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EARLY CHILDHOOD LEADER GUIDE—UNIT 4

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	Handmade—Adam and Eve *Genesis 1:26–2:25*
2	A Sign and a Promise—God's Covenant with Abram *Genesis 15:1–6; 17:1–21*
3	A Laughable Promise—Isaac Is Born *Genesis 18:1–15; 21:1–7*
4	A Merciful Substitute—Abraham and Isaac *Genesis 22:1–19*
5	A Servant's Mission—Isaac and Rebekah *Genesis 24:1–4, 10–28, 50–67*
6	Twin Troubles—Esau and Jacob *Genesis 25:19–34; 27:1–45*
7	A Family Grows—Jacob's Family *Genesis 29:1–30*
8	A Dreamer Rises—God Works Good for Joseph *Genesis 39:20–23; 41:9–49*
9	A Family Reunites—God Helps Joseph Forgive *Genesis 42:1–28; 43:11–30; 45:1–15*
10	A Basket of Hope—Moses Is Born *Exodus 1:1–2:10*
11	Signs of the True God—Moses and the Plagues *Exodus 7*
12	The Passover Promise—The Passover *Exodus 12:1–32*
13	Food from Heaven—God Cares for His People *Exodus 16*
14	Waterworks—Water from the Rock (Optional Thanksgiving) *Exodus 17:1–7*

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ENDURING FAITH™
Sunday School • Midweek Bible Curriculum

EARLY CHILDHOOD LEADER GUIDE

Unit 4: God Calls a Nation

TIMELINE A

Beginning of time	Creation
Beginning of time	Adam and Eve
After creation	Fall into sin
About 1,600 years after creation	Noah and the flood
2091 BC	God calls Abram
2067 BC	God's covenant with Abram
2066 BC	Isaac born
ca. 2037 BC	Abraham and Isaac
2026 BC	Isaac and Rebekah
2006 BC	Esau and Jacob
1930 BC	Jacob's dream
1923–1916 BC	Jacob's family
1899–1876 BC	Joseph
1899–1871 BC	God works good for Joseph
1876 BC	Joseph forgives his brothers
1526 BC	Moses in basket
1526–1486 BC	Moses and the burning bush
1446 BC	Moses and the plagues
	The Passover
	The exodus—crossing the Red Sea
	God provides manna and quail
	Water from the rock
	Ten Commandments
	The golden calf
1445 BC	Building the tabernacle
1445 BC	Twelve spies
1406 BC	Rahab believes
	Joshua—crossing the Jordan
	The fall of Jericho
1217–1178 BC	Deborah
1172–1133 BC	Gideon
1068–1049 BC	Samson
Before 1000 BC	Ruth
1060–1049 BC	Samuel
1049 BC	Saul becomes king
1019 BC	David anointed
	David and Goliath
1015 BC	David and Jonathan
1009 BC	Mephibosheth
975 BC	David worships God
969 or 968 BC	Solomon prays for wisdom
967–961 BC	Solomon builds the temple

Written Sumerian language appears in Mesopotamia **3100 BC**

Pyramids of Giza built **ca. 2550 BC**

Stonehenge erected in England **ca. 2500 BC**

First permanent settlements appear in North America **ca. 2000 BC**

Shang dynasty founded in China **1760 BC**

Ramses the Great becomes pharaoh of Egypt **1279 BC**

Feudal system established in China **1046 BC**

The Maya settle the Yucatán Peninsula **ca. 1000 BC**

KEY

Bible Survey

Old Testament Exploration

World history

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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)

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

Little Ones Sing Praise (CPH, 1989)

Sing & Wonder (CPH, 2015)

Wiggle & Wonder (CPH, 2012)

ONLINE RESOURCES

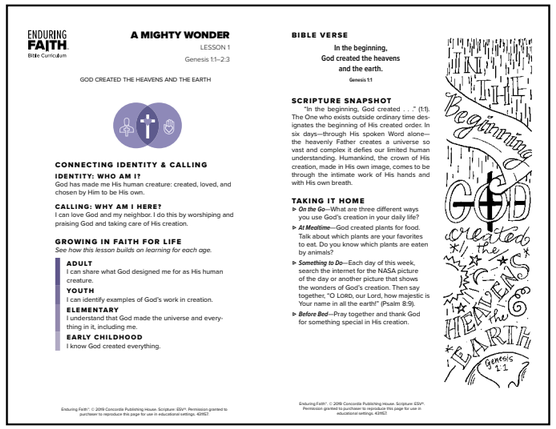
Additional resources are available in the online digital resource center at **cph.org/digitalcontent**, including the Planning Guide, Pastor Guide, Unit Planner, Leader Devotions, Lesson Openings, Social Media Helps, and music resources. Ask your coordinator for access to the online digital resource center to get these materials.

