

CONTENTS

ELEMENTARY
LEADER GUIDE—UNIT 5

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	The Idle Idol—The Golden Calf <i>Exodus 31:18–32:35</i>
2	A Tent for God—God with His People <i>Exodus 25:1–19; 40:1–8, 34–38</i>
3	The Fall-Short Report—The Twelve Spies <i>Numbers 13:1–2, 25–14:24</i>
4	The Unlikely Ally—Rahab Believes <i>Joshua 2</i>
5	The Downfall Wall—The Fall of Jericho <i>Joshua 5:13–6:27</i>
6	The Palm-Tree Judge—Deborah <i>Judges 4</i>
7	The Weakened Judge—Samson <i>Judges 16:4–31</i>
8	The Faith-Full Family—Ruth <i>Ruth 1:1–2:13; 4:13–17</i>
9	The Chosen King—Saul Becomes King <i>1 Samuel 8:4–9:2; 10:17–27; 11:12–15</i>
10	The Fearless Shepherd—David and Goliath <i>1 Samuel 17:2–11, 33–51</i>
11	The Faith-Full Friends—David and Jonathan <i>1 Samuel 18:1–9; 20:18–42</i>
12	The King of Glory—David Worships God (Optional Christmas) <i>2 Samuel 7:18–29; Psalm 24</i>
13	The Wise King—Solomon Prays for Wisdom <i>1 Kings 3:5–15; Proverbs 3:1–12</i>
14	The Unwise Wise King—Solomon Builds the Temple <i>1 Kings 6:11–38; 11:1–11</i>

EARLY CHILDHOOD LEADER GUIDE

Unit 5: God Leads His Nation



Enduring Faith™
Copyright © 2020 Concordia Publishing House
3558 S. Jefferson Ave., St. Louis, MO 63118-3968
1-800-325-3040 • cph.org

All rights reserved. Unless specifically noted, no part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without the prior written permission of Concordia Publishing House.

Series Editor: Lisa M. Clark
Edited by Lorraine E. Groth
Illustrations by Len Ebert © Concordia Publishing House

Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Your comments and suggestions concerning this material are appreciated.
Email us at sundayschool@cph.org.

