

**ENDURING
FAITH™**

Sunday School • Midweek
Bible Curriculum

EARLY CHILDHOOD LEADER GUIDE

Unit 8: Jesus Saves the World



Pontius Pilate becomes
prefect of Judea
AD 26

TIMELINE C

AD 31	The Good Samaritan
AD 31	The Lord's Prayer
AD 31	Mary and Martha
AD 31	Jesus seeks the lost
AD 32	Jesus heals man born blind
AD 32	The Good Shepherd
AD 32	Jesus raises Lazarus
AD 32	Jesus heals ten lepers
AD 32	Jesus blesses the children
AD 32	Zacchaeus
AD 33	Mary anoints Jesus
AD 33	Jesus rides into Jerusalem
	Jesus teaches about offerings
	The Lord's Supper
	Jesus in Gethsemane
	Jesus on trial/Peter denies Jesus
	Jesus is crucified
	Jesus' death and resurrection
	Jesus rises
	The Emmaus road
	Jesus appears to Thomas
	Jesus appears in Galilee

KEY

Bible Survey

New Testament

Exploration

World History

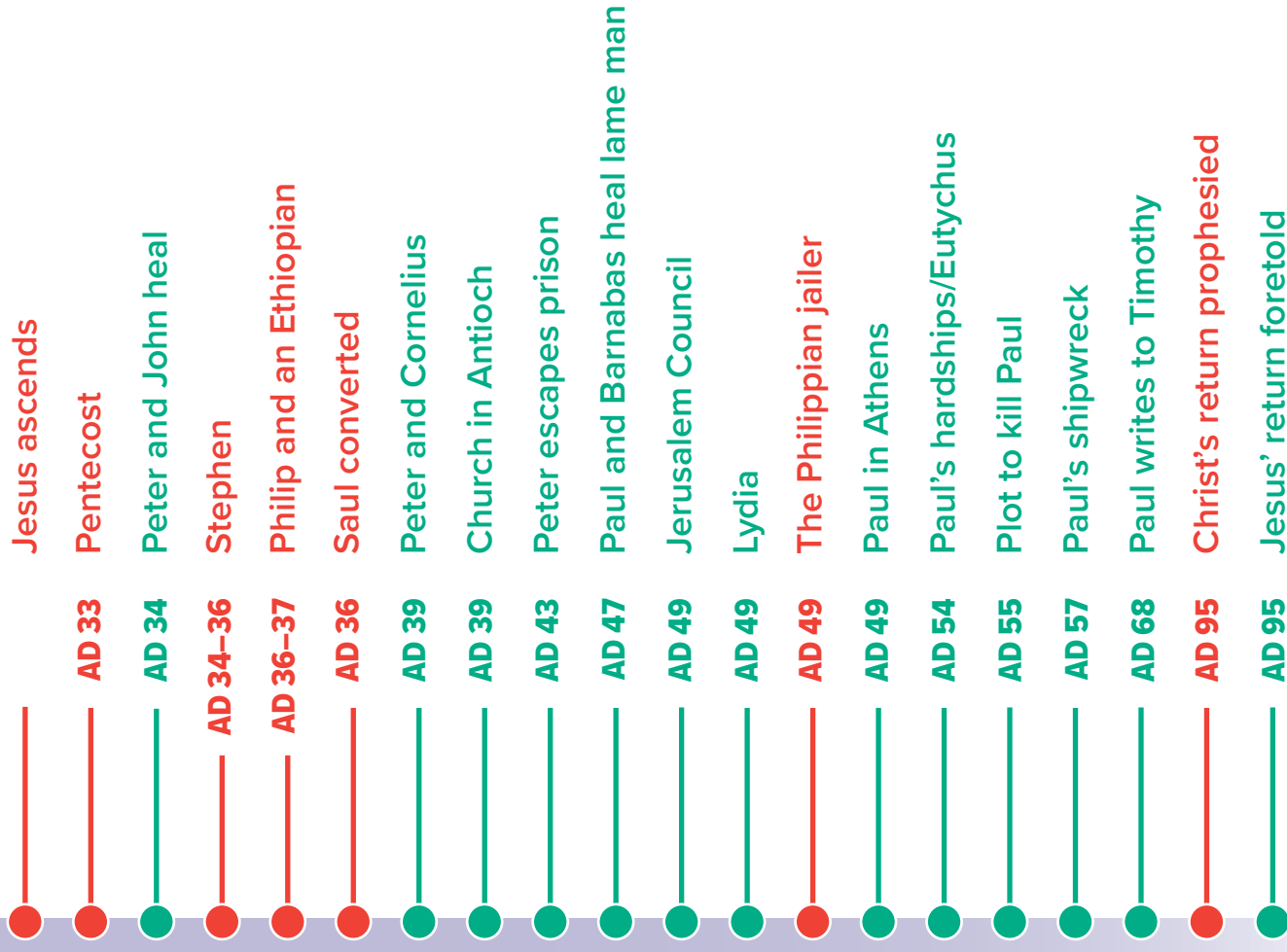
Jewish historian
Flavius Josephus born
AD 37