MUSIC

Ask your coordinator to download music 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 children 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. Ask your coordinator to download the Enduring Faith Pages from the online digital resource center for copying.


ENDURING FAITH Bible Curriculum

A MIGHTY WONDER

LESSON 1

Genesis 1:1–2:3

GOD CREATED THE HEAVENS AND THE GROUND

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 worshiping 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.

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BIBLE VERSE

In the beginning,
God created the heavens
and the earth.
Genesis 1:1

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.

TAKING IT HOME

- ***On the Go***—What are three different ways you use God's creation in your daily life?
- ***At Mealtime***—God created plants for food. Talk about which plants are your favorites to eat. Do you know which plants are eaten by animals?
- ***Something to Do***—Each day of this week, search the internet for the NASA picture of the day or another picture that shows the wonders of God's creation. Then say together, "O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth!" (Psalm 8:9).
- ***Before Bed***—Pray together and thank God for something special in His creation.

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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 three units per year, with fourteen lessons per unit; this allows for a seasonal lesson in each unit. Teachers can choose to teach the seasonal lesson when Thanksgiving, Christmas, or Easter occurs, or disregard it if they wish to stick with the chronology.
- There are four overlapping levels as well as materials for a one-room classroom. Here is a handy chart that shows the focus of the levels and how all the levels 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 one set of leaflets per learner and teacher. Send home the first leaflet in the set, which is addressed to parents, 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 leaflet is perforated so page 1 can be separated from page 2 and made into a Bible story book at home.

Page 2

- Two 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 one 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.

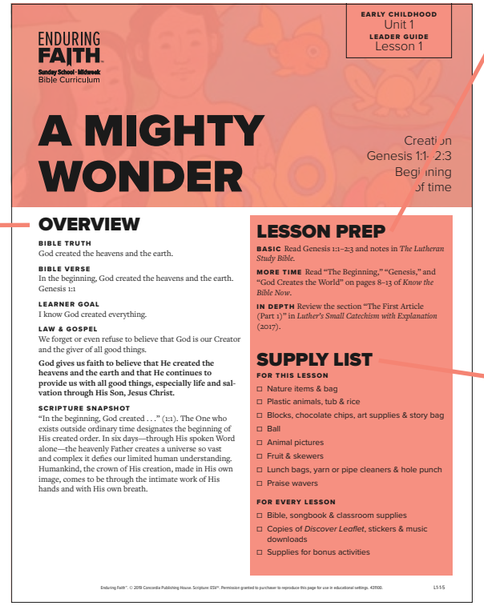
Create gives arts and crafts suggestions that use locally provided materials and stickers from the Sticker Pages. As children make their crafts, reinforce the Learner Goal.

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

EARLY CHILDHOOD
Unit 1
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 1

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

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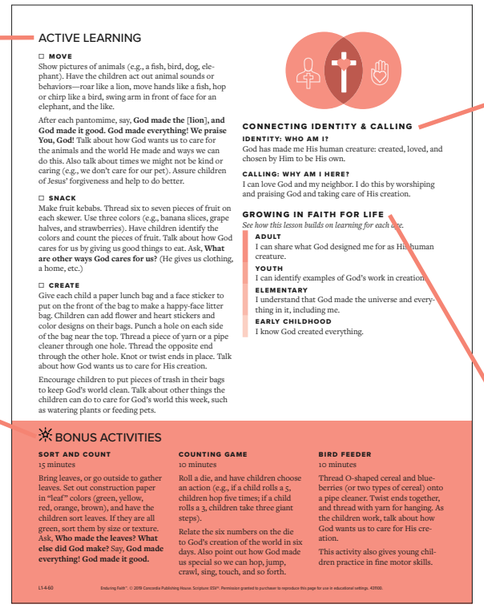
L1-L5

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—roar 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 worshiping 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).