Manufactured in the United States of America



Concordia
Publishing House
C P H . O R G

ISBN 978-0-7586-6792-2



9 780758 667922

RELIGION / Christian Education /
Children & Youth
435100

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

KEY

Bible Survey

Old Testament

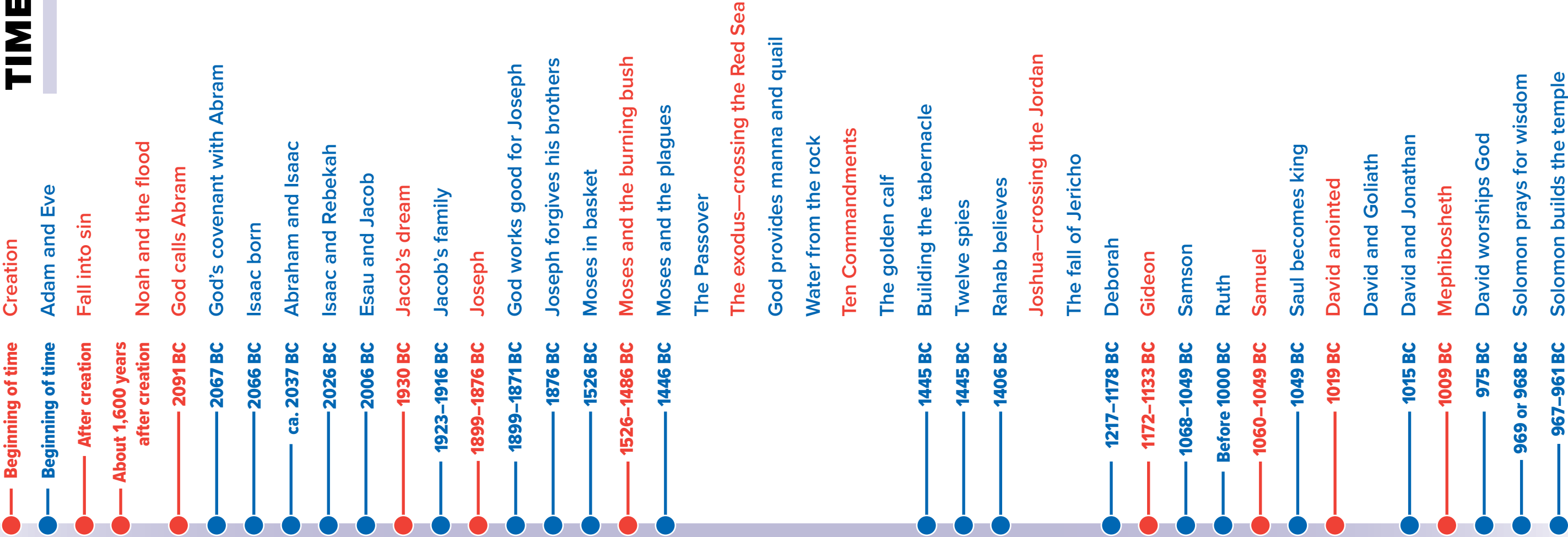
Exploration

World history

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

TIMELINE A



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)

Fingers Tell the Story (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

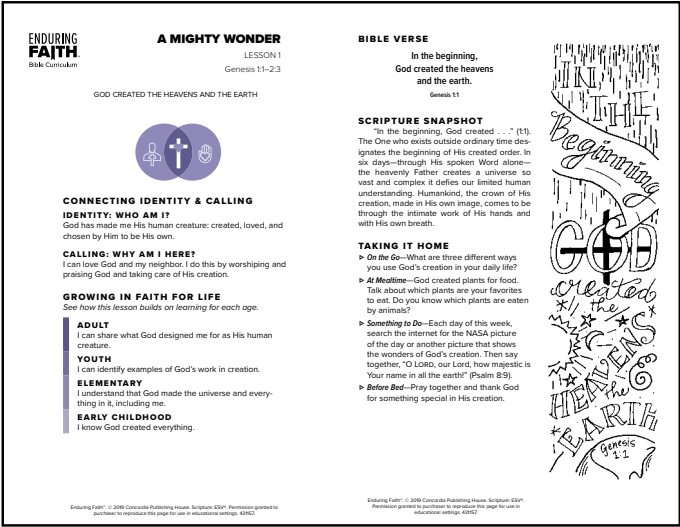
Ask your coordinator to download music from the online digital resource center. Songs are frequently repeated so children can learn them better. Young children love repetition anyway! If you aren’t comfortable teaching children to sing a song, play the music in the background as children enter your classroom 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.

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 - Midwest 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

Enduring Faith® | © 2018 Concordia Publishing House. Scripture ©2017. Permission granted to purchase to reproduce this page for use in educational settings. 42505. L14-15

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—neat 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.

✱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.

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.

Enduring Faith® | © 2018 Concordia Publishing House. Scripture ©2017. Permission granted to purchase to reproduce this page for use in educational settings. 42505. L14-16

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!

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 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!

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.

Enduring Faith® | © 2018 Concordia Publishing House. Scripture ©2017. Permission granted to purchase to reproduce this page for use in educational settings. 42505. L14-17

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 the 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) 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 to forgive 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.

Enduring Faith® | © 2018 Concordia Publishing House. Scripture ©2017. Permission granted to purchase to reproduce this page for use in educational settings. 42505. L14-18

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

Say, **God wants us to put Him first. If what I say is a way to put God first, stand up. If it doesn't put God first, sit down.** Give examples: We are happy to learn about Jesus. (*Stand.*) We go to the zoo instead of church. (*Sit.*) We pray for God's help. (*Stand.*) We use God's name in a bad way. (*Sit.*) We sing in the choir. (*Stand.*)

SNACK

Heat "gold" caramel dip in a small slow cooker or microwave. Let children use a fork to dip apple slices or pretzel rods in the caramel. Talk about how the people melted gold to make the calf. *Option:* Use heart-shaped cookie cutters to cut hearts from bread. Let children spread hearts with marmalade or apricot jam.

