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EARLY CHILDHOOD LEADER GUIDE—UNIT 2

**Flexible curriculum that nurtures
lifelong disciples of Jesus**

Enduring Faith Bible Curriculum can be used during Sunday School, midweek programs, small groups, and homeschool—*any time, any day* your congregation meets weekly. With several age levels, the curriculum supports your church's members at whatever stage of life they are to sustain faith that endures for a lifetime.

LESSON	LESSON TITLE / TEXT
1	A Divided Kingdom—Jeroboam and Rehoboam <i>1 Kings 11:9–13, 26–40; 12:1–24</i>
2	Comfort in Captivity—Jeremiah <i>Jeremiah 1:4–10; 29:1–14; 31:31–34; 33:14–16</i>
3	A Trap and a Release—Daniel <i>Daniel 6</i>
4	Homecoming Hopes—Return from Exile <i>Ezra 1:1–2; 7:11–28; Nehemiah 2:1–8; 12:27–43</i>
5	A Nativity Night—Jesus' Birth <i>Luke 2:1–20</i>
6	Wise Men Worship—Magi <i>Matthew 2</i>
7	Claimed and Tested—Jesus' Baptism and Temptation <i>Luke 3:15–22; 4:1–13</i>
8	Fishers Follow—Jesus Calls Disciples <i>Luke 5:1–11</i>
9	The Wine Sign—A Wedding at Cana <i>John 2:1–11</i>
10	Mountain Message—Jesus Preaches on the Mount <i>Matthew 6:25–34</i>
11	A Weather Wonder—Jesus Calms a Storm <i>Mark 4:35–41</i>
12	A Life Restored—Jairus's Daughter <i>Mark 5:21–24, 35–43</i>
13	The Fish-and-Bread Sign—Jesus Feeds Five Thousand <i>John 6:1–15</i>
14	A Hearing Aide—Jesus Heals a Deaf Man <i>Mark 7:31–37</i>

ENDURING
FAITH™

Sunday School • Midweek
Bible Curriculum

EARLY CHILDHOOD LEADER GUIDE

Unit 2: God Redeems His People

Enduring Faith™

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Series Editor: Lisa M. Clark

Edited by Lorraine E. Groth

Illustrations by Linda Prater © Concordia Publishing House

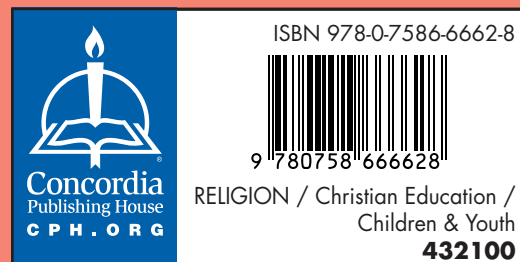
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Email us at sundayschool@cph.org.

Manufactured in the United States of America



TIMELINE B

First Greek city-states established
900 BC

Iron Age societies develop
in Germany and Austria

800 BC
First recorded Olympic games
in Greece
776 BC

Celts begin to settle in Ireland
500 BC

Work begins on
Great Wall of China
220 BC

Han Dynasty restored in China
AD 23

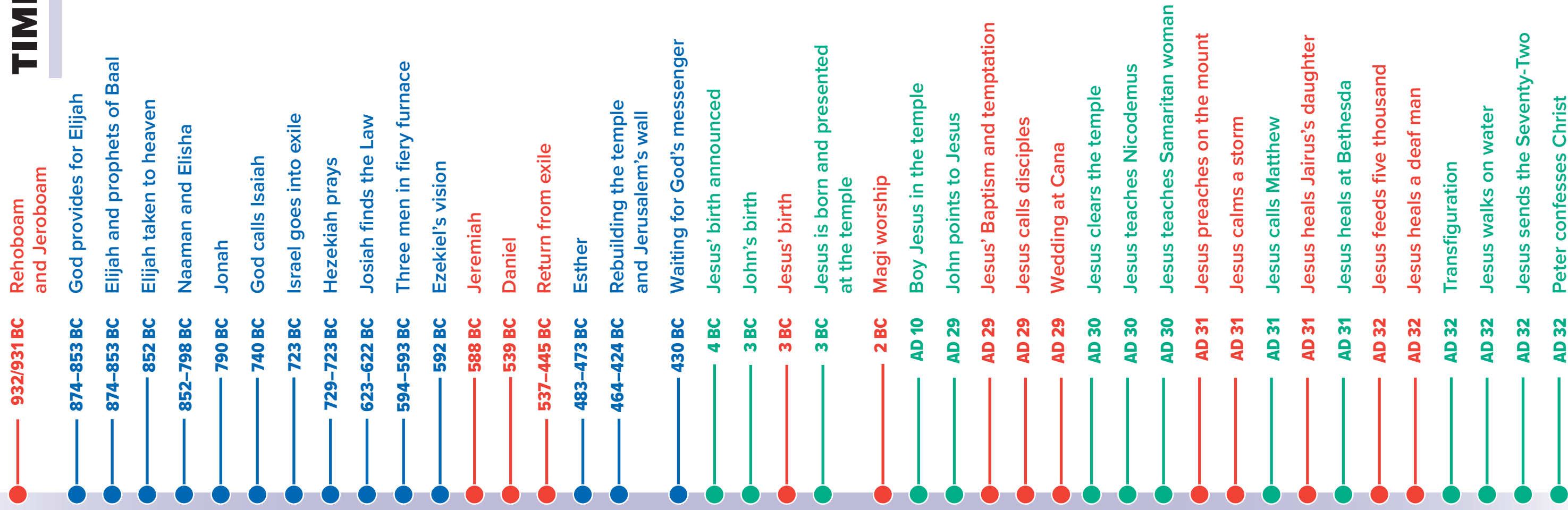
KEY

Bible Survey

**Old Testament
Exploration**

**New Testament
Exploration**

World History



ADDITIONAL LEADER HELPS

MAKE YOUR OWN LIBRARY OF CPH RESOURCES

Throughout the teacher-preparation sections, we have pointed to some key resources that would be helpful to you as you prepare your lessons. You will also benefit from having some early childhood songbooks and books of finger plays.

