

EARLY CHILDHOOD LEADER GUIDE

Unit 6: God Restores His People



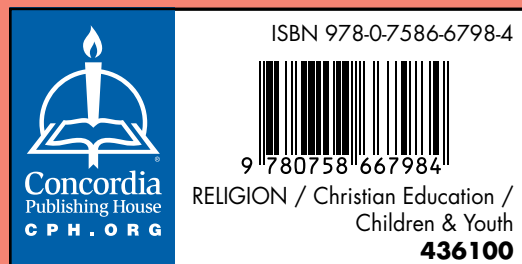
CONTENTS

EARLY CHILDHOOD LEADER GUIDE—UNIT 6

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	Provided-For Prophet—God Provides for Elijah <i>1 Kings 17</i>
2	Consuming Fire—Elijah and the Prophets of Baal <i>1 Kings 18:17–40</i>
3	A Whirlwind Ascent—Elijah Is Taken to Heaven <i>2 Kings 2:1–15</i>
4	Healing Waters—Naaman and Elisha <i>2 Kings 5:1–16</i>
5	Unwilling Prophet—Jonah <i>Jonah 1–3</i>
6	Promising Prophet—God Calls Isaiah SEASONAL (Easter) <i>Isaiah 6:1–8; 52:7–53:12</i>
7	Enduring Exile—Israel Goes into Exile <i>2 Kings 17:6–20, 24–29</i>
8	The Praying King—Hezekiah <i>2 Kings 18:1–13, 28–35; 19:14–20, 32–37</i>
9	The Restoring King—King Josiah <i>2 Kings 22</i>
10	A Fiery Marvel—Three Men in the Fiery Furnace <i>Daniel 3</i>
11	Abomination Nation—The Lord Leaves the Temple <i>Ezekiel 8; 10:1–19; 36:22–28</i>
12	The Rescuing Queen—Esther <i>Esther 2:15–23; 3:12–13; 4:12–17; 7</i>
13	Return to Rebuild—Rebuilding the Temple <i>Ezra 3; Nehemiah 8:1–12; 12:44–47</i>
14	Promised Messengers—Waiting for God's Messenger <i>Haggai 2:1–9; Malachi 3:1–7; 4</i>



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Email us at sundayschool@cph.org.

Manufactured in the United States of America

First Greek city-states established
900 BC

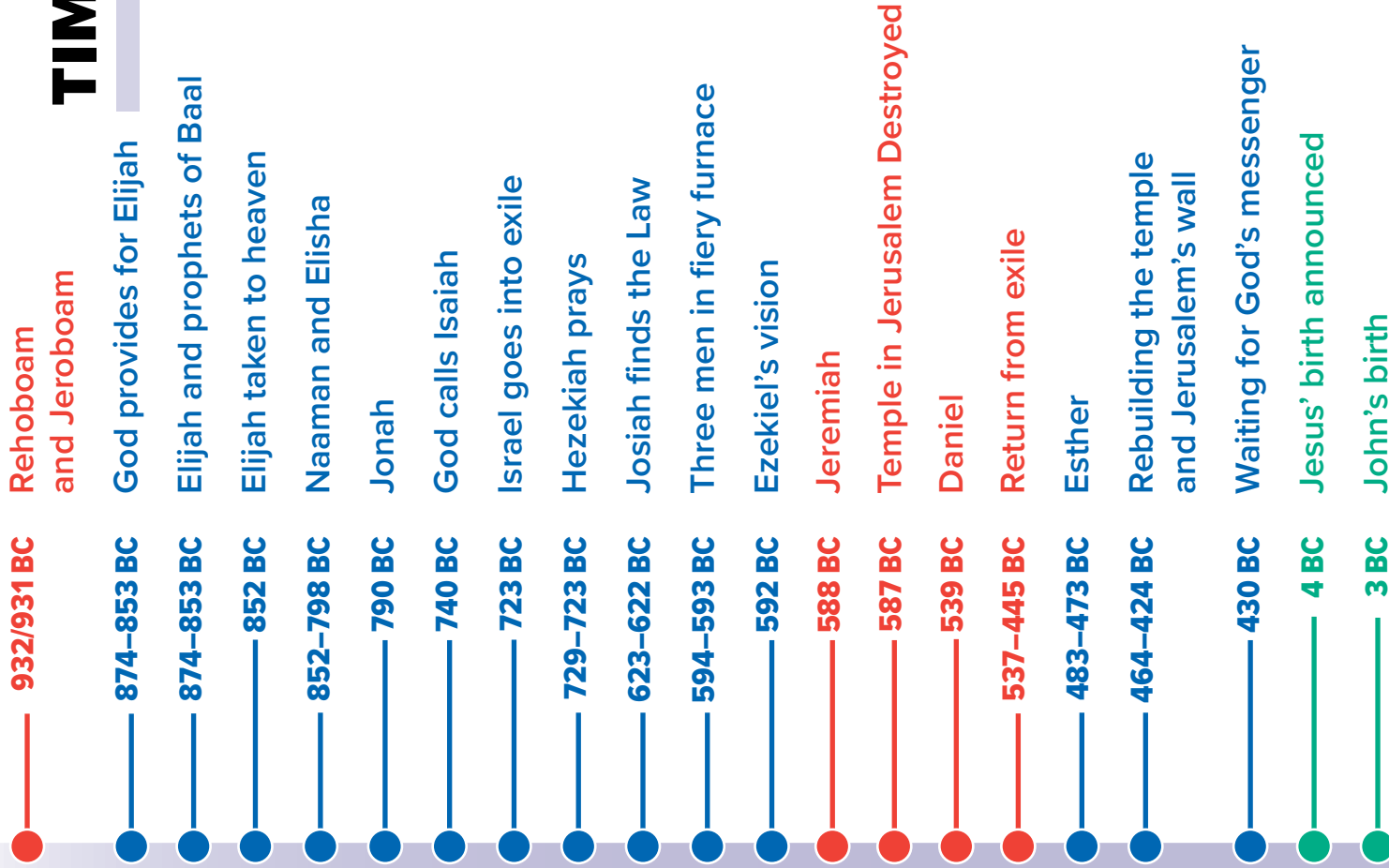
Iron Age societies develop
in Germany and Austria
800 BC