CREATE

Have children decorate the back of two white paper plates, using markers, stickers, rickrack, ribbon, and such. Put together the undecorated, concave sides of the plates. Staple and tape most of the way around the edges. Fill with dry beans or rice. Tape closed. Hand out stickers. (Heart) **This heart says "Love God." God wants us to put Him first. (#1 sticker) He is good and kind. He made us and cares for us. He answers our prayers and helps us. He keeps all His promises and gives us everything we have. He is Number 1!** (Jesus sticker) **He sent His Son, Jesus, to be our Savior. There is nothing else in all creation like Him. Use your shaker to praise and thank Him for His love.**

BONUS ACTIVITIES

TRIUNE GOD

5 minutes

Say, **The Bible says the true God is our triune God. Triune means "three in one."** Point to a triangle. **How many triangles are there? How many sides? There is one triangle, but it has three sides. God is one God, but He is three persons. He is God the Father** (point to side 1), **God the Son** (point to side 2), **and God the Holy Spirit** (point to side 3). **We begin church in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit to show we are worshiping the true God. Where else do you hear God's name?** (Baptism, some hymns, prayers)

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

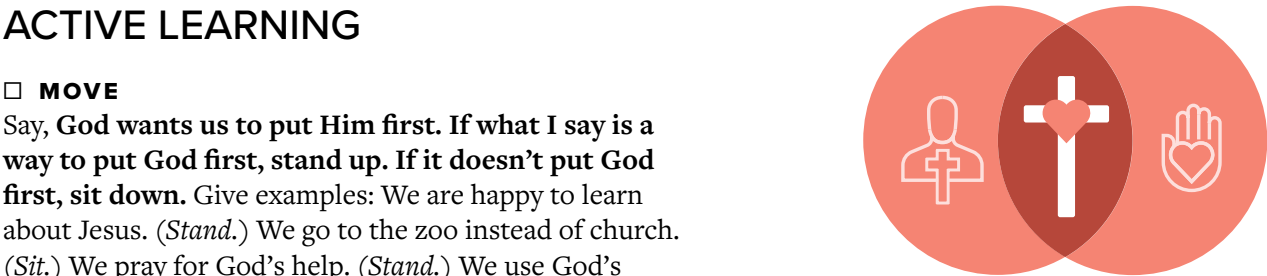
10 minutes

Say, **Sin has consequences. For the people's sin, Moses burned the calf, ground it into powder, and made them drink it.** Ask for examples of sins. For each sin, add dirt to a pitcher of water. Then ask, **Who wants to drink this water? Yuck. When we sin, God wants us to confess our sins, the things we do wrong. In church, this is called Confession. We deserve to be punished for our sins. But when we confess our sins, those sins are forgiven because of Jesus, who took our punishment on the cross. When Pastor tells us God forgives us, it's called Absolution.**

CHARADES

20 minutes

Play charades. Encourage children to think of a way God has blessed them this week and ask for volunteers to act it out for others to guess (He gives us food/pretend to eat; He answers prayer/praying hands; He loves us/hug self; He sent Jesus as our Savior/finger cross). At the end, have all the children hold up their pointer fingers and say, **My God is Number 1. He cares for us. Praise Him!** Give each child a sticker that says "My God is #1."



CONNECTING IDENTITY & CALLING

IDENTITY: WHO AM I?

Our God is a jealous God who demands that we worship Him alone.

CALLING: WHY AM I HERE?

I can worship God, giving Him thanks for all He has done for me in this life and the next.

GROWING IN FAITH FOR LIFE

See how this lesson builds on previous learning for each age.

ADULT

I can describe how God's jealousy toward His people in the narrative is demonstrated both in His punishment and in His mercy.

YOUTH

I can explain what it means to worship God alone.