The Lutheran Study Bible (CPH, 2009), also referred to as *TLSB*

Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation (CPH, 2017)

Complete Bible Discovery Guide (CPH, 2012)

Concordia's Complete Bible Handbook, second edition (CPH, 2013)

Know the Bible Now (CPH, 2016)

Little Ones Sing Praise (CPH, 1989)

Sing & Wonder (CPH, 2015)

ONLINE RESOURCES

Go to the online digital resource center for the Planning Guide, Pastor Guide, Unit Planner, Leader Devotions, and Lesson Openings. Ask your coordinator for access to the online digital resource center to get these materials.

MUSIC

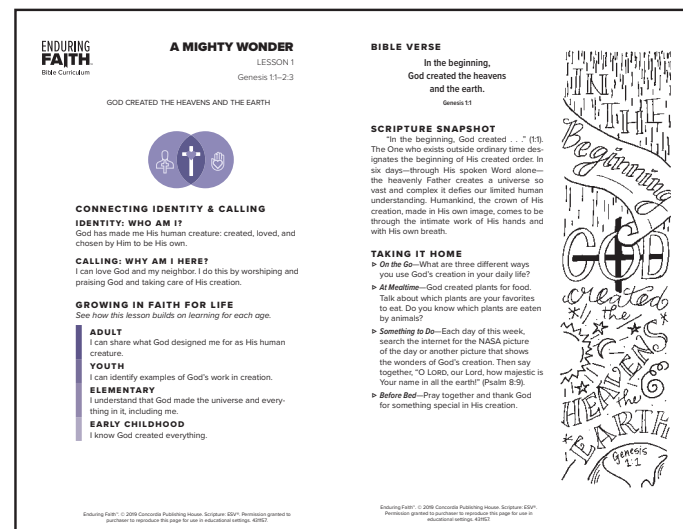
Download music audio files from the online digital resource center. Songs are frequently repeated so children can learn them better. Young children love repetition anyway! If you aren't comfortable teaching children to sing a song, play the music in the background as students enter your classroom or work on projects during the lesson or at the end of class. Together with children, sing along and enjoy God's Word in song. Consider giving children rhythm instruments or chiffon scarves to use as they sing.

ENDURING FAITH PAGES

Enduring Faith Pages are reproducible take-home resources that summarize each Bible lesson and provide suggestions for "taking home" Bible truths from the lesson. Each page also has an illustrated version of the day's Bible Verse, perfect for coloring. Find these materials in the online digital resource center and download them for copying.

MAKE THIS YOUR OWN

We recognize that no two classrooms are the same. We hope, however, that we have provided you with a framework of options to share the unchanging Word of God in creative and flexible ways. Choose from the options in the road map of this Leader Guide to make the lessons work best for the children in your setting. Know that we at Concordia Publishing House are praying for you as you do the important work of sharing the precious love of Jesus with His children.



ENDURING FAITH BIBLE CURRICULUM

OVERVIEW

The Enduring Faith Bible Curriculum features a Christ-centered, three-year chronological survey of Bible history with uniform outlines across all levels. The materials have been designed to help you teach the Christian faith in age-appropriate ways, with the goal of helping your students grow deeper in their understanding of God's Word.

- Year 1 is an overview of the Bible and its major themes, tracing God's plan of salvation from Genesis to Revelation.
- Year 2 looks at the Old Testament in depth.
- Year 3 looks at the New Testament in depth.
- There are fourteen lessons per unit, including a seasonal lesson that fits within the biblical chronology of the unit. Churches may choose to teach the lessons in order, or they may pull out the seasonal lesson for use on that particular holiday.
- There are four overlapping levels, plus materials for a one-room classroom. Here is a handy chart that shows the focus of the levels and how they connect:

Level	Age Range	Objective	Summary Word
Early Childhood	Preschool through Grade 1, nonreaders	Discover the Account	Know
Elementary	Grades 1 through 6	Explore the Context	Grow
Youth	Grades 6 through 12	Defend the Faith	Go
Adult	Grade 11 through adult	Equipped to Teach	Show
One-Room Classroom	Preschool through Grade 6		

FEATURES OF THE STUDENT MATERIALS FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD

Discover Leaflet—You will need a set of leaflets per learner and teacher. Send the parent leaflet in the set home the first week.

Page 1

- Bible stories are told in age-appropriate ways, with storytelling suggestions and an open-ended "I wonder" question to engage children in the story.
- Colorful, child-friendly Bible art illustrates the lesson narrative.
- A note to parents also provides a prayer and Bible Verse that parents can say with their child.
- Each lesson page is perforated so page 1 can be separated from page 2 and made into a Bible story book at home.

Page 2

- Two in-class activities are provided on each leaflet: one to review the Bible story to help young children "know" it and one to apply the story to children's lives today.

Sticker Pages—You will need a set of stickers per learner.

- Colorful stickers can be used for leaflet and craft activities.
- Stickers are perforated into grids by lesson for easy separation.

HOW TO USE THE LEADER GUIDE

OVERVIEW

This section lets you see the biblical foundation of each lesson at a glance. All levels share the same Bible Truth, Bible Verse, Law & Gospel, and Scripture Snapshot, allowing families to learn together. The Learner Goal is unique to each level.

