going to hear about the instructions God gave His people for building a tabernacle where He could meet with them. Whether this is your first time or your tenth time hearing this story, there is always something new to learn in God's Word.

Read Exodus 35–40.

- What does this story teach us about God?

God wants to be with His people. God's glory came and rested on the tabernacle for all the people to see. God's glory was in the form of a cloud by day and fire by night. The Israelites could see physical evidence of God's presence with them every day.

- How were the Israelites involved in building the tabernacle?

The Israelites gave their time, their skills, and their possessions. In fact, they gave so much that Moses had to tell them to stop. They had given more than enough materials for the project! God invited the people to be part of putting it all together.

- Form groups of two or three and practice retelling the Bible story in your own words. Think of someone you could share the story with this week.

CHRIST CONNECTION

God instructed the Israelites to build a tabernacle where He would dwell with them. God desires to be with His people. As part of His plan to save sinners, God sent Jesus to "tabernacle," or dwell, with people on earth.



TEACH the Story

MISSIONS MOMENT

Because of Jesus, we no longer have to meet with God in a tabernacle. God sent His Son, Jesus, to dwell with his people. This is good news! Today, most Christians gather as a church in order to study the Bible and worship together, but not all churches look the same. One missionary family in Japan started a church in an unlikely place—a pediatrician's office! Let's pray and thank God for helping His people overcome challenges to make His name known.

PRAY

God, what an honor that You invite us to be part of Your plan to point people to Jesus and bring You glory. Give us humble and generous hearts to offer our time, talents, and possessions for the sake of the gospel. We love You. Amen.

THE GOSPEL: GOD'S PLAN FOR ME

The gospel is the good news, the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use Scripture and the guide provided below to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.



GOD RULES. Ask: "Who is in charge at home?" Explain that because God created everything, He is in charge of everything. Read Revelation 4:11.



WE SINNED. Ask: "Have you ever done something wrong?" Tell kids that everyone sins, or disobeys God. Our sin separates us from God. Read Romans 3:23.



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WE RESPOND. Explain that everyone has a choice to make. Ask: "Will you trust Jesus as your Savior and Lord? You can turn from self and sin and turn to Jesus." Read Romans 10:9-10.



APPLY the Story

Big Picture Question

What is worship? Worship is celebrating the greatness of God.

We don't have the tabernacle today, but we have our church building where we can worship God and the Holy Spirit inside us! When we worship, we can sing to God and thank Him for all He has done for us.

- Why is it important to go to church?
- How can you spend time with God?

Distribute Bibles. Guide boys and girls to open their Bibles to Exodus 40. Show the Old Testament Mediterranean Map and remind kids about the Israelites' exodus from Egypt. Explain that they moved toward the promised land of Canaan, stopping along the way at Mount Sinai, where God gave His people the Law through Moses. God told His people how to build the tabernacle where He would dwell with them. Then lead the group to discuss the following questions.

1. Why did God instruct the Israelites to build a tabernacle?

Help kids recognize that God desires to be with His people. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Ex. 25:8-9.)

2. How did Jesus make the way for us to dwell with God?

Help kids recognize that Jesus was fully God and came to live and "dwell" with His people on earth. Jesus died for our sins and rose again so everyone who trusts in Him can have forgiveness and life with God forever. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read John 1:14.)

3. After Jesus' resurrection, He ascended into heaven. How does God dwell with us today?

Help kids recognize that when we trust Jesus as our Lord and Savior, the Holy Spirit comes to live and dwell in us. God is always with us through the Holy Spirit. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read 1 Corinthians 3:16.)



APPLY the Story

KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY

Supplies: 10 foam cups, permanent marker

Before the session, write phrases of the key passage on the top rim of 10 separate cups so you can see each phrase when the cups are stacked inside one another. On the cup with the last phrase, write Exodus 15:2 across the middle of the cup. If your group is large, prepare more sets. Play as teams.

Mix up the cups and challenge boys and girls to arrange them in the correct order so the key passage can be read from top to bottom. When kids finish arranging the cups, invite them to say the key passage together.

PRAY

Invite volunteers to share prayer requests. Then pray, thanking God for how the tabernacle reminds us that He is holy, and through Jesus, we have unlimited access to God.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY: Draw the tabernacle

Supplies: paper, markers, Bibles

Explain that God gave very specific instructions for building the tabernacle. Though we may not know exactly what it looked like, we can get a pretty good idea by reading the instructions God gave in the Bible. Form five groups and explain that each group will read about one part of the tabernacle. Then they will draw the part to help explain it to the other groups.