Book of James is written
AD 50

Great fire in Rome
AD 64

Jerusalem and the temple
destroyed, Jews deported
AD 70

Mt. Vesuvius erupts, destroying
Pompeii and Herculaneum
AD 79



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)

Know the Bible Now (CPH, 2016)

Lutheran Service Book (CPH, 2006)

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

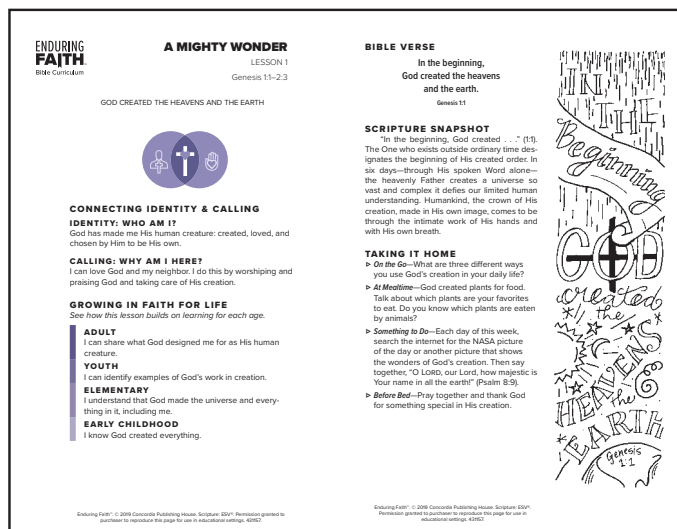
Enduring Faith Pages are reproducible take-home resources that summarize each Bible lesson and provide suggestions for "taking home" Bible truths from the lesson. Each page also has an illustrated version of the day's Bible Verse, perfect for coloring. Ask your coordinator for access to the Enduring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

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 • Weekend 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.

PAGE 4 LEADER GUIDE

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

CONNECTING IDENTITY & CALLING
IDENTITY: WHO AM I?
God has made me His human creature: created, loved, and chosen by Him to be His own.
CALLING: WHY AM I HERE?
I can love God and my neighbor. I do this by worshipping and praising God and taking care of His creation.
GROWING IN FAITH FOR LIFE
See how this lesson builds on learning for each age.
ADULT
I can share what God designed me for as His human creature.
YOUTH
I can identify examples of God’s work in creation.
ELEMENTARY
I understand that God made the universe and everything in it, including me.
EARLY CHILDHOOD
I know God created everything.

BONUS ACTIVITIES
Sort and Count
15 minutes
Bring leaves, or go outside to gather leaves. Set out construction paper in “leaf” colors (green, yellow, red, orange, brown), and have the children sort leaves. If they are all green, sort them by size or texture. Ask, **Who made the leaves? What else did God make? Say, God made everything! God made it good.**
Counting Game
10 minutes
Roll a die, and have children choose an action (e.g., if a child rolls a 5, children hop five times; if a child rolls a 3, children take three giant steps).
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

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

BONUS ACTIVITY
Try "Sort and Count."

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

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
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.

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LAUNCH

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

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

LEARN

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

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

Say the Bible Verse provides activities and suggestions for helping young children learn the words and meanings. 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 food allergies always.)

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

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 waves as they sing.

SAY Today we learned God made everything. God made us, too, and cares for us. He gives us the job of taking care of His world.

PRAY Dear Father in heaven, thank You for the beautiful world You made. Help us to take care of it. Thank You for sending Jesus to be our Savior and forgiving us when we don't take care of Your world as You want. Amen.

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.

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A WELCOME TRUTH

Mary and Martha
Luke 10:38–42
AD 31

OVERVIEW

BIBLE TRUTH

God gives us faith in Christ through His Word.

BIBLE VERSE

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. John 6:68

LEARNER GOAL

I know God wants me to listen to His Word.

LAW & GOSPEL

I get distracted from focusing on Jesus, my Savior.

God forgives my sins and guides me as I study His Word.