ELEMENTARY

I understand that God wants us to worship Him alone.

EARLY CHILDHOOD

I know God wants me to put Him first.

ENDURING FAITH

Sunday School • Midweek Bible Curriculum

THE IDLE IDOL

EARLY CHILDHOOD
Unit 5
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 1

The Golden Calf
Exodus 31:18–32:35
1446 BC

OVERVIEW

BIBLE TRUTH

God wants us to worship Him alone.

LEARNER GOAL

I know God wants me to put Him first.

BIBLE VERSE

You shall have no other gods before Me. Exodus 20:3

LAW & GOSPEL

I place possessions, people, and relationships ahead of the true God. **Through Christ's sacrifice on the cross, God restores my relationship with Himself.**

SCRIPTURE SNAPSHOT

Atop Mount Sinai, Moses receives the Law from God. Meanwhile, the Israelites grow impatient and convince Aaron to create a golden idol. When God sends Moses down from the mountain, Moses sees the people's wanton worship and smashes the stone tablets. The people are punished for their idolatry. Moses returns to Sinai to plead God's mercy for the people.

LESSON PREP

BASIC Read the Bible text and study notes in *The Lutheran Study Bible*.

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

IN DEPTH Review the First Commandment and the section that describes what it means in *Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation* (2017). Then read the article "No Graven Images?" in *TLSB*, page 141.

SUPPLY LIST

FOR THIS LESSON

- Play dough & toy animals, including a cow
- A tub of dry rice & costume jewelry
- Yellow paper & tape (optional)
- Rhythm instruments (optional)
- Toy cow or other figure, picture of wooden idol
- Caramels, small slow cooker or microwave, apple slices or pretzel rods; bread cut into heart shapes & marmalade or apricot jam (optional)
- Paper plates, staples, tape, decorations & dry beans or rice

FOR EVERY LESSON

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

LAUNCH



LEADER NOTE

Use one or both activities to connect what children 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. Ask your Sunday School coordinator how to access the digital resource center.



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 too, so that children understand that the words are God’s Words.



BONUS ACTIVITY

Use a triangle (or a clover leaf with three petals) to teach about our triune God.

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

PLAY DOUGH Set out play dough and a variety of toy animals, including a cow. Encourage children to cover the animals in play dough or make more animals from it. Talk about how God’s people long ago made a big calf out of gold! *Option:* Mold yellow play dough into jewelry.

JESUS TIME

SING “Happy Now We Gather” (digital resource center) or “Jesus Loves Me, This I Know” (*Little Ones Sing Praise*, p. 42)

SAY Hi, boys and girls. Put your hand up if you love God. Today we’ll learn about God’s love for us and how He wants us to love Him more than anything else!

PRAY Thank You, God,* for Your love.* Help us to listen* and to learn* how You love us* so much* that You sent Jesus* to be our Savior.* Help us love You too.* Amen.* *Children echo phrases.

RICE Hide costume jewelry in a tub of rice for the children to find. Say, **There are pieces of jewelry hidden in the rice. In the Bible story today, God’s people give their gold jewelry to Aaron. They want him to use it to make something called an idol.** *Option:* Use tape and strips of yellow paper to make chain necklaces.

LEARN

INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

Show a toy cow or other figure. Say, **What would you think if I said, “Let’s pray to this toy [cow] instead of God from now on”? Does this toy [cow] love us? Can it help us? No, it’s fun to play with, but it’s just a toy. It can’t love us or help us. It would be silly to pray to it. It’s easy to think, “I wouldn’t do something silly like that. I wouldn’t pray to a toy. I only pray to God.” But God’s people did something silly just like that!**

TELL THE BIBLE STORY

Tell the story in your own words, using the *Discover Leaflet* as a guide. *Option:* Give children costume jewelry to wear, or if they made paper-chain necklaces, let them wear those. Pretend you are sitting by your tents at the base of Mount Sinai. Hand out rhythm instruments for children to make music when you talk about God’s people partying and dancing. Collect the jewelry and pretend to melt it down to make a golden calf, which you can fashion out of yellow play dough.