ACTIVE LEARNING

Move gets children moving through games and action rhymes. Children need to use their large muscles to process information. These activities allow for that.

Snack provides themed ideas for snacks.

Create gives arts and crafts suggestions that use locally provided materials and stickers from the Sticker Pages. As children make their crafts, reinforce the Learner Goal.

Do not feel like you have to do all these activities. Pick those that work best for your time and class.

BONUS ACTIVITIES

Look here to find a variety of creative ways to complement, add to, or extend the lesson.

PAGE 1 LEADER GUIDE

ENDURING FAITH
Sunday School • Midweek Bible Curriculum

A MIGHTY WONDER
Creation Genesis 1:1-2:3 Beginning of time

OVERVIEW
BIBLE TRUTH God created the heavens and the earth.
BIBLE VERSE In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. Genesis 1:1
LEARNER GOAL I know God created everything.
LAW & GOSPEL We forget or even refuse to believe that God is our Creator and the giver of all good things. God gives us faith to believe that He created the heavens and the earth and that He continues to provide us with all good things, especially life and salvation through His Son, Jesus Christ.
SCRIPTURE SNAPSHOT "In the beginning, God created..." (1:1). The One who exists outside ordinary time designates the beginning of His created order. In six days—through His spoken Word alone—the heavenly Father creates a universe so vast and complex it defies our limited human understanding. Humankind, the crown of His creation, made in His own image, comes to be through the intimate work of His hands and with His own breath.

LESSON PREP
BASIC Read Genesis 1:1–2:3 and notes in *The Lutheran Study Bible*.
MORE TIME Read "The Beginning," "Genesis," and "God Creates the World" on pages 8–13 of *Know the Bible Now*.
IN DEPTH Review the section "The First Article (Part 1)" in *Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation* (2017).

SUPPLY LIST
FOR THIS LESSON
 Nature items & bag
 Plastic animals, tub & rice
 Blocks, chocolate chips, art supplies & story bag
 Ball
 Animal pictures
 Fruit & skewers
 Lunch bags, yarn or pipe cleaners & hole punch
 Praise wavers
FOR EVERY LESSON
 Bible, songbook & classroom supplies
 Copies of *Discover Leaflet*, stickers & music downloads
 Supplies for bonus activities

PAGE 4 LEADER GUIDE

ACTIVE LEARNING
MOVE Show pictures of animals (e.g., a fish, bird, dog, elephant). Have the children act out animal sounds or behaviors—mar like a lion, move hands like a fish, hop or chirp like a bird, swing arm in front of face for an elephant, and the like.
After each pantomime, say, **God made the [lion], and God made it good. God made everything! We praise You, God!** Talk about how God wants us to care for the animals and the world He made and ways we can do this. Also talk about times we might not be kind or caring (e.g., we don't care for our pet). Assure children of Jesus' forgiveness and help to do better.
SNACK Make fruit kebabs. Thread six to seven pieces of fruit on each skewer. Use three colors (e.g., banana slices, grape halves, and strawberries). Have children identify the colors and count the pieces of fruit. Talk about how God cares for us by giving us good things to eat. Ask, **What are other ways God cares for us?** (He gives us clothing, a home, etc.)
CREATE Give each child a paper lunch bag and a face sticker to put on the front of the bag to make a happy-face litter bag. Children can add flower and heart stickers and color designs on their bags. Punch a hole on each side of the bag near the top. Thread a piece of yarn or a pipe cleaner through one hole. Thread the opposite end through the other hole. Knot or twist ends in place. Talk about how God wants us to care for His creation. Encourage children to put pieces of trash in their bags to keep God's world clean. Talk about other things the children can do to care for God's world this week, such as watering plants or feeding pets.

CONNECTING IDENTITY & CALLING
IDENTITY: WHO AM I? God has made me His human creature: created, loved, and chosen by Him to be His own.
CALLING: WHY AM I HERE? I can love God and my neighbor. I do this by worshipping and praising God and taking care of His creation.

GROWING IN FAITH FOR LIFE
See how this lesson builds on learning for each age.
ADULT I can share what God designed me for as His human creature.
YOUTH I can identify examples of God's work in creation.
ELEMENTARY I understand that God made the universe and everything in it, including me.
EARLY CHILDHOOD I know God created everything.

BONUS ACTIVITIES
-sort and count 15 minutes
Bring leaves, or go outside to gather leaves. Set out construction paper in "leaf" colors (green, yellow, red, orange, brown), and have the children sort leaves. If they are all green, sort them by size or texture. Ask, **Who made the leaves? What else did God make? Say, God made everything! God made it good.**
counting game 10 minutes
Roll a die, and have children choose an action (e.g., if a child rolls a 5, children hop five times; if a child rolls a 3, children take three giant steps).
bird feeder 10 minutes
Thread O-shaped cereal and blueberries (or two types of cereal) onto a pipe cleaner. Twist ends together, and thread with yarn for hanging. As the children work, talk about how God wants us to care for His creation. This activity also gives young children practice in fine motor skills.

LESSON PREP

Use these suggestions for your own Bible study as you prepare to teach this lesson.

BASIC Begin here—read the full Bible text.

MORE TIME Read a devotion or additional article.

IN DEPTH Gain a deeper understanding of the Bible story and its context.

SUPPLY LIST

FOR THIS LESSON

Choose the lesson activities you wish to do, and put a check in the box so you know the supplies you'll need to gather.

FOR EVERY LESSON

Use this checklist as a reminder of items that you need on hand for every lesson.