First recorded Olympic games
in Greece
776 BC

Celts begin to settle in Ireland
500 BC

Work begins on
Great Wall of China
220 BC

TIMELINE B



Han Dynasty restored in China
AD 23

KEY

Bible Survey

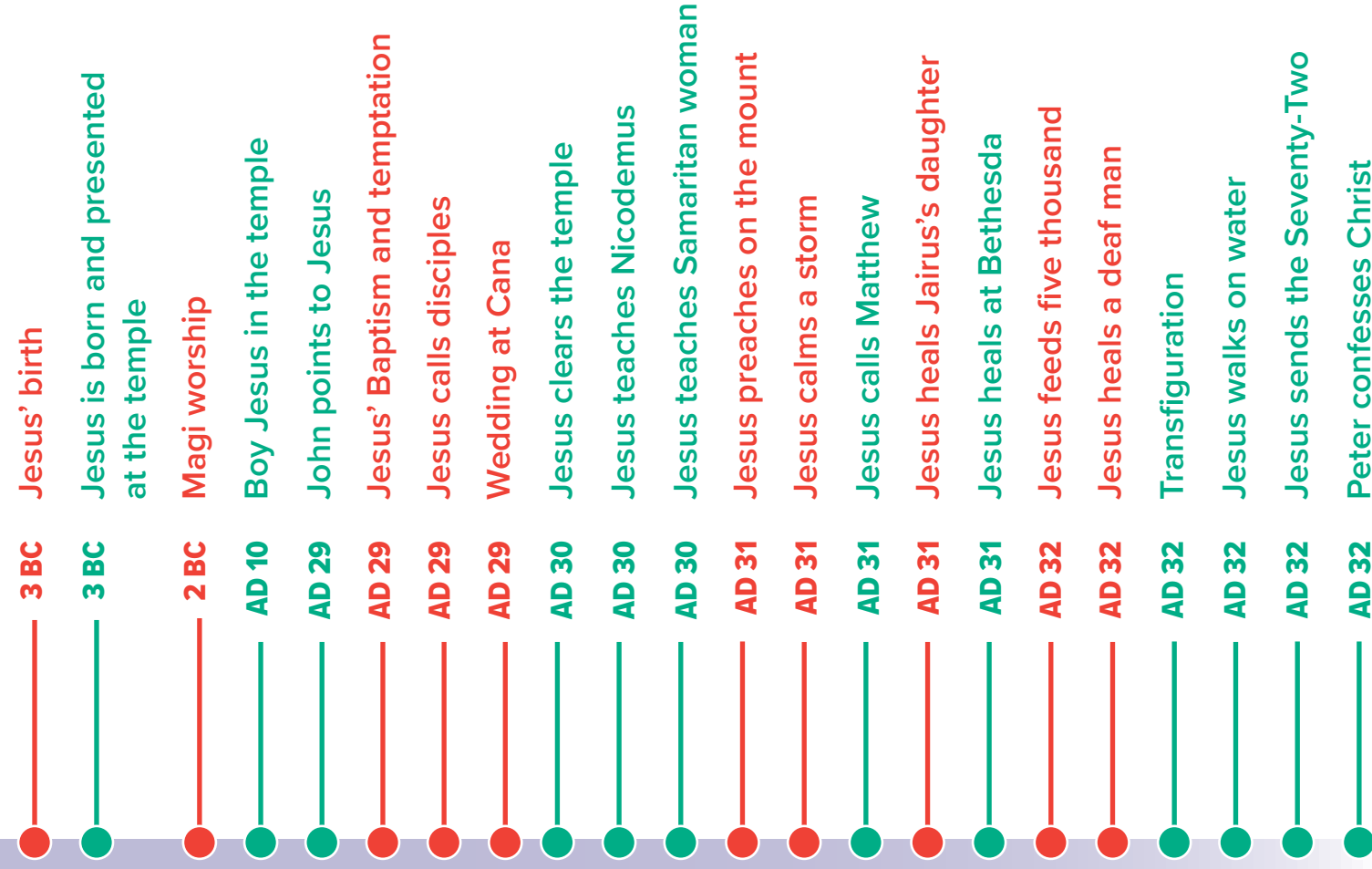
Old Testament

Exploration

New Testament

Exploration

World History



ADDITIONAL LEADER HELPS

MAKE YOUR OWN LIBRARY OF CPH RESOURCES

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

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

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

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 for access to 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

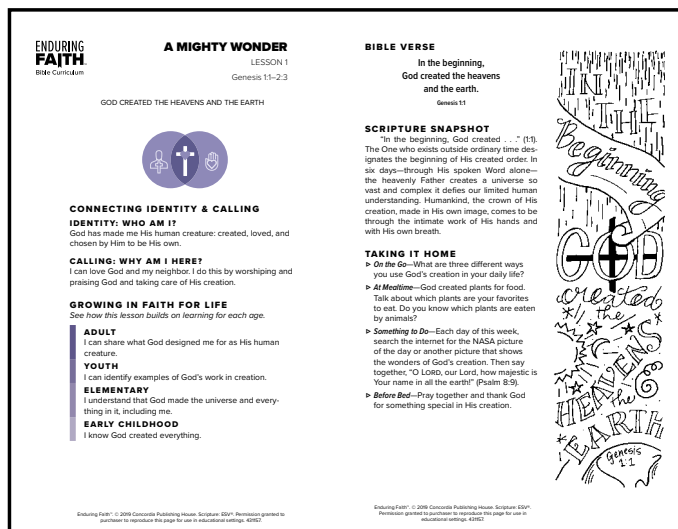
Enduring Faith Pages are reproducible take-home resources that summarize each Bible lesson and provide suggestions for "taking home" Bible truths from the lesson. Each page also has an illustrated version of the day's Bible Verse, perfect for coloring. Ask your coordinator for access to the Enduring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

PUPPETS

Preschoolers love little puppet friends and relate well to them. We encourage you to use one! The puppet talks in the Leader Guide are called Buddy Talks and we call the puppet Buddy, which means "friend," but you can use whatever name you like. You can find an assortment of puppets for purchase on cph.org.

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 plus 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 • Homeschool
Bible Curriculum

A MIGHTY WONDER

Unit 1
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 1

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

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.

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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
1:4-6:0
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.

PAGE 2 LEADER GUIDE



BONUS ACTIVITY
Try "Sort and Count."

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 sing.

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.



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.



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.

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.

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 a 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 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.

PROVIDED- FOR PROPHET

God
Provides
for Elijah
1 Kings 17
874–853 BC

OVERVIEW

BIBLE TRUTH

God provides all we need.

BIBLE VERSE

He provides food. Psalm 111:5

LEARNER GOAL

I know God provides what I need.

LAW & GOSPEL

In sin, I complain that God does not give me what I need or deserve.