Relate the six numbers on the die to God's creation of the world in six days. Also point out how God made us special so we can hop, jump, crawl, sing, touch, and so forth.

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.

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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.

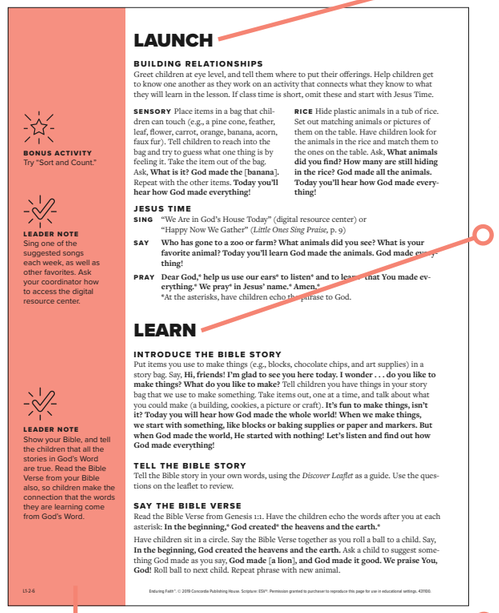
CONNECTING IDENTITY & CALLING

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!**

RICE Hide plastic animals in a tub of rice. Set out matching animals or pictures of them on the table. Have children look for the animals in the rice and match them to the ones on the table. Ask, **What animals did you find? How many are still hiding in the rice? God made all the animals. Today you'll hear how God made everything!**

BONUS ACTIVITY
Try "Sort and Count."

LEADER NOTE
Sing one of the suggested songs each week, as well as other favorites. Ask your coordinator how to access the digital resource center.

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 every thing!**

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 the phrase 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!**

LEADER NOTE
Show your Bible, and tell the children that all the stories in God's Word are true. Read the Bible Verse from your Bible also, so children make the connection that the words they are learning come from God's Word.

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.

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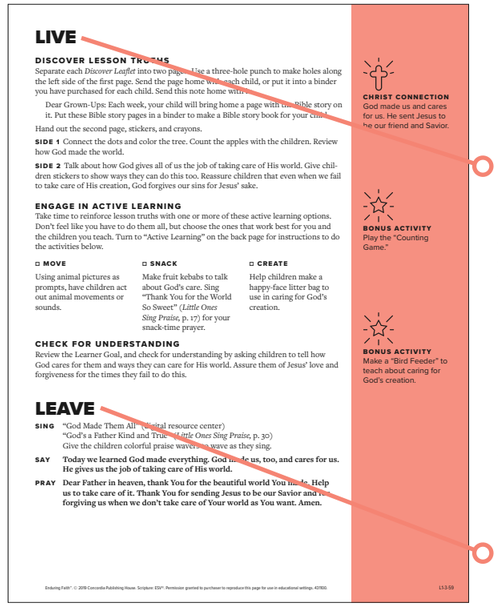
PAGE 3 LEADER GUIDE


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 it.

Dear Grown-Ups: Each week, your child will bring home a page with one Bible story on it. Put these Bible story pages in a binder to make a Bible story book for your child.

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)
"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 for forgiving us when we don't take care of Your world as You want. Amen.**

CHRIST CONNECTION
God made us and cares for us. He sent Jesus to be our friend and Savior.

BONUS ACTIVITY
Play the "Counting Game."

BONUS ACTIVITY
Make a "Bird Feeder" to teach about caring for God's creation.

L3-5 59
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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 allow children free time and then 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

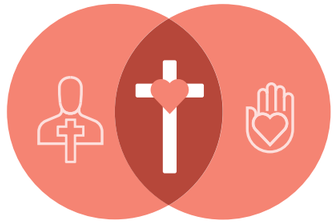
Wrap up the lesson with a closing song and prayer. Review the Learner Goal to remind children of what they learned in the lesson.

ACTIVE LEARNING

☐ **MOVE**
Tell children you will roll a die and suggest an action (e.g., jump, clap, hop, wink, pat head) that you want them to do the number of times on the die (e.g., roll a six; jump six times). Say, **God made your bodies in an amazing way. Look at all the things you can do!** Affirm how we are all different and can do different things. Let children suggest actions they can do too.