CONNECTING IDENTITY & CALLING

This section speaks to the universal questions of "Who am I?" and "What is my purpose in life?" from a biblical, Christ-centered viewpoint.

GROWING IN FAITH FOR LIFE

See how the level-specific Learner Goals articulate each lesson's Bible Truth in a developmentally appropriate way.

PAGE 2 LEADER GUIDE

LAUNCH
BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS Greet children at eye level, and tell them where to put their offerings. Help children get to know one another as they work on an activity that connects what they know to what they will learn in the lesson. If class time is short, omit these and start with Jesus Time.
SENSORY Place items in a bag that children can touch (e.g., a pine cone, feather, leaf, flower, carrot, orange, banana, acorn, faux fur). Tell children to reach into the bag and try to guess what one thing is by feeling it. Take the item out of the bag. Ask, **What is it? God made the [banana].** Repeat with the other items. Today you'll hear how God made everything!
JESUS TIME SING "We Are in God's House Today" (digital resource center) or "Happy Now 'We Gather'" (*Little Ones Sing Praise*, p. 9)
SAY Who has gone to a zoo or farm? What animals did you see? What is your favorite animal? Today you'll learn God made the animals. God made everything!
PRAY Dear God, help us use our ears* to listen* and to learn* that You made everything. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.
*At the asterisks, have children echo and respond to God.

LEARN
INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY Put items you use to make things (e.g., blocks, chocolate chips, and art supplies) in a story bag. Say, **Hi, friends! I'm glad to see you here today. I wonder... do you like to make things? What do you like to make?** Tell children you have things in your story bag that we use to make something. Take items out, one at a time, and talk about what you could make (a building, cookies, a picture or craft). It's fun to make things, isn't it? Today you will hear how God made the whole world! When we make things, we start with something, like blocks or baking supplies or paper and markers. But when God made the world, He started with nothing! Let's listen and find out how God made everything!
TELL THE BIBLE STORY Tell the Bible story in your own words, using the *Discover Leaflet* as a guide. Use the questions on the leaflet to review.
SAY THE BIBLE VERSE Read the Bible Verse from Genesis 1:1. Have the children echo the words after you at each asterisk: **In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.*** Have children sit in a circle. Say the Bible Verse together as you roll a ball to a child. Say, **In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. Ask a child to suggest something God made as you say, God made (a lion), and God made it good. We praise You, God!** Roll ball to next child. Repeat phrase with new animal.

BONUS ACTIVITY Try "Sort and Count."

LAUNCH

Building Relationships helps children transition into the classroom, create friendships with classmates, and build readiness for what they will learn in the lesson. Do one or both learning activities, or feel free to start with Jesus Time when everyone has arrived.

Jesus Time provides a short order of worship with song suggestions and a prayer.

LEARN

Introduce the Bible Story uses props or gives suggestions for Buddy puppet talks to engage children's interest as you introduce the story theme.

Tell the Bible Story uses the first page of the *Discover Leaflet* as a guide for storytelling and often includes suggestions for involving the children in a creative way. Check for understanding by using the questions on the leaflet or other suggestions in the lesson.

Say the Bible Verse provides activities and suggestions for helping young children learn the words and meaning. Remember to show your Bible and read the words from it so children associate that the words are from God's true Word, the Bible.

SIDEBARS

Notes in the sidebars provide options to help you individualize the lesson to fit your group.

Leader Notes give options and helps.

Christ Connection shows how Jesus is central to every lesson.

Bonus Activity suggestions give you options for adding to or extending the lesson.

LIVE

Discover Lesson Truths uses the second page of the *Discover Leaflet*, which provides two activities. The Bible story activity provides an opportunity to review the story so children will learn and "know" it. The other activity applies what was taught in God's Word to children's lives today.

Engage in Active Learning provides hands-on, active ways for children to apply the lesson truths through games, action rhymes, snacks, and crafts. Ideas are listed here and fleshed out on the back page of the Leader Guide.

Check for Understanding helps you gauge what children are learning.

LEAVE

Wrap up the lesson with a closing song and prayer. Review the Learner Goal to remind children of what they learned in the lesson.

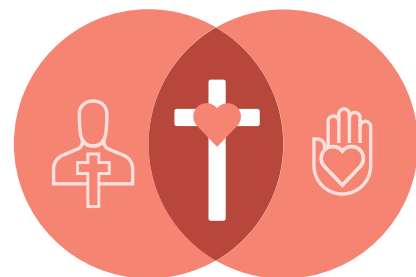
PAGE 3 LEADER GUIDE

LIVE
DISCOVER LESSON TRUTHS Separate each *Discover Leaflet* into two pages. Use a three-hole punch to make holes along the left side of the first page. Send the page home with each child, or put it into a binder you have purchased for each child. Send this note home with the page.
Dear Grow-Ups: Each week, your child will bring home a page with the Bible story on it. Put these Bible story pages in a binder to make a Bible storybook for your child's Bible study. Hand out the second page, stickers, and crayons.
SIDE 1 Connect the dots and color the tree. Count the apples with the children. Review how God made the world.
SIDE 2 Talk about how God gives all of us the job of taking care of His world. Give children stickers to show ways they can do this too. Reassure children that even when we fail to take care of His creation, God forgives our sins for Jesus' sake.

ENGAGE IN ACTIVE LEARNING Take time to reinforce lesson truths with one or more of these active learning options. Don't feel like you have to do them all, but choose the ones that work best for you and the children you teach. Turn to "Active Learning" on the back page for instructions to do the activities below.
MOVE Using animal pictures as prompts, have children act out animal movements or sounds.
SNACK Make fruit kebabs to talk about God's care. Sing "Thank You for the World So Sweet" (*Little Ones Sing Praise*, p. 17) for your snack-time prayer.
CREATE Help children make a happy-face litter bag to use in caring for God's creation.