Through His Son, God daily supplies me with all good gifts to sustain me in body and soul.

SCRIPTURE SNAPSHOT

The prophet Elijah warns King Ahab of the severe drought coming. God first sends Elijah to the brook Cherith, where He provides ravens to feed him. When the brook dries up, Elijah lodges with a widow in Zarephath. Despite her limited supply of flour and oil, it never runs out. God supplies just what they need each day. When the widow's son dies, Elijah raises him back to life through God's power.

LESSON PREP

BASIC Read **1 Kings 17** and notes in *The Lutheran Study Bible*.

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

IN DEPTH Read **1 Kings 16** for more context in regard to the bleak religious landscape of Israel leading up to Ahab.

SUPPLY LIST

FOR THIS LESSON

- ☐ Items or pictures of things that bring water (faucet, hose or nozzle, sprinkler, bucket, bottle)
- ☐ Blocks, play dough, thawed bread dough, or puzzles of things God provides
- ☐ Fast-food bag or lunch bag with food
- ☐ Bottle with a small amount of oil in it, bag with a small amount of flour & a bowl
- ☐ Rope
- ☐ Popcorn & popper or cinnamon rolls
- ☐ Boxes, brown paper, craft sticks, cups or cardboard paper-towel or gift-wrap tubes

FOR EVERY LESSON

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



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

Build relationships in Jesus Time. Ask children to tell you about their week and celebrate any birthdays.



BONUS ACTIVITY

Try “Feather Painting.”



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 remind children that the story comes from God’s true Word, the Bible. When you teach the Bible Verse, show children where it is in the Bible.

LAUNCH

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

DISCOVERY Set out items or pictures of items that bring us water, such as a faucet, water pipe, hose, nozzle, lawn sprinkler, bucket, and bottle of water. Ask, **How do we get water in our homes? How do you think people in Bible times got the water they needed for cooking and drinking? Today we’ll hear about how God provided food and water for one of His helpers who was hungry and thirsty.**

HANDS-ON Set out blocks, play dough, thawed bread dough, or puzzles with pictures of things God provides, such as food, family, toys, or clothing. Encourage children to build houses with the blocks, make food with the play dough, manipulate the bread dough and pretend to make bread, or put the puzzles together. Say, **God gives us our home and food and the things we need.**

JESUS TIME

SING “Father, Hear My Prayer” (digital resource center) or “We Are in God’s House Today” (*Little Ones Sing Praise*, p. 12)

SAY **Hi, children. It’s good to see you all here so we can learn more about how good God is and how much He loves and cares for us. I wonder . . . what did you have for breakfast? Today we’ll hear how God took care of Elijah.**

PRAY **Dear God,* thank You* for all the things You give us.* Thank You especially* for our Savior,* Jesus.* Help us* be good listeners.* Amen.*** Have children echo the words.

LEARN

INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

Show a fast-food bag. Ask, **Who has eaten at this place? Sometimes when we are hungry, our moms or dads might take us to a place like this. What do you like to get? The person who works there brings out your food in a bag like this or on a tray. When you are hungry, it smells yummy and tastes so good! In our story today, a man named Elijah was really hungry, but there was no food. He knew God would take care of him, though, and God did. Let’s find out how!** *Option:* Show a lunch bag with real or pretend food and adjust talk to introduce the story.

TELL THE BIBLE STORY

Tell the Bible story, using the *Discover Leaflet* as a guide. Have containers with small amounts of oil and flour and a bowl to show. Say, **Even though there wasn’t much oil or flour, the woman in the story never ran out because God was taking care of her and Elijah.** *Option:* Tell the story using storytelling puppets (see “Create”).

SAY THE BIBLE VERSE

Say, **Our Bible words say, “He provides food” (Psalm 111:5). Do you know who this is talking about? Lead children to see that God provides our food. Say verse together. God provided food for Elijah. How? (Through ravens and the woman) God keeps His promises to love and care for us too. He gives us food to eat. What are some foods you like to eat? How does God give you this food? (Through parents, etc.). God gives us many other blessings too. What are some of them? Let children tell.**

Sing this song to the tune of “Row, Row, Row Your Boat”:
**Food, food, food, God gives. He provides for me.
 Happily, happily, happily, happily. I can trust in Him.**

LIVE

DISCOVER LESSON TRUTHS

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

SIDE 1 Have children color the jug and bread and look for hidden loaves of bread as you review the story of how God provided for Elijah.