☐ **SNACK**
Give children animal and fish crackers. Say, **God made the world. He made people in a special way. He loved them and put them in charge of His creation. It was Adam's job to care for the animals and name them. God wants us to take care of His creation too.** Talk about ways to do this. Also have children identify the animal crackers and tell which is their favorite animal.

☐ **CREATE**
Give each child a paper plate, craft stick, crayons, stickers (Sticker Page), and decorating supplies (e.g., yarn, ribbon, rickrack, buttons). Let children look at themselves in a mirror, then decorate a plate to look like them. They can choose eye stickers to match their eye color, then add yarn for hair and other decorations. Help children write their names on the craft sticks. Say, **God made Adam and Eve. God made boys and girls like you. He planned out just how He wanted you to be.** Comment on hair or eye color and other features (e.g., freckles). **What are some things God made your body able to do?** (Jump, run, help, sing, etc.) **God loves you and knows your names. In Baptism, we are baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and become His children through faith in Jesus.** Talk about how God made us to be in relationship with Him and others. What are ways this happens?



CONNECTING IDENTITY & CALLING

IDENTITY: WHO AM I?
God has created me in His own image and breathed into me the breath of life.

CALLING: WHY AM I HERE?
I can live in relationship with others because God forgives and restores me through Jesus' death and resurrection.

GROWING IN FAITH FOR LIFE

See how this lesson builds on learning for each age.

ADULT
I can describe how God designed people to be in relationship to Him, His creation, and one another.

YOUTH
I can make connections between my relationship with God and my relationships with others.

ELEMENTARY
I understand that God made me to live together with other people in a community.

EARLY CHILDHOOD
I know God made people and we are special to Him.

BONUS ACTIVITIES

SENSORY PLAY
15 minutes

Give children shaving cream and paint shirts to wear. Have them use their fingers to draw things in creation (flowers, trees, rivers) or parts of their body (face, hand, foot). Say, **God made the world and God made you. You can do many things. What can you make with your hands? How can you use your hands to show love?**

SOMEONE SPECIAL
5 minutes

Young children need extra help moving from one activity to another. Using consistent songs, chants, sounds, and picture cues can help. As you say each child's name in this rhyme, have that child line up or go to the next area. Say, **I see someone special. Someone special I see. God made [Zola] special. [Zola] is special to me.**

FINGERPRINT PICTURES
15 minutes

Set out washable ink pads in several colors. Use masking tape to make a cross in the middle of the paper. Talk about how our fingerprints are unique to us! No one has exactly the same ones. Make fingerprints all over the page. Peel off the tape to reveal the cross. Say, **We sometimes mess up. But because of Jesus, we are still perfect in God's eyes.**

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ENDURING FAITH™
Sunday School • Midweek
Bible Curriculum

EARLY CHILDHOOD
Unit 4
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 1

HANDMADE

Adam and Eve
Genesis 1:26–2:25
Beginning of time

OVERVIEW

BIBLE TRUTH
God made people for relationships.

BIBLE VERSE
I praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Psalm 139:14

LEARNER GOAL
I know God made people and we are special to Him.

LAW & GOSPEL
I fail in my relationships with God and with others.

God forgives me and restores my relationship with Himself and others through His Son, Jesus.

SCRIPTURE SNAPSHOT
God creates man in His own image with His own hands and breathes in him His own breath. Formed from the dust of the ground, Adam needs more than just animal companionship. So our heavenly Father makes the perfect complement to man, creating woman from Adam's rib, and placing them in the garden.

LESSON PREP

BASIC Read **Genesis 1:26–2:25** and notes in *The Lutheran Study Bible*.

MORE TIME Read "Challenges for Readers" in the introduction to Genesis (*The Lutheran Study Bible*, p. 9).

IN DEPTH Review The First Article (Part 1) in *Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation* (2017).

SUPPLY LIST

FOR THIS LESSON
- ☐ Blocks
- ☐ Play dough, utensils, rolling pin & cookie cutters
- ☐ Buddy puppet
- ☐ Play dough
- ☐ Yarn snippets
- ☐ Dice
- ☐ Animal & fish crackers
- ☐ Paper plates, decorating supplies & craft sticks

FOR EVERY LESSON
- ☐ Bible, songbook & classroom supplies
- ☐ Copies of *Discover Leaflets*, stickers & music downloads
- ☐ Supplies for bonus activities

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LEADER NOTE
Greet children at eye level, and tell them where to put their offerings. Help them 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.