SAY THE BIBLE VERSE

Show the toy figure again. Ask, **Is the true God a [cow] made out of gold? No. Show a picture of a wooden idol. Is God a statue made out of wood? No. Gold cows and statues can’t help us. They can’t listen to our prayers or forgive our sins.**

The God who took care of His people long ago is the same God who takes care of you and me now. The God who loved His people long ago and forgave them when they sinned is the same God who loves you and me and forgives our sins now. He sent His Son, Jesus, to pay for our sins on the cross and rise again. Our God wants us to love Him and put Him first. He says (read the Bible Verse from Exodus 20:3): **“You shall have no other gods before Me.” Say the verse with the children. These words are the First Commandment. The first three commandments tell us how to love and obey God above all things.** Discuss.

LIVE

DISCOVER LESSON TRUTHS

Separate each *Discover Leaflet* into two pages. Send the first page home with each child. Hand out the second page and crayons.

SIDE 1 Have the children color the calf gold and circle the hidden hearts as you review.

SIDE 2 Say, **God wants us to put Him first. The first three commandments tell us how to love and obey God above all things. But sometimes we forget or don’t want to do what God wants.** Read simple descriptions of each commandment. Look at the pictures and color the hearts by the children who are keeping the commandments (1 and 2). Color the cross if a child isn’t keeping the commandment (3). Talk about the pictures and other ways we can love and obey God or fail to do this. **When we don’t put God first, we are sinning. Who took the punishment for our sins? Yes, Jesus!** Remind children that God forgives us for Jesus’ sake and will help us to live as His children.

ENGAGE IN ACTIVE LEARNING

Reinforce lesson truths with one or more of these active learning options. Turn to “Active Learning” on the back page for instructions on how to do the activities below.

□ MOVE

Play a game to act out ways we can live as God’s children. Remind children that when we fail, God wants us to be sorry. He forgives us for Jesus’ sake and will help us do better.

□ SNACK

Serve “golden” snacks, such as Golden Delicious apple slices, pretzel rods, and caramel sauce or bread and jam. Talk about how God loves us and wants us to love and obey Him more than anything.

□ CREATE

Give each child two paper plates, dry beans or rice, and decorating supplies to make shakers to praise God. Tell how the people sinned and worshiped the calf, but we want to worship the true God.

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

Say the Learner Goal. Talk about what it means to put God first (God wants us to read His Word and do what it says, pray, go to church, obey His commandments, worship Him, and praise Him). Check for understanding by asking, **How do you put God first?** Then ask, **Do we always put God first?** Remind children that often we fail to put God first because we are sinners. Remind them that God sent Jesus to be our Savior. Jesus kept God’s Law for us and took our punishment on the cross.

LEAVE

SING “What Do I Owe Him?” (digital resource center) or “God Loves Me Dearly” (*Little Ones Sing Praise*, p. 85)

SAY **The first three commandments tell us to love and obey God above all things. He wants us to put Him first. The trouble is, we can’t keep God’s commandments. We forget about God and all He’s done for us. We put what we want to do ahead of God and what He wants. We sin. But God sent Jesus to obey the commandments for us and take the punishment for the things we do wrong. Let’s tell God thank You!**

SAY **Dear God, we are sorry for doing what we want instead of putting You first in our lives. We are sorry for messing up and not loving You as You love us. Thank You for sending Jesus to keep all Your rules in our place and to take the punishment we deserve. Amen.**



CHRIST CONNECTION

Like God’s people in the wilderness, we sin when other things become more important to us than God and what He wants. Jesus took the punishment for our sins by dying on the cross for us and rising again. Through Him, we have absolution and are reconciled to God.



BONUS ACTIVITY

Introduce “Confession & Absolution.”



BONUS ACTIVITY

Play “Charades.”