SIDE 2 Say, **Here is a picture of people having fun at a Sunday School picnic. They all need some things though. Who gives us what we need? Yes, God. Point to Search & Find column. Here are some of the things they need. Can you find them hiding in the big picture? When you do, circle them.** Talk about ways God provides for us.

ENGAGE IN ACTIVE LEARNING

Take time to reinforce the Learner Goal with one or more active-learning options. Turn to “Active Learning” on the back page for instructions to do the activities below.

□ MOVE

Play a game to look for God’s blessings.

□ SNACK

Pop some popcorn. *Option:*
Serve cinnamon rolls.
Connect this to the widow making bread.

□ CREATE

Make a Bible-times house and story figures.

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

This account of Elijah and the widow shows God’s daily care for us. He gives us everything we need—food, clothing, house, parents, church, and much more. Help children understand that God cares not only for our physical needs but also for our spiritual needs through Jesus, who rescues us from sin, death, and the devil.

Check for understanding by asking, **How does God take care of you?** Then say, **God loves us so much that He gives us all these blessings. Best of all, He showed His great love for us by sending Jesus to save us from the bad things we do. We can be sure God will always care for us!**

LEAVE

SING “What Do I Owe Him?” (digital resource center) or
“It’s Good to Give Thanks” (*Little Ones Sing Praise*, p. 61) or
Sing to the tune of “Jesus Loves Me”:

Thank You, God, for family.

Thank You, God, for things to drink.

Thank You, God, for food to eat.

Thank You, God, for everything!

(Chorus) **We thank You, Jesus! We thank You, Jesus!**

We thank You, Jesus! We give our praise to You!

SAY Today we heard how God takes care of us. How did God care for Elijah? How does God care for you? (He gives us a home and family, food and clothing, and other things we need.) **God cares for us through helpers because He loves us so much! God showed how much He loves us when He sent Jesus to be our Savior. God helps us show Jesus’ love to others too. He helps us share what we have.**

PRAY Dear God, we trust You to know what we need. Thank You for all the blessings You give to us. Thank You most of all for our Savior and best friend, Jesus. Help us to show Your love for others too. Amen.



CHRIST CONNECTION

God provided for and through Elijah. Through Jesus, God has provided for our eternal needs as well, including forgiveness, life, and salvation.



BONUS ACTIVITY

Invite your pastor to talk about the Lord’s Supper in “Bread of Life.”



BONUS ACTIVITY

Help children with the “God Provides Collage” activity to talk about all the ways God takes care of us and gives us what we need.

ACTIVE LEARNING

□ MOVE

Use rope to outline a circle for children to stand around. Have children do the actions as you say this rhyme:

Look up. (*Point up with finger.*)

Look down. (*Look and point down.*)

Now take a spin; turn around. (*Do so and point.*)

One of God's blessings I have found! (*Point to a child.*)

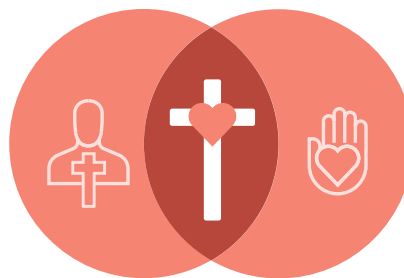
Name one of the children and say, **God made you, [Wren]. He loves you and takes care of you. You can always be sure of that!** Ask child to name a blessing from God (flowers, birds, pets, parents, church, Jesus, and so on) Repeat until all the children have had a turn.

□ SNACK

Show popcorn kernels. Then pop some in an air popper. Compare the kernels to the popped amount. Talk about how a little bread and oil didn't look like much either. But with God, a little can miraculously go a long way. God provided for Elijah, the woman, and her son by making their flour and oil last a long time. Ask, **How does God provide for you?** Talk about how God provides for us through others (parents, communities, church family). Say a prayer and enjoy the popcorn.

□ CREATE

Wrap a shoebox or tissue box in brown paper. Draw windows and a door on it. Draw steps on the end of the box leading to the roof. Attach a smaller box to the "roof," for Elijah's room. Attach the people stickers to upside-down cups or 3-inch sections of cardboard tubes. Attach the raven stickers to the front and back of a craft stick. Have children retell the story using their craft. Then say, **God took care of Elijah, the woman, and her son. He knows what we need to live. We can trust Him to take care of us too and give us what we need.**



CONNECTING IDENTITY & CALLING

IDENTITY: WHO AM I?

