



VOLUME 3 SUGGESTED THEMES

Unit 7: God Is Powerful

Why can we trust God? We can trust God because He is faithful and does everything for His glory and our good.

Theme Idea: Forest Ranger Station: In this unit, kids will discover how God demonstrated His power through Joshua. We will use the theme of a park ranger station to help kids understand the importance of godly leadership. Decorate for this theme with fake trees, houseplants, a trail sign, hiking boots, a walking stick, and other nature-related items.

- Session 1: Two park rangers set out rocks, fossils, and other items they found on a recent hike. They discuss all the fun they had with the group they led. Tie this to the idea of using physical items to help you remember something from the past, like the 12 stones from the riverbed.
- Session 2: The park rangers carry in a large branch and explain that a huge tree fell down in a storm last night. They are amazed that such an old, heavy tree could fall over after growing for so long. Relate this to how God brought down the walls of Jericho.
- Session 3: The park rangers are getting ready to lead a group on a hike. They warn of the dangers on the trail such as animals, tree roots, and water. Connect this to how God calls us to obey Him as He guides us where we should go in life.
- Session 4: The group is going on a night hike. It's dark and they're not using flashlights. The rangers tell the group to follow closely, because they know the route. Tie this to how God fought for Israel and led them to victory.
- Session 5: The rangers are planning a going away party for one of the other rangers. They talk about how thankful they are for such a dedicated team who works to keep the park and everyone in it safe. Connect this to how Joshua says goodbye to the Israelites after years of faithful leadership.



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Unit 8: God Is Gracious

What is repentance? Repentance is turning away from sin and turning to Jesus.

Theme Idea: Art Studio: This unit focuses on the patterns of sin the Israelites struggled with throughout their early years in the promised land. Use the theme of an art studio to tie in the idea that God uses even our sin to bring about His glory. Decorate for this theme with an easel, paints, brushes, an apron, and several canvases.

- Session 1: Two artists are at work in the studio, painting and drawing. They discuss and show examples of different patterns found in art. Tie this to the patterns of sin we will discover in the book of Judges.
- Session 2: The artists talk about their confidence in their painting ability because they have worked at it and practiced for so long. They agree that anything worth doing is worth working hard on. Connect this to the story of Deborah leading the people with confidence and determination, even when it was difficult.
- Session 3: While cleaning their paint brushes, the artists talk about the painters they admire most. They discuss how sometimes the artists we most look up to don't look all that impressive on the outside, but within them is an amazing talent for art. Relate this to the concept that God uses weak people to achieve great things for His glory.
- Session 4: One of the artists is frustrated that he keeps making mistakes in his painting. The other artist offers encouragement, reminding him that even unintended brushstrokes can lead to something beautiful. Connect this to the truth that God uses even the ugliness of sin for His glory.



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Unit 9: God Sees and Hears

How does God care for His creation? God loves and rules over His creation according to His perfect plan.

Theme Idea: Farm: In this unit we will explore God's faithfulness in the lives of Ruth, Hannah, and Samuel using the setting of a farm. Decorate for this theme using hay bales, stuffed farm animals, and watering cans.

- Session 1: Two farmers are working to bring in the grain harvest. They discuss how it's hard work, but necessary to provide for their families. Tie this to the story of Ruth gleaning in Boaz's field to provide for Naomi.
- Session 2: The farmers are working on a schedule for when to do certain jobs around the farm. They have a radio on the table and they talk about how important it is to listen to the weather forecasts as they make their plans. They need to know if it will be raining or sunny each day so they can plan properly. Connect this to the story of Samuel listening for God to speak to him. He had to pay attention so God could use him.
- Session 3: The farmers discuss how a neighboring farmer tried to take a short cut in harvesting her crops, but it ended up backfiring. Relate this to the story of God's people disobeying God and misusing the ark in battle. As a consequence of not trusting in God, the ark was captured.
- Session 4: The farmers are about to head back out to the fields to water their crops. They discuss how this is a job that needs to be done every day or the plants will suffer. Connect this to the truth that repentance and confession are actions we must do on a regular basis to help us grow closer to God.