



## VOLUME 11 SUGGESTED THEMES

### **Unit 31: The Church Is Opposed**

Why did Jesus become human? Jesus became human to obey His Father's plan and rescue sinners.

**The Olympics:** This unit holds themes of endurance amidst persecution and suffering for something greater than oneself. We'll use the Olympics to help kids connect with these concepts. Decorate for this theme using hula hoops as the Olympic rings, your nation's flag, and sports gear.

- Session 1: Start the unit off by introducing an athlete who is training for the Olympics and his coach. This is the start of his training and the coach explains that training will be tough, but worth it. He will have to choose to endure, even when it feels difficult. Connect this to apostles continuing to tell people about the gospel, despite trials and suffering.
- Session 2: The athlete decides that he no longer wants to be an athlete, and instead wants to be one of the Olympic judges. The coach explains that those are two different, but equally important roles, and the athlete's role is to compete. Tie this to the apostles believing that everyone in the church had an important, but different, job to do.
- Session 3: Today the athlete will run into a roadblock in his training and will have to make the choice to continue training despite discouragement. Connect this to Stephen preaching about Jesus despite persecution.
- Session 4: The athlete is attempting a new exercise and is having a difficult time understanding it. The coach walks him through it step by step to help him master it. Tie this to Philip helping the Ethiopian official understand the good news about Jesus.
- Session 5: The Olympics are around the corner. The coach and the athlete are having a conversation about what it means to represent their country in the competition. Connect this to how Paul taught that Christians are meant to be representations of Jesus to everyone they meet.



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### **Unit 32: The Church Grows**

What is the church? The church is all Christians everywhere, who gather together in their communities to worship and serve God.

**Newspaper Newsroom:** So many exciting events occur during this unit, so a newspaper newsroom with lots of breaking stories is a great fit. Each week, a different section of the newspaper will be discussed and tied to a part of the Bible story. Decorate for this unit using desks, computers, newspapers, coffee mugs, and a sign of your newspaper's name hung on the wall.

- Session 1: A reporter rushes into the newsroom with an unbelievable breaking story! Connect this to the miracles that Peter performed through the Holy Spirit and how they led people to believe in Jesus.
- Session 2: The newspaper publishes a recipe that uses lots of different ingredients. The reporters are all discussing the recipe and their favorite foods. Connect this to how Peter had a vision where God told him he could eat animals he previously could not eat, because God had made them clean.
- Session 3: A reporter is doing an interview with the welcoming committee to report on how they welcome new residents to the town. Connect this to how the apostles and believers took action to welcome the new Gentile believers into the church.
- Session 4: The weather report is being written for the upcoming week's paper. One of the reporters comments on how early the sun is starting to rise each morning. Tie this to the bright light that shone in Peter's prison cell when the angel appeared and how God rescued him from his enemies.
- Session 5: The cartoonist for the newspaper is brainstorming a new cartoon strip for the newspaper. The idea centers around a nose and an ear that get into all sorts of conundrums because they don't have the rest of their bodies. Connect this to Paul's letter on the importance of unity in the church.



## VOLUME 11 SUGGESTED THEMES

### **Unit 33: The Church Goes**

Who can be saved? Anyone who trusts in Jesus can be forgiven of their sins and be right with God.

**Science Museum:** This unit focuses on the transformation that Jesus can bring in a person's life. A science museum shows the transformation God built into the physical world, such as the lifecycle of a butterfly or chemical reactions. Decorate for this unit using lab coats, objects like a Newton's Cradle, beakers, and test tubes.

- Session 1: The first exhibit that the kids will visit is the butterfly garden. Discuss how a caterpillar goes into a chrysalis and then transforms into a butterfly. Connect this change to the complete life transformation that Jesus brought about in Saul when he met Jesus on the road to Damascus.
- Session 2: This week we will witness an experiment! You can either perform a simple experiment during worship, such as a baking soda and vinegar volcano, or look up a video of an experiment on the internet and show that. Discuss the change that took place. Explain that we can do lots of different amazing acts, but only God can perform miracles. Tie this to the people of Lystra thinking that Paul and Barnabas were gods, but the truth was that God was performing a miracle through them.
- Session 3: Today, the kids will be experiencing the change that a kaleidoscope brings to our vision. Show the kaleidoscope and allow a few kids to look through it and describe what they see. Connect this to how Paul wrote that once we follow Jesus, we see the world differently.