God makes me His own through His Word and Sacraments.

CALLING: WHY AM I HERE?

I can trust God to give me everything I need to fulfill my vocations in life.

GROWING IN FAITH FOR LIFE

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

ADULT

I can compare God's provision during the time of Elijah to how He provides for my needs today.

YOUTH

I can give examples of how God provides for all of my physical and spiritual needs.

ELEMENTARY

I understand that God gives me all that I need.

EARLY CHILDHOOD

I know God provides what I need.

★ BONUS ACTIVITIES

FEATHER PAINTING

10 minutes

Set out poster paper, paint, and feathers. Show children how to use the feathers to paint for different effects (dip tips in paint or lay feathers flat in paint and so forth). Ask, **What has feathers? What do feathers do?** (They keep birds warm; they help them fly.) Talk about how mother birds bring food for their babies. Say, **Today we'll hear how God took care of Elijah by sending birds to feed him. God provides for us too. How?**

BREAD OF LIFE

15 minutes

Ask your pastor to talk to your class about how God feeds us through His Word and the Lord's Supper. Ask him to show the bread and wine used in Communion. If possible, ask him to let the children taste an unconsecrated wafer. Tell children God saved Elijah from dying by providing food through the ravens and the woman. God saves us from sin and death by providing food for eternal life in the Lord's Supper. Jesus says He is the bread of life. Discuss.

GOD PROVIDES COLLAGE

15 minutes

Cut large hearts from poster paper and magazine pictures of things God provides, or let children cut their own pictures from magazines. Provide glue sticks to make a collage. Give children two craft sticks each to glue to their collages in a cross shape or cut a cross from construction paper. Say, **We thank God for His love and forgiveness in Jesus. We thank Him for caring for us and giving us what we need.**

CONSUMING FIRE

Elijah and the
Prophets of Baal
1 Kings 18:17–40
874–853 BC

OVERVIEW

BIBLE TRUTH

God shows us His power.

BIBLE VERSE

And this is eternal life, that they know You, the only true God. John 17:3

LEARNER GOAL

I know God is the true God, and I praise Him.

LAW & GOSPEL

God demands that I fear, love, and trust in Him alone, yet I sinfully place my trust elsewhere.

Jesus proves that He is the true Lord—offering Himself as the sacrifice for sin.

SCRIPTURE SNAPSHOT

Elijah challenges the people to stop “limping” between Baal and the true God. Gathering the 450 prophets of Baal, Elijah proposes a test to determine the truth: each side will butcher a bull for sacrifice and call on their god to send down fire. The prophets of Baal call upon their god, even cutting themselves to appease it, but nothing happens. Elijah drenches his offering with water, completely filling the trench around it. Then Elijah offers a simple prayer to the true God, who sends down fire from heaven to consume the offering, the wood, and even the water in the trench.

LESSON PREP

BASIC Read **1 Kings 18:17–40** and notes in *The Lutheran Study Bible*.

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

IN DEPTH Read the article “Making a Prophet” in *The Lutheran Study Bible*, page 555.

SUPPLY LIST

FOR THIS LESSON

- ☐ Tub of play sand, cups, spoons & containers of water
- ☐ Blocks, cross, candles & artificial flowers
- ☐ Medal or first-prize ribbon
- ☐ Paper hearts or paper praying hands
- ☐ Apple & knife, *3-in-1* book (optional)
- ☐ Marshmallows, pretzels & cheese curls or red licorice
- ☐ Jumbo craft sticks, lengths of red, orange & yellow crepe-paper streamers or ribbon

FOR EVERY LESSON

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



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

Use “In God’s House” to talk about altars.



LEADER NOTE

Show children where the Bible story comes from in your Bible. Tell them all the stories in God’s Word are true. When you teach the Bible Verse, show children where it is in the Bible too. Even though children can’t read the words yet, they can make the association that their memory words are from God’s true Word.