ACTIVE LEARNING

❑ **MOVE**
Pack two small travel suitcases or backpacks with similar items (clothing, stuffed toy, slippers, Bible story book, ball, toothbrush). Put the suitcases on one side of the room. Divide children into two teams. Have them stand behind a line, opposite the suitcases. Say, **God’s people were traveling to the wonderful land God had promised them. God told them to make a tent-church so they could pack it up and take it with them when they had to move. When we travel today, we usually pack our things in a suitcase/backpack. Let’s play a packing game.** Have the first child in each line run to a suitcase, bring it back to the team, and unpack it. The next child returns the suitcase to the original position. Repeat till everyone has had a turn.

❑ **SNACK**
Tear an angel food cake into pieces. Put half in a bowl. Microwave a 12-ounce jar of raspberry preserves on high for 30 seconds. Mix two 4-ounce packages of vanilla instant pudding with 3 cups of milk. Mix one-third of an 8-ounce container of whipped topping into the pudding. Spoon half of the preserves over the cake in the bowl. Top with half of the pudding. Repeat layers. Spread remaining whipped cream on top. Top with fresh raspberries and blueberries. Spoon into cups.

❑ **CREATE**
Show children how to glue red, blue, and purple strips of paper or yarn to white construction paper to make the curtain of the tent-church. They can add angel stickers to the top of the curtain to represent the cherubim embroidered on the curtain fabric. *Option:* Dip thin strips of yarn or paper in red, blue, and purple paint and press them onto the paper. When dry, add the angel stickers.

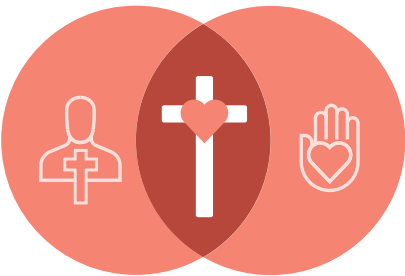
☆ BONUS ACTIVITIES

TABERNACLE MATERIALS
10 minutes

In one bin, set out different pieces of red, blue, and purple cloth (the colors used in the tabernacle). Have the children use their senses of sight and touch to sort the cloth by color, pattern, or texture. In another bin, set out costume jewelry, and have children sort the gold from the silver. Talk about the beautiful things used to make God’s house special.

TABLETOP TABERNACLE
20 minutes
Drape small red, blue, or purple towels or scarves over a large box for the open courtyard. Inside, put a shoebox without the lid (so children can see inside) for the tabernacle. To that box, let children add a doll-house table with pieces of bread, a small bowl of water (basin), candles (lampstand), a box made into an ark, a small perfumed box (altar of incense), and a box for the burnt offering as you tell about them.

TOUR THE CHURCH
20 minutes
Take children on a field trip to church. Ask your pastor or another church worker to explain church furnishings (pulpit, altar, banners, Church Year colors, stained glass windows, etc.). Let them see an offering plate, Communionware, and stoles up close. *Option:* Do a virtual field trip. Take pictures of the special items in your church to show to children. Ask what they like best about worship.



CONNECTING IDENTITY & CALLING

IDENTITY: WHO AM I?
God demonstrates His desire to dwell with me through His Word and Sacraments.

CALLING: WHY AM I HERE?
I can experience the presence of God as I study His Word and partake of the Sacrament of the Altar.

GROWING IN FAITH FOR LIFE

See how this lesson builds on previous learning for each age.

ADULT
I can connect God’s presence among His people in the tabernacle with His presence among His people today.

YOUTH
I can describe how God dwells with me just as He dwelled with the Israelites.

ELEMENTARY
I understand that God is here among us.

EARLY CHILDHOOD
I know God is with me.

ENDURING
FAITH™
Sunday School • Midweek
Bible Curriculum

A TENT
FOR GOD

God with His People
Exodus 25:1–19;
40:1–8, 34–38
1445 BC

OVERVIEW

BIBLE TRUTH
God dwells with His people.

BIBLE VERSE
The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. John 1:14

LEARNER GOAL
I know God is with me.