BONUS ACTIVITY
For a creative, hands-on activity, try "Sensory Play."

BONUS ACTIVITY
Use the "Someone Special" transitional activity to help children move between tasks.

LEADER NOTE
Sing one of the suggested songs each week, as well as other favorites. Play the music in the background as children enter your classroom or work on projects. In time, children will become familiar and sing along.

Show your Bible, and tell the children that all the stories in God's Word are true.

LAUNCH

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

BLOCKS Set out blocks. Say, **Today you'll hear how God made the first man and woman. God made you in a special way too. You can do many things. What are you making with your hands?**

PLAY DOUGH Set out play dough, rolling pins, and utensils. *Option:* Set out cookie cutters shaped like hands, people, feet, and animals. Say, **Today you'll hear how God made the first man and woman. God made boys and girls and big people too. You are His special creation.**

JESUS TIME

SING "God Made Me" (*Sing & Wonder,* p. 8) or
"God Made Them All" (digital resource center)

SAY **Hi, friends. Who are some of the special people in your life—people in your family? your friends? Today we'll hear how God made the first man. Then, God made a woman so the man wouldn't be alone. God made us and gives us people in our lives, too, so we have family and friends to love.**

PRAY **Dear God,* help us learn* that You made us* to be Your special people* and to love one another.* In Jesus' name.* Amen.*** *Children echo phrase to God.

LEARN

INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

Buddy (puppet) arrives, excited, and tells how he was visiting his uncle, a ceramic artist. Buddy explains that he makes things out of clay. First, he mixes the powdered clay with water and stirs it in a mixer. Then, his uncle puts it on a pottery wheel and uses his hands to shape the clay into something beautiful, like a bowl or other special object that he can sell. Some of his beautiful things are even in an art museum! Express interest in Buddy's experience and tell him it reminds you of how the Bible says God is a potter. In today's Bible story, God made something special out of clay too. Buddy asks to stay and listen.

TELL THE BIBLE STORY

Tell the Bible story in your own words, using the *Discover Leaflet* as a guide. When you tell about God forming Adam from clay, shape a person from play dough. Talk about how God made a man and a woman so they could be a family. After you tell the story, say, **Sadly, things did not stay good and perfect for long. God's enemy, Satan, tricked Adam and Eve into disobeying God and eating fruit from the tree He said they shouldn't eat. Now Adam and Eve were not good like God anymore. But God still loved them. He promised to send His Son, Jesus, to be the Savior of the world. God made you too. He made some of you boys and some girls. You each are special to Him. But you and I are not perfect anymore. We all think and say and do wrong things. We do what we want instead of what God wants. But Jesus came to be our Savior too, so our sins can be forgiven and we can live in heaven with Him someday.**

SAY THE BIBLE VERSE

Read the Bible Verse from Psalm 139:14 and have the children echo the words: **I praise You,* for I am fearfully* and wonderfully made.*** Talk about the wonderful things our bodies can do (e.g., breathe, jump, think, see, talk). Say, **God made us wonderfully. He made boys and girls. We are His special creation.** Sing "Say to the Lord, I Love You" (*Little Ones Sing Praise,* p. 18).

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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 that page home with each child, or put it into a binder you have purchased for each child. Send this note home with it:

> Dear Grown-Ups: Each week, your child will bring home a page with the Bible story on it. If you have been putting these pages in a binder to make a Bible story book, insert this week's Bible story page between Lessons 1 and 2 of last year, so the stories will be in chronological order. In future weeks, continue to insert the pages in your story book so they are in order. Refer to the timeline in the *Discover Leaflets* for help.

Hand out the second page, stickers, and crayons.

SIDE 1 Finish coloring the picture. Review how God made the first man, Adam, and the first woman, Eve, in a special way. He made them so they could talk to Him and love Him and each other. He wanted them to be a family and gave them the job of caring for His world. *Option:* Glue yarn snippets to the animal.

SIDE 2 Tell children that when Adam and Eve sinned, everything changed. Now we are sinners too. But God loves us and sent Jesus to be our Savior. He forgives us when we do wrong things and helps us to live as His children.