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING Review the Learner Goal, and check for understanding by asking children to tell how God cares for them and ways they can care for His world. Assure them of Jesus' love and forgiveness for the times they fail to do this.

LEAVE
SING "God Made Them All" (digital resource center) or "God's a Father Kind and True" (*Little Ones Sing Praise*, p. 30)
Give the children colorful praise wavers to wave as they sing.
SAY Today we learned God made everything. God made us, too, and cares for us. He gives us the job of taking care of His world.
PRAY Dear Father in heaven, thank You for the beautiful world You made. Help us to take care of it. Thank You for sending Jesus to be our Savior and forgiving us when we don't take care of Your world as You want. Amen.



CONNECTING IDENTITY & CALLING

IDENTITY: WHO AM I?

God has included me in His kingdom; He is my faithful King who forgives my unfaithfulness.

CALLING: WHY AM I HERE?

I am called to be faithful to God's Word and to share its truth with others, trusting in God's promise to be faithful and to use me in His kingdom.

GROWING IN FAITH FOR LIFE

See how this lesson builds on learning for each age.

ADULT

I can explain how God remained faithful to His promises to His people despite their great sins.

YOUTH

I can share how God is faithful and continues to love us, even when we make wrong choices.

ELEMENTARY

I understand that God always loves us, even when we do the wrong thing.

EARLY CHILDHOOD

I know God loves and forgives me.

ACTIVE LEARNING

MOVE

Split the children into two groups. Have them line up, hand in hand, starting at a designated spot. Ask them to reach to a wall or other place that is not possible to reach. Then join the two groups together and ask them to reach to the same spot, which now should be within reach. Say, **Things are usually easier when we work together. When the kingdom split into two groups, things were not as good. Through Jesus, we are part of God's kingdom. We can work together to help others and tell them about Jesus. God wants everyone to be in His kingdom!** Have children think of ways to do this.

SNACK

Pass out yellow cheese slices, dry cereal, and candies. Use a plastic knife to cut a crown shape, and invite the children to decorate their crown before eating it. Say, **The Bible says that we will have the crown of life. What did Jesus, our King, do to give us this crown?**

CREATE

Find a crown pattern online or draw a crown freehand on poster board or a foam sheet. Sides need to extend so crown will be 18 inches or more to fit head. Use as a template to cut out a crown for each child. Wrap the crown around each child's head, and draw a line to mark the overlap. Mark an X on the overlap so the child does not decorate a part that will be hidden. Give children stickers, plastic gems, or other embellishments to decorate crowns. Fasten them with paper clips, staples, or tape.

A DIVIDED KINGDOM

Jeroboam and Rehoboam
1 Kings 11:9–13,
26–40; 12:1–24
932 and 931 BC

OVERVIEW

BIBLE TRUTH

God is faithful, even when we are not.

BIBLE VERSE

[Nothing] will be able to separate us from the love of God. Romans 8:39

LEARNER GOAL

I know God loves and forgives me.

LAW & GOSPEL

Influenced by the sinful ways of the world, we turn away from God and fail to follow His commandments.

God remains faithful to His people, showing His love and care for us through His Son, Jesus.

SCRIPTURE SNAPSHOT

Through the prophet Ahijah, Jeroboam learns he will lead ten tribes of a divided kingdom. Rehoboam, Solomon's heir, ignores the pleas of the people to lighten their load; instead, he threatens to make their workload even more difficult.

Angered by his response, the ten tribes of Israel separate, making Jeroboam their leader, leaving Rehoboam to lead the tribes of Judah and Benjamin from Jerusalem. Jeroboam places golden calves in Bethel and Dan, telling the people they no longer need to go to Jerusalem to worship. The kingdom of David was divided, never to be brought together again in the same way. Believers of all ages now look to the Son of David to bring all nations together into His kingdom.

LESSON PREP

BASIC Read 1 Kings 11:9–13, 26–40; 12:1–24 and notes in *The Lutheran Study Bible*.

MORE TIME Read the leader devotion, found in the digital resource center.

IN DEPTH Read the article “Kings and Prophets of Judah and Israel” on page 529 of *The Lutheran Study Bible*.

SUPPLY LIST

FOR THIS LESSON

- Gems or smooth rocks; small trays or egg cartons
- Building blocks or paper cups & tray
- Yellow cheese slices, dry cereal, candies, plastic knife & napkins
- Foam sheets or poster board (18 inches long or more), stickers, art supplies & paper clips, stapler, or strong tape (e.g., packaging tape)

FOR EVERY LESSON

- Bible, songbook & classroom supplies
- Copies of *Discover Leaflet*, stickers & music downloads
- Supplies for bonus activities

BONUS ACTIVITIES

SPLIT UP

5–10 minutes

As you tell the story, divide the children into two groups and have them sit apart from one another. To emphasize your point, move farther away from the children than usual. Do not have the leaflets handy except for the one you are holding.

After a time, ask if this is working well. Most likely, children cannot see or hear well. Bring everyone together. Talk about how good it is to hear God's Word together. End by saying that the two kingdoms didn't hear God's Word together anymore and that was sad. But God was still at work. He sent Jesus to be born from the small kingdom.

COOKIE KINGDOM

10 minutes

Leave a pan of brownies or a cookie cake undecorated except for a small cross in one corner. Cut a small piece around the cross. Ask children if they would rather have the big, plain piece or the small, decorated piece. Explain that Jeroboam's kingdom was much larger, but it didn't have God's church, the temple. Rehoboam's kingdom was small, but it had the temple, so his people could worship God there. Jesus, the King of kings, would also come from this kingdom. Divide the treat into equal pieces. Use gel frosting to add a cross to each piece to show we are children of King Jesus.