LAW & GOSPEL
My sin makes me unholy; I am unworthy to stand in God’s presence. **God cleanses me, makes me holy, and dwells in me through the sacrifice of Christ.**

SCRIPTURE SNAPSHOT
Moses begins the process of building a portable house for the Lord by gathering offerings from the Israelites. God provides detailed instruction for the creation of the ark of the covenant as well as the other fixtures of the tabernacle. When the tabernacle is finally assembled, the glory of the Lord descends on the tabernacle in the form of a cloud. As long as the presence remains, the people remain in that place.

EARLY CHILDHOOD
Unit 5
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 2

LESSON PREP

BASIC Read the Bible text and notes in *The Lutheran Study Bible*.

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

IN DEPTH Read the articles “The Tabernacle” and “The Materials of the Tabernacle” in *TLSB*, pages 139, 141.

SUPPLY LIST

FOR THIS LESSON

- ❑ Old shirts, shaving cream & cookie sheets
- ❑ Chairs, hymnals & other play church items
- ❑ Pictures of church buildings
- ❑ Costume jewelry; a piece of red, blue, or purple fabric; gemstones, wood, or leather (optional)
- ❑ Suitcases/backpacks & travel items
- ❑ Angel food cake, vanilla pudding, whipped topping, raspberry preserves, milk, raspberries & blueberries
- ❑ White construction paper; red, blue & purple yarn or strips of paper; glue paint (optional)

FOR EVERY LESSON

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

LAUNCH



LEADER NOTE

Use one or both activities to connect what children know to what they will learn in the lesson. If class time is short, omit these and start with Jesus Time.



BONUS ACTIVITY

Explore items used to make the tabernacle in “Tabernacle Materials.”



LEADER NOTE

To help children transition from the prelearning activities to Jesus Time, sing “Gathering Song” (*Little Ones Sing Praise*, p. 8) or another favorite.



LEADER NOTE

Show your Bible. Tell children all the stories in God’s Word are true.



BONUS ACTIVITY

Make a “Tabletop Tabernacle” to tell or review the story. Compare items in the tent-church to things we see in church.

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

SENSORY Spread shaving cream on the table or cookie sheets. Give children old shirts to wear. Encourage them to pile the shaving cream high to make clouds. Say, **Today we will hear how God came in a big cloud to show He was with His people.**

DRAMATIC PLAY Set out chairs, hymnals, Bibles, candles, an offering basket, a basin for a baptismal font, a doll, and other church items. Set out a long scarf for a stole and a cross children can wear to pretend they are a pastor. Have children playact things they do in church.

JESUS TIME

SING “Happy Now We Gather” (digital resource center) or “We Are in God’s House Today” (*Little Ones Sing Praise*, p. 12)

SAY **I wonder, who likes to go to God’s house, the church? What is something you do there? Today we’ll hear about a special church God’s people built.**

PRAY **Dear God,* thank You for our church.* It’s a special place to be.* Thank You for sending Jesus* to die and rise for us.* Amen.*** *Children echo phrases.

LEARN

INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

Show pictures (in books or online) of several styles of church buildings, including your church, if possible. Have children describe what they see and do in church. Say, **A church is a special place where we hear God’s Word, pray to Him, and praise Him. Some-times, we call our church “God’s house.” There are many types of churches. Some are made of wood. Some are made of bricks. Some churches have many bright colors. Others are dark. Some churches have pretty stained glass windows. Others have clear windows. Some have steeples with crosses on top. But have you ever gone to a church that was a big tent? Today we’ll talk about how God told His people in the Bible to make a big tent-church for Him. He told them to make special things for it. I wonder, why did God want them to make a tent-church? Let’s find out!**

TELL THE BIBLE STORY

Tell the Bible story in your own words, using the *Discover Leaflet* as a guide. *Option:* Gather these items to show to the children as you mention them in the story: costume jewelry; a piece of red, blue, or purple fabric; gemstones, wood, or leather. Talk about how some people offered gifts of things they could *give* for the tent-church. Others offered gifts of things they could *do* to make it (sew the curtain, hammer poles). Point to the curtain, the ark, the candlestick, and other furnishings on the leaflet, or find online pictures of the ark of the covenant, table with bread, lampstand with seven lights, altar of incense, wash basin, and altar for sacrifices to show as you mention them.