Look at the pictures. Have children color the boxes that show children honoring God with their bodies by being kind and helpful to others and so forth, then add smiley face stickers. Give them cross stickers to put on the other boxes as a reminder of the forgiveness they have in Jesus when they make mistakes. Discuss other ways the children can live as God's forgiven children, serving their neighbor and praising God.

ENGAGE IN ACTIVE LEARNING

Take time to reinforce lesson truths with one or more of these active learning options. Turn to "Active Learning" on the back page for instructions to do the activities below.

☐ MOVE
Roll a die and have children do actions. Then sing "I Can Stamp" (*Little Ones Sing Praise,* p. 21).

☐ SNACK
Serve animal and fish crackers. Talk about ways to care for God's creation.

☐ CREATE
Give children paper plates and supplies to make their own faces.

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

Review the Learner Goal. Ask, **How are you special? How can you care for God's world and show love for others?** Assure children of Jesus' forgiveness when they sin.

LEAVE

SING "God's Sparklers" (digital resource center) or
"I Have Hands" (*Little Ones Sing Praise,* p. 29), doing the actions.

SAY **Today, we learned that God made us in a wonderful way and we are special to Him. He gives us families and friends to love us and for us to love. He cares for us and wants us to care for others and His world.**

PRAY **Dear Father, thank You for making us who we are. Help us love others. Help us take care of Your world. Thank You for sending Jesus to be our Savior and for forgiving us when we don't do what You want. Help us do better. Amen.**

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CHRIST CONNECTION
God made us. We are His special creation. He loves us so much that He sent Jesus to be our Friend and Savior.

BONUS ACTIVITY
Make individual "Fingerprint Pictures" or a class mural of fingerprints to compare prints. Have wipes on hand for cleaning up.

ACTIVE LEARNING

☐ **MOVE**

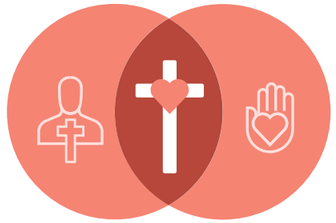
Do this rhyme: **Abraham and Sarah wanted a son.** (*Cradle baby in arms.*) **God told them He would give them one.** (*Point up.*) **Their children would number like stars in the sky.** (*Twinkle fingers.*) **"Go ahead and count them," God said. "Just try."** (*Pretend to count stars.*) **God gave Abraham faith to believe this was true.** (*Place hand on heart.*) **God gives us faith to trust His promises too.** (*Other hand on heart.*) **He sent Jesus to be our Savior and Friend.** (*Make cross with fingers.*) **Jesus' love lasts forever; it's without end.** (*Hug self.*)

☐ **SNACK**

Serve star pops, Rice Krispies stars, or star sugar cookies. To make star pops, freeze a fruit smoothie blend or juice in a star-shaped mold. When partially frozen, insert a craft stick in the center of the star for a handle. For Rice Krispies stars, follow recipe to make Rice Krispies bars. Sprinkle with blue and white sprinkles. Cut with star cookie cutters and insert a craft stick for a handle.

☐ **CREATE**

For each bubble wand, you'll need 1 yard of 22- or 24-gauge wire, a large star-shaped cookie cutter, 5 large acrylic beads, needle-nose pliers and wire cutters (adult use only). Purchase or make bubble solution (find recipes online) to use with wands. To make wands, bend the wire around a cookie cutter, leaving 12-inch ends on both sides. Twist the ends together a few times with the pliers. Thread beads onto both wires. Twist the wires together to make a knot to keep the beads from falling off. Twist the remaining wires together to make a handle. Dip the star-shaped bubble maker into bubble solution. Blow gently or wave to make bubbles. Say, **God keeps all His promises. Count the bubbles you blow. For each one, name a promise God gives you.**



CONNECTING IDENTITY & CALLING

IDENTITY: WHO AM I?

God has made me part of His covenant family through my Baptism.

CALLING: WHY AM I HERE?

I can trust God to carry out His plan as I serve Him through my various vocations.

GROWING IN FAITH FOR LIFE

See how this lesson builds on learning for each age.

ADULT

I can express the great lengths God has gone through to ensure that His promises come to pass.

YOUTH

I can share God's promise of a future for me and other believers.

ELEMENTARY

I understand that God promises me a future through Jesus.

EARLY CHILDHOOD

I know God, my loving Father, keeps all His promises.