GOOD IDEA/BAD IDEA

10–15 minutes

Give examples of good advice or bad advice. Ask children to stand for a good idea and sit for a bad idea. Examples can include brushing teeth, sleeping on eggs, washing hair with applesauce, stealing a toy, and praying for others. Some can be silly while others should be more serious.

Talk about how we sometimes hear bad ideas in the world. Sometimes we have bad ideas, especially when we sin. God always has good ideas. His best idea was sending Jesus to save us. We can trust God's ideas.

LAUNCH

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

TACTILE Set out smooth rocks or craft gemstones. Ask children to arrange the stones in the shape of a crown. Say, **Today you'll hear about two kings. You'll also learn that God, the King of everything, loves and forgives you.**

COOPERATIVE PLAY Set out building blocks or paper cups. Have children make a castle together. Say, **You worked together to make a big castle. Many years ago, kings lived in castles or palaces. They ruled over a kingdom. Today we'll hear how a kingdom split into two parts with two kings because the people didn't work together and get along.**

JESUS TIME

SING "Our Church Family" (digital resource center) or "Father, Hear My Prayer" (*Sing & Wonder*, p. 47)

SAY **God's people were together in one kingdom. But things didn't stay that way. Today we'll find out what happened when a kingdom broke in two pieces because the people didn't listen to God.**

PRAY **Dear God,* we are glad* You are our King!* Help us learn* about Your love,* especially how You forgive us* through Jesus* and always lead us.* Amen.***
*At the asterisks, have children echo the phrase to God.

LEARN

INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

Set up a castle using paper cups or building blocks. Do this ahead of time, storing it off to the side on a tray. Then, try to "divide" the castle in two. Some blocks will fall. Ask, **Do you ever build castles? When you make a building or castle, it's not easy to divide it in half. Things fall apart. It's sad when our castles fall down. God gave His people a special land and a special kingdom. But the people broke the kingdom apart because they didn't get along. It was a big mess! God was angry because no one was listening to Him. Because of sin, the kingdom God made for His people broke. Let's find out what happened.**

TELL THE BIBLE STORY

Tell the Bible story in your own words, using the *Discover Leaflet* as a guide. Set up your cups or blocks again. Divide them into a large pile and a small pile when you tell about the kingdom dividing. Tell them the small pile was Rehoboam's kingdom and the large pile was Jeroboam's. Follow the directions on the leaflet to make two paper-plate faces representing the two kings. Use the questions on the leaflet to review.

SAY THE BIBLE VERSE

Read the verse from Romans 8:39 in your Bible; have children say and do the actions with you. Tell them *separate* means "to divide or take apart." Because God sent Jesus to be our Savior, we know that He loves and forgives us: We are never apart from God's love.

[Nothing] will	Cross arms and shake head.
be able to separate	Sweep arms apart.
us from	Point to self.
the love of God.	Hug self.

LIVE

DISCOVER LESSON TRUTHS

Separate each *Discover Leaflet* into two pages. Use a three-hole punch to make holes along the left side of the first page. Put it into a binder you have purchased for each child, or send the page home with each child with this reminder:

Dear Grown-Ups: Each week, your child will bring home a page with the Bible story on it. Make a Bible story book by putting this page in a three-ring binder.

Hand out the second page, stickers, and crayons.

SIDE 1 Have children color Jeroboam's clothes a royal purple. Place a crown sticker on Jeroboam's head. Now there are two kings, and no one is happy. Ask children to draw frowns on the faces.

Talk about how we all want our way sometimes. We don't want what God wants. We sin. But God saved us by sending Jesus to take our punishment. Jesus is the King of kings. In Jesus, God loves us and forgives us.

SIDE 2 Say, **How do we try to get our way? What is God's way? Let's look at some pictures of children.**

Have children place a happy-face sticker when children are thinking of God's way. Have children place a sad-face sticker when children are thinking of their own way. Say, **Jesus is the King of all. He died and rose again because He loves us. In Jesus, we are forgiven. God helps us listen to His way.**

Have children place a heart-and-crown sticker on every box, reminding them of Jesus, our loving King.

ENGAGE IN ACTIVE LEARNING IDEAS

Reinforce the Learner Goal with one or more of these active learning options. Turn to "Active Learning" on the back page for instructions for the activities below.

MOVE

Show how important it is to work together.

SNACK

Decorate a cheese crown for a treat.

CREATE

Make royal crowns to wear.

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

Are the children beginning to grasp the concept of sin and their need for forgiveness through Jesus? As a check for understanding, ask children to give an example of a time when they did something wrong instead of doing what God says in His Word. Then ask them to tell how they know God loves and forgives them. If they cannot tell, remind them, **God loves and forgives us through Jesus.** Think about how you can make this clearer in future lessons.

LEAVE

SING "I'm in God's Family!" (digital resource center) or "Baptism Song" (*Little Ones Sing Praise*, p. 97)

SAY **God loves us! Sometimes we fight or don't get along. But God helps us to be sorry. He promises to forgive us through Jesus, our King of kings. All believers are part of one big kingdom that belongs to God.**

PRAY **Dear God, thank You for loving and forgiving us in Jesus. Amen.**



CHRIST CONNECTION

God loves and forgives us. He used the smaller kingdom to provide Jesus, the King of kings, for all people. In Jesus, we are forgiven for the times we want our own way.



BONUS ACTIVITY

Want a different snack idea? Use one that can be an object lesson by trying "Cookie Kingdom."



BONUS ACTIVITY

Use "Good Idea/Bad Idea."



