



## VOLUME 1 SUGGESTED THEMES

### **Unit 1: God Rules Over Creation**

**Theme Idea:** Archaeological Dig: This unit explores the beginning of the Bible and discusses God, humanity, and the problem of sin. God gives us the ability to study and learn from the past so we can move forward with wisdom. Decorate for this theme using shovels, hard hats, sifters, brushes, large pieces of butcher paper shaped like rocks, and small flags to mark the area around the dig site.

- Session 1: Two archaeologists are trying to decide where to begin their dig. They are looking for an ancient city so they can learn more about that culture. They discuss the different ways things people leave behind can give clues about how they lived. Connect this to the truth that we can learn about how God created the world through reading the Bible.
- Session 2: The archaeologists encounter a problem at the dig site: there is trash everywhere! They have to clean up the trash before they are able to begin the real work of discovery. Tie this into the idea that sin gets in the way of us living the life God created us to live.
- Session 3: The archaeologists have uncovered a house from the ancient city! They find artifacts such as bowls, utensils, and toys that show them what life was like for families long ago. Connect this to the theme for today's session about the first family and how they experienced the effects of sin.
- Session 4: The archaeologists uncover parts of an ancient boat and oars at the dig site. They discuss the different uses for boats in the ancient world. Tie this to God calling Noah to build the ark with the purpose of preserving Noah's life.
- Session 5: The archaeologists are wrapping up their excavation. They have found several bricks laying around the area, and they discuss how the original building didn't last. Connect this to how the tower of Babel was left unfinished because God put a stop to the work.



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### Unit 2: God Made a Promise

**Theme Idea:** Greenhouse: This unit explores themes of God's promises and His invitation for people to participate in the world He has created. God cultivates things like faith, trust, obedience, and confidence in us as we follow Him. Greenhouses are used to cultivate seedlings into healthy plants. Decorate for this theme using potted plants, gardening tools, an apron, and bags of potting soil.

- Session 1: The gardeners have been growing a plant in the greenhouse, and now it's time to transplant it outside. The plant is healthy, and they are excited for it to thrive in its native environment. Connect this to how God called Abraham out of his homeland and into a new place, and Abraham's obedience to that call.
- Session 2: The greenhouse workers are discussing different plants and marveling at the way God created plants to bear seeds that turn into more plants. Tie this to the promise that God made to Abraham that he would have more descendants than he could count.
- Session 3: It's time to prune some of the plants in the greenhouse. This might seem like it's destroying the plant, but actually, pruning allows the healthy parts of the plant to grow. Tie this to how God called Abraham to do something incredibly difficult, but it led to his faith growing.
- Session 4: One of the plants in the greenhouse needs to be repotted because it has outgrown the container it's in. The gardeners give it more soil and nutrients so it can continue to grow. Connect this to the truth that God kept His promise to Abraham by allowing him to find a wife for Isaac. The covenant God made with Abraham would continue to grow through Isaac's family.



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### Unit 3: God is in Control

**Theme Idea:** Space Shuttle Mission Control: In this unit, we dive into God's control over creation. Decorate for this theme by creating a rocket out of cardboard boxes, cutting out stars and planets to hang on the wall, and setting up a table with construction paper cutouts of knobs and dials.

- Session 1: The team at mission control is gearing up for the next space mission and there is a lot to do. Each team member has a different, yet important, job to do to make the mission a success. They each report to the director, who is in charge. Tie this to the truth that God is in control over all things, and He gives each of us a different role to play in the story He is telling.
- Session 2: There are a few snags along the way as the team prepares for the space launch. One of the astronauts isn't feeling well, and one of the engines on the rocket needs repairs. They know the obstacles are worth overcoming because the mission will allow them to learn more about space. Connect this to the theme of commitment, and how knowing the end is worth it helps us push through the hard times.
- Session 3: The team packs food for the astronauts to eat in space. They discuss their own favorite foods and whether or not it would be possible to eat them in zero gravity. Connect this to the idea that food is an important part of our survival and Joseph was able to serve his family and the Egyptians by providing food for them during the famine.
- Session 4: Launch day has arrived! As the team at Mission Control hears about the space exploration, they are amazed at the vastness of God's creation. They realize that God is so much bigger than everything in the universe. Connect this to the truth that we can trust God because He is in control.