BONUS ACTIVITIES

STAR LIGHT, STAR BRIGHT
15 minutes

Play star lullabies on your device, or sing "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star." Talk about how God used stars to make promises to Abraham. Say, **Stars can't make our wishes come true, but they can remind us of God's promises and how we can trust Him to keep His promises to us just as He did for Abraham. What are some of God's promises to us?**

NIGHT SOUNDS
10 minutes

Have children pretend it's night. Count the stars. Have them close their eyes as you talk about night sounds or listen to some on YouTube (e.g., an owl hooting, crickets, a car rumbling, a storm). Say, **Night sounds can seem scary when we can't see what's making the noise.** Remind children they don't have to be afraid because Jesus promises to be with them always.

PRAYER BOOKLET
10 minutes

Make copies of bedtime prayers for each child. Give children a piece of construction paper to decorate as they choose. Fold the page in half and glue the prayers to one side. Give children purchased star stickers to add to the page and a sticker of Jesus to put on the front. Tell them to use one of the prayers at home this week.

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ENDURING FAITH™
Sunday School • Midweek
Bible Curriculum

EARLY CHILDHOOD
Unit 4
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 2

A SIGN AND A PROMISE

God's Covenant with Abram
Genesis 15:1–6; 17:1–21
2067 BC

OVERVIEW

BIBLE TRUTH

God promises us a future.

BIBLE VERSE

All the promises of God find their Yes in [Jesus]. 2 Corinthians 1:20

LEARNER GOAL

God, my loving Father, keeps all His promises.

LAW & GOSPEL

I doubt God's care for me and fail to trust His promises.

God chooses me in my Baptism and promises to be with me forever.

SCRIPTURE SNAPSHOT

God reassures Abram of His promise to bless the earth through Abram's offspring. God changes his name from Abram ("exalted father") to Abraham ("father of many nations") and institutes circumcision as the sign of His continued covenant with Abraham. Despite Abraham and Sarah's advanced age, God promises they will have a son of their own.

LESSON PREP

BASIC Read **Genesis 15:1–6; 17:1–21** and notes in *The Lutheran Study Bible*.

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

IN DEPTH Read **Genesis 12:1–9** in *The Lutheran Study Bible* for more context to Abraham's blessing.

SUPPLY LIST

FOR THIS LESSON

- ☐ Blue & yellow construction paper, towels & toothpicks or star-shaped stencils, sponges & paint
- ☐ Yellow play dough, star cookie cutters, rolling pins & nonmetallic glitter (optional)
- ☐ Buddy puppet
- ☐ Towel, robe, scarf or yarn, blanket & paper or glow-in-the-dark stars
- ☐ Star pops, Rice Krispies bars, or cookies
- ☐ 22- or 24-gauge wire (1 yard per child), star-shaped cookie cutter, acrylic beads, needle-nose pliers, wire cutters & bubble solution

FOR EVERY LESSON

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

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LEADER NOTE
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.

LEADER NOTE
Sing one of the suggested songs each week, as well as other favorites.

LEADER NOTE
God changed Abram's name to Abraham in Genesis 17:5. Because there are more Abraham stories in this unit, for consistency, the name *Abraham* is used in this lesson too. You may choose which name to use.

BONUS ACTIVITY
Use "Star Light, Star Bright" to talk about God's promises to Abraham and to us.

LAUNCH

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

SENSORY Put blue construction paper over towels. Show how to use toothpicks to poke tiny holes in the paper. Cut yellow moons from construction paper to glue to paper. Have children hold up their papers to the light or a window to see "stars." *Option:* Tape star-shaped stencils to dark paper. Have children sponge-paint over them. Say, **Today we will hear how God used stars to make a promise to Abraham and bless him.**

PLAY DOUGH Set out yellow play dough, rolling pins, and various sizes of star cookie cutters. Have the children make stars. Count the points and compare the sizes. Talk about the stars they see in the sky. *Option:* Add nonmetallic glitter to the dough. Set out dark blue or black construction paper to put the stars on. Say, **God made the stars. He used the stars to make a promise to Abraham and bless him.**

JESUS TIME

SING "Happy Now We Gather" (*Little Ones Sing Praise,* p. 9) or "We Are in God's House Today" (digital resource center)

SAY **Who likes to wait?** Give examples, such as waiting for supper or a birthday. **Waiting is hard, isn't it? Today, we'll hear about a man and his wife who had to wait a long time for something they really wanted.**

PRAY **Dear God,* help us learn* that You never* forget about us.* You always keep Your promises,* especially Your promise* to forgive us* through Jesus.* We pray* in Jesus' name.* Amen.*** *Have children echo each phrase to God.