LEADER NOTE

Greet children at eye level, and get them started in an activity that connects what they know to what they will learn.



LEADER NOTE

Small objects can make a mess! Minimize the risk by dividing the stones in small trays or egg cartons, one for each child. Giving a clear direction can also help children focus.



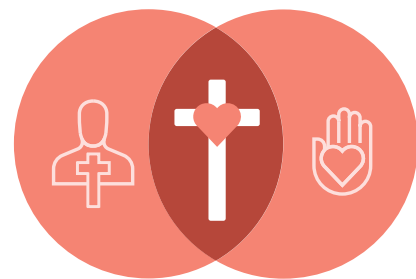
LEADER NOTE

As you tell the story, give children time to understand by pausing at important places and asking simple questions, such as, "I wonder how they felt?" or "Was this a good thing?"



BONUS ACTIVITY

Try "Split Up" to reinforce the lesson.



ACTIVE LEARNING

□ MOVE

Walk around your room, or go to church, to look for crosses (e.g., window panes, floor tiles, bricks, books, tree branches seen through the window, paraments, or banners). Take pictures on a device of all the crosses you find. Talk about how God promised to send Jesus to be our Savior. When we are sad, we can remember that God keeps all His promises. Discuss other promises.

□ SNACK

Use canned cheese to make happy and sad faces on round crackers. God's people were sad, but God's message to be with them and bring them home made them happy. Talk about how God keeps His promises to us.

□ CREATE

Children will need a paper plate, yarn, markers, sticker eyes, a tissue or small pack of tissues, and a craft stick. Provide handheld mirrors, cups of water, and salt. Ask the children about times they have troubles or have done something bad. How do they feel? (Sad) Have them show a sad face in the mirror, then draw a sad face on the plate. Use stickers for eyes. When God's people were sad, they cried. We do too. Let them add salt to the water and taste it. Say, **Tears taste salty. Dab some "tears" on your sad face. Now use the tissue to wipe away the tears.**

Talk about how God promises to be with us in sad times and help us. The best way He helps us is through Jesus. That makes us happy! Have children make a happy face in the mirror, then draw a happy face on the other side of the plate, using sticker eyes, and decorate the face. Attach a craft stick. Give each child a small pack of tissues with a cross drawn on it to take home with their faces.

CONNECTING IDENTITY & CALLING

IDENTITY: WHO AM I?

God has a plan for my life, and He keeps His promise to save me from my unfaithfulness.

CALLING: WHY AM I HERE?

I am placed in this time and place to serve the Lord and tell others of His faithfulness to us all. I can be sure that my future is secure in Jesus and that the Holy Spirit guides me to live according to God's will.

GROWING IN FAITH FOR LIFE

See how this lesson builds on learning for each age.

ADULT

I can connect God's faithfulness to His plans for His people in captivity to His plans for His Church today.

YOUTH

I can express the hope that I have because God is faithful and keeps His promises.

ELEMENTARY

I understand that God is faithful and keeps His promises.

EARLY CHILDHOOD

I know God keeps His promises.

BONUS ACTIVITIES

CROSSES

10 minutes

Provide blocks of Styrofoam (or clean meat trays), golf tees, and wooden spoons or mallets. Have children pound the golf tees into the Styrofoam in the shape of a cross. Talk about how we sin when we think and say and do wrong things. But God had a plan to save us. Long ago, He promised to send Jesus to die on the cross for us.

NAME CARDS

15 minutes

Cover table in newspaper. Print each child's name in big letters or trace around a hand on a piece of cardboard or heavy paper. Have children use a glue stick or paintbrush dipped in glue to trace over their name or around their hand, then sprinkle colored sand on the glue. Shake off excess. Say, **God made you and loves you. He knows you by name. He promised to send Jesus to be your Savior. He is with you even in troubles. He has special plans for you.** Say the Bible Verse.

PROMISE JARS

15 minutes

Use baby food jars, pocket crosses, water, oil, blue food coloring, and glitter. Fill each jar with water. Add a tablespoon of oil and two drops of food coloring. Put a small amount of glue on the metal threads inside the lid. Tightly screw the lid to the jar. Shake gently. Talk about troubles or "shake-ups" in our lives that make us think God is not there. Say, **But look closely and you will see the cross, which reminds us that God is with us and loves us. He keeps His promises through Jesus.**

COMFORT IN CAPTIVITY

Jeremiah
Jeremiah 1:4–10;
29:1–14; 31:31–34;
33:14–16
588 BC

OVERVIEW

BIBLE TRUTH

God is faithful, even in difficult times.

BIBLE VERSE

[God says,] "I know the plans I have for you." Jeremiah 29:11

LEARNER GOAL

I know God keeps His promises.

LAW & GOSPEL

Sin separates us from God and causes us to feel hopeless and without direction.

Jesus, David's righteous branch, came to restore our relationship with God, giving us a future and the hope of eternal life.

SCRIPTURE SNAPSHOT

When God calls Jeremiah to serve Him, God tells Jeremiah he was chosen as God's prophet even before he was formed in the womb. When Nebuchadnezzar takes the Israelites into exile in Babylon, Jeremiah writes to the exiles, assuring them of God's continuing care for them. Through Jeremiah, God promises a new covenant where all people will have the Law written on their hearts. God's people will live under an eternal covenant through Jesus—David's righteous branch.

LESSON PREP

BASIC Read Jeremiah 1:4–10; 29:1–14; 31:31–34; 33:14–16 and notes in *The Lutheran Study Bible*.

MORE TIME Read the introduction to the Book of Jeremiah on pages 1202–4 of *The Lutheran Study Bible*.