LAUNCH

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

WATER Set out a tub of play sand, cups, spoons, and containers of water. Encourage the children to make structures, dig ditches in the sand, and add a little water (not too much). Ask, **Pretend you are at the beach. Can you make a sandcastle? Now put a ditch around it. What happens when you put water in the ditch?**

BLOCKS Set out blocks and have the children work together to build an altar. Give them a cross, some artificial flowers, and a Bible to put on their altar. Say, **We go to church to worship God. We begin in His name: in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Today you will hear how God showed He is the one true God.**

JESUS TIME

SING “Father, Hear My Prayer” (digital resource center) or “We Are in God’s House Today” (*Little Ones Sing Praise*, p. 12)

SAY **Hi, children. Point to your classroom altar. Every week we gather by our altar. It has candles and a cross and Bible on it. We gather here to worship the one true God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Today we are going to hear about a time in the Bible when God showed He was the one true God.**

PRAY **Dear God,* we are gathered here* with our friends* to worship and praise You.* Help us to listen to Your Word* and learn more* about Your love for us* because of Jesus.* Amen.* *Have children echo the words.**

LEARN

INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

Show a medal from a contest or make one from two ribbons and a cardboard circle. Write the number 1 on it. Ask, **Who is a fast runner? Who thinks they can run faster than their friend? Has anyone been in a race or gone to a race? A race is a type of contest. In a race, the person who runs or drives a car the fastest wins the race. The person might get a ribbon like this to show he is number one.** *Option:* If you have room, let children line up and race to the opposite wall. Affirm that they are all fast runners, but say, **[Marcel] is the winner today because he got to the wall first.** Continue,

You may see ribbons like this at a fair. People make cakes or cookies or sew clothes or grow produce. The person who does the best work gets a ribbon to show she is number 1. Today we’ll talk about a different kind of contest. It’s between God and a pretend god. Who do you think will win? Who will be number one?

TELL THE BIBLE STORY

Tell the Bible story, using the *Discover Leaflet* as a guide. Use the questions on the leaflet to review.

SAY THE BIBLE VERSE

Read the Bible Verse from John 17:3: **“And this is eternal life, that they know You, the only true God.”** Ask, **How did God show He is the true God in our Bible story today? Because God has all power, we know He can do what He says. He tells us He gives us life with Him forever through Jesus. Because Jesus died and rose again for us, God gives us eternal life. That means we will live with Him forever.** Say the Bible Verse again.

LIVE

DISCOVER LESSON TRUTHS

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

SIDE 1 Have children color the fire as you review how God showed He is the true God.

SIDE 2 Say, **God is the true God. In today's Bible story, God showed He has power to help us. The pictures on this page tell us some more things about God.** Look at them, one at a time, and read what each picture says. Have children finish the scenes. (1) Finish the child and put sticker clothing on the child. Ask children to tell ways God cares for them. (2) Color the hay in the manger. (3) Color the water and add a Bible sticker. Talk about how God works through His Word and Baptism to make us His children.

Then read the text and finish the bottom row: (4) Outline and color the hands. (5) Outline and color the cross, then add a Jesus sticker to it. (6) Add a sticker of a tissue box. Discuss each picture. Ask, **What are some things you pray for? God answered Elijah's prayer. He answers our prayers too. We know God is the true God because He sent Jesus to take the punishment for our sins. He forgives us and helps us show love for others. What are ways you can do that?**

Option: Teach about the Trinity. Read the book *3-in-1* (CPH, 2004). Show an apple and tell how it has three parts: the skin, the flesh, and the seeds. Show each part. Say, **But it is one apple. The one true God is three persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—but He is one God. God the Father made us and cares for us. God the Son is Jesus. He died on the cross for our sins and rose again. God the Holy Spirit gives us faith in Jesus and helps us grow as His child.**

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

Go on a scavenger hunt to find paper hearts.

□ SNACK

Use marshmallows, pretzels, and cheese curls or licorice to make altars.

□ CREATE

Make fire stick praise wavers to use for praising our triune God.

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

Do the children grasp that only the true God has power to help them? Do they understand that God wants us to love Him? And can they tell about ways God's children do this? Check for understanding and ask, **How does God show He loves you? What are ways you can show you love Him?**

LEAVE

SING "God Takes Care of Us" (digital resource center) or "It's Good to Give Thanks" (*Little Ones Sing Praise*, p. 61)

SAY **God sent fire to show He is the true God. He wanted the people to love and worship Him. God shows He loves us by sending Jesus to be our Savior. He takes care of us and answers our prayers too. We can worship and praise Him. We show we love Him when we love others.**

PRAY **Dear Lord, You are the true God! Help us praise and thank You every day. Help us show love for others and tell them about Your love and forgiveness through Jesus. We love You. Amen.**



CHRIST CONNECTION

God showed He is the one true God by demonstrating His power over Baal in the confrontation on the mountain. God's Son, Jesus, demonstrated His power over sin, death, and hell on the mount of Calvary.