LEARN

INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

Buddy (puppet) arrives feeling sad because his friend promised to have him over to play, but then he invited another friend instead. Talk about how people sometimes have a hard time keeping their promises, but God never does. He always keeps His promises. Say, **In our Bible story, a man waited a long time. He thought God had forgotten His promise. Do you think God did? Let's listen and 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 in your own words, using the *Discover Leaflet* as a guide. *Option:* Dress up as Abraham. Use a hand towel tied with a scarf or yarn as a headpiece and wear a robe. Make a "tent" by draping a blanket over chairs. Sit inside the tent with the children as you begin the story. Go out of the tent to count the stars and finish the story. *Review option:* Give each child a paper or plastic glow-in-the-dark star to hold. Ask yes-or-no review questions. When the answer is no, have children hold stars in their lap. When the answer is yes, have them raise their stars high in the sky.

SAY THE BIBLE VERSE

Read the Bible Verse from 2 Corinthians 1:20: "All the promises of God find their Yes in [Jesus]." Say, **That means we can trust God to keep all His promises to us because He kept His promise to send Jesus to be our Savior. What are some promises God gives us?** Say the Bible Verse again. Tell children to whisper most of the words but say "Yes in [Jesus]" loudly. Then say the words while clapping.

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LIVE

DISCOVER LESSON TRUTHS

Separate each *Discover Leaflet* into two pages. Send the first page home with each child, or put it into a binder you have purchased for each child. Hand out the second page, stickers, and crayons.

SIDE 1 Color the tent and stars. Review God's promise to Abraham. Talk about how Jesus came from Abraham's family, and give children a baby Jesus star to add to sky.

SIDE 2 Talk about God's promises. Say, **God told Abraham to look at the stars. He promised Abraham that he would have more children than the stars. He promised that Jesus would come from his family. God's promise to send Jesus to be the Savior is for us too. These stars show some of God's promises. We can trust God to keep all of His promises to us because of Jesus.**

Read the words with each star. Have children add a baby Jesus sticker to the manger, trace the dots to make the cross, and color the praying hands.

When you talk about God's promise to love and care for us, ask children to suggest ways God does this (He gives us family, food, and clothes; He helps us when we are sick, and so forth). Give them star stickers of food, family, and Band-Aids to match to the stars in the sky near the one of Jesus, the Good Shepherd.

For the last star, talk about God's promise of eternal life, and give children a sticker of children to put near Jesus on His throne.

Then, have the children connect dots on the middle star. Read the Bible verse to them, and have them add a Jesus sticker. Say, **God keeps all His promises because of Jesus.**

ENGAGE IN ACTIVE LEARNING

Take time to reinforce lesson truths with one or more of these active learning options. 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**
Use an action rhyme to review the story, then talk about some of God's promises to us.

☐ **SNACK**
Serve a star-shaped snack such as star pops, Rice Krispies bars cut into stars, or star sugar cookies.

☐ **CREATE**
Make star-shaped bubble wands.

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

Review the Learner Goal, and check for understanding. Say, **God used the stars to make Abraham a promise. God kept His promise to send Jesus to be our Savior. What are some other promises for us?**

LEAVE

SING "I'm in God's Family" (digital resource center) or "God's a Father Kind and True" (*Little Ones Sing Praise,* p. 30)

SAY **Today, we learned God kept His promise to send Jesus to be our Savior. He never forgets about us; He keeps all His promises.**

PRAY **Dear Father in heaven, thank You for making us Your children. Help us to believe all Your promises. Help us remember You love us and sent Jesus to be our Savior. Amen.**

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CHRIST CONNECTION
God promised to bless Abraham with a big family from whom Jesus would be born. God kept His promise and sent Jesus to save us all from sin. God keeps all His promises to us through Jesus. He forgives our sins and gives us life with Him forever.

BONUS ACTIVITY
Remind children of another of Jesus' promises in "Night Sounds."

BONUS ACTIVITY
Make a "Prayer Booklet."