SAY THE BIBLE VERSE

Say, **God was with His people in the tent-church. The Bible says Jesus came to be with us. It says** (read from John 1:14): **“The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.” “The Word” means Jesus.** Point to your body and tell children that *flesh* means “body.” **Jesus was born as a baby. He had a body like us and lived on earth. What did Jesus do here?** (He taught about God. He healed people. He paid for our sins.) **Before Jesus went back to heaven, He promised to be with us always. How is Jesus with us now?**

LIVE

DISCOVER LESSON TRUTHS

Separate each *Discover Leaflet* into two pages. Send the first page home with each child. Hand out the second page with stickers and crayons.

SIDE 1 Color the tent curtain and connect the dots to make a big cloud over it. Talk about how God came to the tent-church in a cloud to show He was with His people.

SIDE 2 Look at the tabernacle side. Name the items in the tabernacle. Then look at the church side. Say, **God’s people took their tent-church with them when they moved to a new place. We don’t usually worship God in a tent now, but we have special things in our church like the things in the tent-church.** Point to the tabernacle altar of incense. **They had an altar in the tent-church. We have an altar too. Can you find it in this church? Our altar reminds us that God sent Jesus to be our Savior.** Have children color the altar cloth and paraments to match the ones in your church.

The tent-church had a lampstand—a pole with lights on it. Point to it. **What do we light in church? Yes, candles.** Have children color the candles. **We light candles to show God is with us. The tent-church had a basin of water so the priests could wash their hands to get them clean.** Point to it. **What do we call the bowl with water in church?** (Baptismal font) Add a sticker of a font. **In Baptism, God washes us clean on the inside. He forgives our sins and makes us His children. In the tent-church, God’s people had His Word, the Ten Commandments, in the ark of the covenant.** Point to the ark. **Where do we hear God’s Word?** (In the Bible) Have children add a Bible sticker. **In the tent-church, there was a table with special bread on it.** Point to it. **What do we have in our church?** (Communion) Give children stickers of bread and wine to put on the altar.

When we go to church, we receive God’s gift of forgiveness through Jesus. Add the Jesus sticker to the circle window over the altar. **Jesus died on the cross for us.** Have children circle and count the crosses in the picture. **We get to tell God “thank You” too. How?** (We sing and pray; we give an offering.)

ENGAGE IN ACTIVE LEARNING

Reinforce lesson truths with one or more of these active learning options. Turn to “Active Learning” on the back page for instructions on how to do the activities below.

□ MOVE	□ SNACK	□ CREATE
Play a game. God went with His people when they traveled. He is with us no matter where we go.	Serve cloud pudding. Talk about the red and blue curtain and how God came to the tent in a cloud.	Make tabernacle curtains.

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

Review the Learner Goal. Can children express that their church is a special place where God is with them and where they can worship Him? Ask, **How is God with us in church?**

LEAVE

SING “I’m in God’s Family!” (digital resource center) or “I’m with You” (*Little Ones Sing Praise*, p. 32)

SAY **God is with us. He gives us our church, where we can worship Him.**

PRAY **Dear God, thank You for loving us and being with us always. Thank You for our church, where we learn about You. Amen.**



CHRIST CONNECTION

In the Old Testament, God made His dwelling among His people in the tabernacle. Jesus, the Word made flesh, came to dwell among us and fulfill God’s promises by dying on the cross to save us from our sins. Risen and ascended, Jesus promises to be with us always and continues to give us God’s grace and mercy.



BONUS ACTIVITY

Use “Tour the Church” to talk about things we see in church. Before or after your trip, search online and take a 3D virtual tour of the tabernacle too. Compare what you see in it to what you see in your own church.



LEADER NOTE

Give children red, purple, and blue scarves to wave as they sing.