Assign the following sections to the groups:

- The tabernacle inner curtains: Exodus 26:1-6
- The tabernacle outer curtains: Exodus 26:7-14
- The tabernacle frame: Exodus 26:15-29
- The Holy Place: Exodus 26:31-37
- The courtyard: Exodus 27:9-19

After a few minutes, invite each group to share its picture and any additional information about that part. Emphasize that today, God gives believers the Holy Spirit, who dwells in our hearts and is always with us.



Unit 6, Session 3

Rules for Sacrifice

Leviticus

Story Point: God is holy and requires a sacrifice for sin.

Open your Bible and read aloud Leviticus, or tell the story from the following Bible story script.

God gave Moses many laws on Mount Sinai. These laws showed the people what it looks like to live a holy life. **God is holy and cannot be around sin, but the Israelites could not keep God's laws perfectly. So God met with Moses in the tabernacle. He gave the people rules about how to live, how to worship God, and what to do when they sinned.**

First, God gave rules about offerings. Offerings are gifts people give to God, such as money or jewelry. Sometimes offerings included animals. People could also give grain and bread as offerings. **Different types of offerings were needed at different times.** When people wanted to praise God, they gave burnt offerings. When they wanted to say they were sorry for sin, they gave a sin offering. **God also gave rules about the priests.** Priests made the sacrifices that God commanded. The priests took care of the tabernacle, and they taught the people God's rules for living holy lives. Aaron and his sons served as the priests. God gave them rules about how to offer sacrifices.

God told Moses about a special day that would happen once a year. It was called the Day of Atonement. Atonement means making right what has been wrong. The people

needed to atone for their sin to make their relationship with God right again. **On the Day of Atonement, the high priest went into the most holy place, a very special room in the tabernacle, to offer sacrifices for the sins of his family and for all the people.** He killed one goat as a sin offering. The high priest laid his hands on a second goat's head to transfer the sins of the people to the goat. This goat was the scapegoat. Then the goat was led away into the wilderness as a picture of the people's sins being removed.

God said, "On that day your sin will be paid for. You will be made pure and clean. **You will be clean from all of your sins in My sight.**" God also gave the Israelites rules about how they should live. He said, "Be holy because I, the LORD your God, am holy." God told the people what it is to be holy. God said, "Do not tell lies. Do not cheat. Love your neighbor as you love yourself. Obey My rules."

Christ Connection: The sacrifices God required of His people were a hint of what God was going to do to forgive sinners. We no longer need to offer sacrifices because we trust in Jesus. Jesus offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice that takes away our sin once and for all.



INTRODUCE the Story

WELCOME TIME

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, and help new kids connect to your group. Prompt kids to share a few of their family rules: what is important in their family that they would be disciplined if they did/didn't do. Why do family rules matter?

OPTION 1: Willing to sacrifice

Tell kids that most things of value are not earned without some sort of sacrifice. Take a quick survey and see what you would be willing to sacrifice to get what you want. Ask kids if they would be willing to sacrifice ...

- watching TV for practicing to be the best player on the team?
- eating sweets to be a faster runner?
- hanging with your friends to study and make a good grade on a test?
- sleeping in to do chores and earn money for something you wanted to buy?

• What type of sacrifice do you think is required to take away sin?

OPTION 2: Who's to blame?

Supplies: blindfold

Select one volunteer to be blindfolded in the middle of the room. The other kids should form a circle around the volunteer. When you say go, kids will walk around the volunteer. Silently point to one kid to tap the shoulder of the volunteer.

When that kid returns to the circle, say “stop.” The volunteer should remove the blindfold and try to guess who tapped her shoulder. After three guesses, reveal the correct person. Then select a new volunteer.

- Have you ever been blamed for something you didn't do?



TEACH the Story

The Bible tells us what is true about God and about ourselves. All of the stories in the Bible fit together to tell us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

Today we are going to hear about the rules God gave His people for worshiping Him and living holy lives. These rules are found in the Book of Leviticus. Whether this is your first time or your tenth time hearing this story, there is always something new to learn in God's Word.

Read Leviticus.

- What does this story teach us about God?

As God's chosen people, the Israelites needed to know how to live in a way that pleased God. So God gave them rules and laws as clear guides to know how to worship Him and to know right from wrong. But God also knew they wouldn't follow all these rules all the time. **God is holy** and requires a sacrifice for sin. So God made a way for Israel's relationship with God to be made right. The people offered sacrifices to God to say they were sorry.

- What happened on the Day of Atonement?