BONUS ACTIVITY

Make a prayer poster in "God Hears My Prayers," using the fingers of a child's hand as a simple way to help the child remember whom we can pray for. Remind children that our God is the true God. He has power to hear and answer our prayers.



BONUS ACTIVITY

Make Elijah's "Stone Altar."

ACTIVE LEARNING

□ MOVE

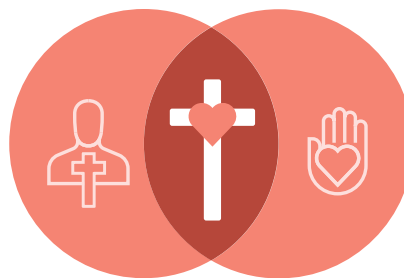
Hide paper hearts and go on a heart scavenger hunt. After you find the hearts, sit down and talk about loving God with our whole hearts and loving others. What are ways God helps us to do this? *Option:* Hide paper praying hands instead. When children find the hands, ask them to name people and things they can pray for. Write these on the hands and use them in your closing prayer. Talk about how God hears and answers our prayers.

□ SNACK

Give each child twelve mini marshmallows to make Elijah's altar. Have them put stick pretzels on top. Add cheese curls on top of that for flames, or snip red lico-rice into pieces. Say a table prayer before enjoying your snack. Review the story, emphasizing that God showed His power as the true God by answering Elijah's prayer. He answers our prayers too.

□ CREATE

Make praise wavers with ribbon "flame" streamers. On one side of a jumbo craft stick, put a Jesus sticker, followed by a heart sticker. Have each child write his or her name after that to read: "Jesus loves [Hector]." On the opposite side, write and use stickers to read: "[Hector] loves Jesus." Cut yellow, orange, and red crepe-paper streamers or ribbon into 12-inch lengths. Staple five together, and tape them to the top of the craft stick. Say, **Jesus is God. He loves us and hears our prayers. He died and rose again for us. We love Jesus. We show we love Him when we worship and praise Him. Let's praise Jesus now.** Sing "Praise Him, Praise Him" and have the children wave their flame streamers.



CONNECTING IDENTITY & CALLING

IDENTITY: WHO AM I?

God reveals Himself to me through His Word.

CALLING: WHY AM I HERE?

I can trust God to demonstrate His power over sin and evil through the death and resurrection of Jesus.

GROWING IN FAITH FOR LIFE

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

ADULT

I can express how God shows His power in the narrative and what that means for His people today.

YOUTH

I can express how God saved me with His power.

ELEMENTARY

I understand that God is all powerful.

EARLY CHILDHOOD

I know God is the true God, and I praise Him.

★ BONUS ACTIVITIES

IN GOD'S HOUSE

10 minutes

Take the children to look at your church altar, or show pictures of church altars. Talk about how Elijah built a stone altar and asked God to send fire to show He was the true God. Ask children what they see on your altar. Talk about how the altar reminds us that Jesus gave His life to pay for our sins. Point out the Communion rail around the altar and say, **God gives His gift of forgiveness in the Lord's Supper.** Tell how the pastor leads worship from the altar. He leads the prayers and tells us God forgives our sins.

GOD HEARS MY PRAYERS

15 minutes

Trace around a child's hand on paper with fingers closed to make praying hands. Trace around a cup to make a circle near each finger. Draw a line from each finger to a circle. Write "Myself" in the pinky circle; let children draw themselves. Write "Family" in the thumb circle; let them draw family. Write "Those who need help" in one circle and add a sticker of sick people. Write "Those who help us" in a circle and add a sticker of helpers. Write "Those who guide us" in the last circle. Add a sticker of pastor/teacher/parents.

STONE ALTAR

20 minutes

Purchase air-dry clay, or make some: Mix 1 cup salt, ½ cup flour, and 1 cup water with food coloring already in it. Heat in saucepan on low until thick and rubbery. Add more flour or water as needed. Store in an airtight container. Give each child clay to roll into an altar shape. Poke pebbles or buttons into it. Set on a paper plate. Let dry. Paint with a mixture of tempera paint, water, and white glue. Glue on tissue-paper flames. Write a Bible verse on the plate.