IN DEPTH Read the section on Jeremiah on pages 202–8 of *Concordia's Complete Bible Handbook* for background information on this book of the Bible.

SUPPLY LIST

FOR THIS LESSON

- Play dough, utensils & play dishes
- Cards & letter writing supplies
- Puppet
- Device to take photos
- Round crackers & pressurized cheese
- Disposable plates, yarn, tissues or small packages of tissues, handheld mirrors, craft sticks, salt & cups of water

FOR EVERY LESSON

- Bible, songbook & classroom supplies
- Copies of *Discover Leaflet*, stickers & music downloads
- Supplies for bonus activities

LAUNCH

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

PLAY DOUGH Set out play dough, utensils, and toy dishes. Encourage children to make food. Talk about things they like to eat. Ask if they help their parents get groceries or water plants. Say, **Today you'll hear how God's people lived far away from home. God's helper told them to plant gardens and build houses. God was with them. He would keep His promise to bring them home.**

EXPLORE Set out old cards, paper, envelopes, pens, and purchased stickers to use as stamps. Encourage children to scribe-write pretend letters or draw pictures. Talk about how we write letters or send cards to tell people what we are doing or to say we love them. Say, **In today's Bible story, God tells His helper to send a letter to His people who live far away from home to tell them He loves them.**

JESUS TIME

SING "Our Church Family" (digital resource center) or "Father, Hear My Prayer" (*Sing & Wonder*, p. 47)

SAY **Think about a time when your mom or dad left you in a new place or with someone you didn't know. How did you feel? Today you'll hear about how God's people were taken far from home. They were sad and anxious. But God had a plan to show them He loved them.**

PRAY **Dear God,* thank You* for the Bible,* where You tell us* You love us.* Thank You* for keeping Your promises,* especially Your promise* to send Jesus* to be our Savior.* Amen.*** *At the asterisks, have children echo the phrase to God.

LEARN

INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

Have your Buddy puppet tell how he misses his grandparents who live far away, but last night he got to video chat with them. He asks the children if they have talked to someone they love that way, and explain how it works if the children don't know. Buddy says how happy he was to hear and see them. He misses them so much! But they told him some happy news—they are coming to visit at Christmas! He says it will be hard to wait till then, but he can do it. He is going to draw them a picture and help his mom get their room ready while he waits. Tell Buddy you are happy he got to talk to them and hear how much they love him. Say, **In today's Bible story, some people live far away from home. They are sad and miss their home and family. God wants them to know He still loves them. He has a plan to bring them home. But God doesn't video chat with them. He gives them a message in a different way. Let's find out.**

TELL THE BIBLE STORY

Show your Bible, and tell the children that all the stories in God's Word are true. Tell the story, using the *Discover Leaflet* as a guide. Use the questions on the leaflet to review.

SAY THE BIBLE VERSE

Read the verse from Jeremiah 29:11 in your Bible, and tell the children that God's plans are always good. Then have children say and do the actions with you. Say together:

[God says,] Point up, then to mouth.
"I know the plans Point to head.
I have for you." Point to others.

LIVE

DISCOVER LESSON TRUTHS

Separate each *Discover Leaflet* into two pages. Send the first page home with the children, or store them in binders to send home at the end of the unit. Hand out the second page of the leaflets, stickers, and crayons.

SIDE 1 Have children color the scene of the people in Babylonia and add a heart sticker to Jeremiah's letter. Review how God wanted His people who had been captured to know He still loved them and had a plan to bring them home. Best of all, He promised to send Jesus to save us all.

SIDE 2 **God gave His people a message through Jeremiah. God gives us messages too. Where?** (In His Word) Read the directions on this side. Have children circle the crosses and put a child sticker by each scene that shows a child listening to God's Word. Talk about some of the promises God gives us in His Word, especially His message about Jesus.

ENGAGE IN ACTIVE LEARNING

Reinforce the Learner Goal with one or more of these active learning options. Turn to "Active Learning" on the back page for instructions for the activities below.

MOVE

Go for a walk to look for crosses. Take pictures on your device.

SNACK

Use pressurized cheese and round crackers to review story concepts and talk about times the children are happy and sad and how God keeps His promises for us too.

CREATE

Children will decorate plate faces and wipe away tears as a reminder that God is with us even in sad times and has a plan to help us. He keeps His promises.

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

Since the concept of *promise* is abstract, use it as often as you can so the children begin to understand what it means (e.g., I promise to give you a snack, I promise to let each of you take a picture of a cross on my device, I promise to let you choose a song to sing), and then be sure to keep your promises! Listen to the children's discussion to see if they understand the term.

As a check for understanding, ask children to tell a promise God keeps for them. Conclude by reminding them, **God keeps His promises.**

LEAVE

SING "Jesus Loves Me, This I Know" (*Little Ones Sing Praise*, p. 42) or "I'm in God's Family!" (digital resource center)

SAY **God keeps His promises! We can trust Him to do what He says He will do.**

PRAY **Dear God, thank You for giving us Your message in the Bible. Thank You for keeping Your promise to send Jesus to be our Savior. Amen.**



CHRIST CONNECTION

God keeps all of His promises, especially His promise to send Jesus to save us from sin.



BONUS ACTIVITY

Make "Promise Jars."



LEADER NOTE

Greet children at eye level, and get them started in an activity that connects what they know to what they will learn.



BONUS ACTIVITY

Make "Crosses" appear.



LEADER NOTE

Repetition strengthens the synapses that carry information and builds learning pathways for young children. They are instinctively drawn to it. Follow a consistent routine each week and don't shy away from repeating the same songs or activities. Also repeat the Learner Goal several times each lesson.



BONUS ACTIVITY

Make "Name Cards."