God set aside a special day each year to clear away the sins of all the people. That was the Day of Atonement, when **the high priest went into the most holy place of the tabernacle to offer sacrifices**. He killed one goat and transferred the people's sins to a second goat—the scapegoat—which was sent into the wilderness. This special day every year reminded the people that they needed a better sacrifice that would take away their sins once and for all.

- Form groups of two or three and practice retelling the Bible story in your own words. Think of someone you could share the story with this week.

CHRIST CONNECTION

The sacrifices God required of His people were a hint of what God was going to do to forgive sinners. We no longer need to offer sacrifices because we trust in Jesus. Jesus offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice that takes away our sin once and for all.



TEACH the Story

MISSIONS MOMENT

Tara Jones, along with her family, is a missionary in Japan. She wants the women coming to her Bible study to know and believe that Jesus is the way to forgiveness of sins. We can support the Joneses' work in Japan through prayer. Lead kids in prayer, asking God to meet the needs of Tara and her family as they share the gospel.

PRAY

God, thank You for Your Word. We read about the sacrifices made in the Old Testament and praise You for sending Jesus. He died and rose again to take away our sin once and for all. Amen.

THE GOSPEL: GOD'S PLAN FOR ME

The gospel is the good news, the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use Scripture and the guide provided below to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.



GOD RULES. Ask: "Who is in charge at home?" Explain that because God created everything, He is in charge of everything. Read Revelation 4:11.



WE SINNED. Ask: "Have you ever done something wrong?" Tell kids that everyone sins, or disobeys God. Our sin separates us from God. Read Romans 3:23.



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



JESUS GIVES. Ask: "What is the best gift you've ever received?" Say that Jesus took our punishment for sin by giving His life, and He gives us His righteousness. God sees us as if we lived the perfect life Jesus lived. This is the best gift ever! Read 2 Corinthians 5:21.



WE RESPOND. Explain that everyone has a choice to make. Ask: "Will you trust Jesus as your Savior and Lord? You can turn from self and sin and turn to Jesus." Read Romans 10:9-10.



APPLY the Story

Big Picture Question

What is worship? Worship is celebrating the greatness of God.

Because of Jesus, we do not have to offer blood sacrifices to God. Jesus shed His own blood to pay for our sin. Jesus is our great High Priest, and we can give Him our praise and worship Him.

- Why might God ask up to give up things we like?
- How should believers' thoughts, actions, and words be different than people who don't know Jesus?

Distribute Bibles. Guide boys and girls to open their Bibles to Leviticus 1–5. Encourage them to look through the headings and identify how many different types of offerings are listed. (*burnt offering, grain offering, fellowship offering, sin offering, guilt offering*) Lead the group to discuss the following questions.

1. Why did God require animals to be sacrificed?

Help kids recognize that sacrifice goes all the way back to the first sin of Adam and Eve. When God made clothes to cover them (and their sin), He used animal skins. Animals were sacrificed to cover sin. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Heb. 9:22.)

2. Sacrifices helped the people remember their sin and that God is holy. Why was that not enough?

Help kids recognize the sacrifices didn't completely take away the sin problem. People had to offer them again and again. It was never enough. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Heb. 10:4.)

3. Why do we not need to offer animal sacrifices today?

Help kids recognize that Jesus was the perfect sacrifice, once and for all. He took our punishment on the cross, and we have forgiveness through His blood. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Heb. 10:10.)



APPLY the Story

KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY

Supplies: dry erase board or poster board, markers, Bibles

Lead kids to read together Exodus 15:2 from their Bibles. Then form two groups. Invite each group to read the key passage. Then instruct kids to close their Bibles.

Give a marker to one player on each team. Position the teams across the room from a dry erase board or two sheets of poster board. When you say go, the first player on each team will run to the board and write the first word of the key passage. Then he should return to his team and give the marker to the next player.

That player will run to the board, write the second word, and return the marker to the next player. Teams continue until they have written the entire key passage and Scripture reference. Check for accuracy and then prompt each team to read the key passage together.

PRAY

Invite volunteers to share prayer requests. Then pray, thanking Jesus for giving His life as the ultimate and perfect sacrifice for us, once and for all.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY: Which rules are true?

Supplies: paper, pencils, Bibles

Remind kids that God gave the Israelites rules to help them live holy lives. Some of those rules seem strange to us today. Form groups and assign one of the following passages to each group: Leviticus 7:22-27; Leviticus 19:23-27; Leviticus 24:1-9; Leviticus 25:1-7. Each group should write down two true rules from their passage and two made-up rules. When they read their rules, the class must identify which rules were true.

Emphasize that we do not obey all the rules in Leviticus because we trust Jesus, who obeyed the law perfectly for us and offered Himself as the final sacrifice.