SCRIPTURE SNAPSHOT

Jesus and His disciples visit the home of sisters Mary and Martha. Mary sits at the Lord's feet to hear His words. Martha, busy with meal preparations, asks Jesus to tell Mary to help. Instead, Jesus gently tells Martha that Mary has chosen the more important thing.

LESSON PREP

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

MORE TIME Read the Third Commandment in *Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation*.

IN DEPTH Read John 11 and 12:1–7 in *The Lutheran Study Bible* with study notes to learn more about the family of Mary, Martha, and Lazarus.

SUPPLY LIST

FOR THIS LESSON

- ☐ Toy dishes & food, toy housekeeping items such as brooms, dustpans, dusters & aprons
- ☐ Play dough & rolling pin
- ☐ \$10 or \$20 bill, gift-wrapped box or card & Buddy puppet
- ☐ Cut-up fruits, vegetables & dip
- ☐ Construction paper, paper plates, paper fasteners & decorating supplies

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 the 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 or more of the suggested songs each week, as well as other favorites. Ask your coordinator for access to downloadable music from the online digital resource center.



LEADER NOTE

Show your Bible. Tell the children that all the stories in God's Word are true. Read the Bible Verse from your Bible so the children realize it is from God's Word.



BONUS ACTIVITY

Use the "Song Review" to review the story. Add actions as you sing. Talk about where we hear God's Word.

LAUNCH

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

DRAMATIC PLAY Set out toy dishes, food, dust pans, brooms, dusters, and aprons. Say, **Pretend someone special is coming for dinner. What will you make? Will you clean the house too? Today you'll hear about two sisters who were expecting someone special for dinner.**

PLAY DOUGH Set out play dough and rolling pins to make pretend food. Say, **Our Bible story is about two sisters who had a friend coming for dinner. One sister cleaned and made food. The other sister did something else. Listen to what she did.**

JESUS TIME

SING "God, Our Father, Hear Your Children" (digital resource center) or "The B-I-B-L-E" (*Little Ones Sing Praise*, p. 48)

SAY Hi, boys and girls! I'm glad to see all of you here to hear God's Word and learn about Jesus.

PRAY Dear God,* help us listen* whenever Your Word* is spoken.* Help us learn* more about Jesus* and His love.* Amen. *Have children echo the words.

LEARN

INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

Show a \$10 or \$20 bill to children and tell them you are going to give it to Buddy for his birthday. Put it in a wrapped gift box or card. Buddy arrives, excited about having company for his birthday. He talks about all the things he has to do yet (e.g., pick up his toys, put up balloons, set out food, help get the games ready). Try to interrupt him to give him his gift, but he goes on about what he has to do to get ready for his guests. Then he says he better go get busy and leaves. Look at your gift. Say, **Oh dear, Buddy didn't let me give him my gift. What special thing did he miss out on?** Let the children tell how they might spend the money. **He could get something special with the money, but he was too worried about getting things ready for his guests. So he missed out on his gift. In our story today, Jesus visited two sisters. One was so busy getting things ready that she missed out on a gift Jesus had for her. Let's listen and find out more.**

TELL THE BIBLE STORY

Tell the Bible story in your own words, using the *Discover Leaflet* as a guide.

SAY THE BIBLE VERSE

Say, **Mary sat and listened to Jesus teach about God's love. Where do we hear about God's love and how to get to heaven? Yes, the Bible. Show a Bible. The Bible tells us many wonderful things about Jesus. It is where I learn the stories about Jesus that I tell you. The Bible tells us how much God loves us. It tells us how God sent Jesus to be our Savior and friend. It tells us that Jesus forgives us and gives us eternal life.**

Can you sit quietly and show me you are ready to listen to God's Word now? Open Bible to John 6:68. **One time Jesus' helpers said: "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life." Let's say these Bible words together.** Say the verse with the children, dividing it in parts and having them echo the words after you. Tell the children that these are also words we sing in church sometimes before the pastor reads the Bible and tells us about Jesus. Sing or play "Alleluia. Lord, to Whom Shall We Go" (digital resource center; *Little Ones Sing Praise*, p. 48). Tell the children to listen for these words in church. They can sing along too.

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 the children color Mary and look for hidden Bibles.

SIDE 2 Talk about God's gift of ears. Ask the children to describe the sounds in each scene (the beep or varoom of a truck, the chirping of a robin, the splashing of water, etc.). Give them stickers to add to the four seasonal scenes. What other things might they hear in each season? In the last picture, point out that God wants us to use our ears to listen to His Word. Add a sticker of a Bible storybook. Say, **We can hear about Jesus in many places. Where else can we hear God's Word? What does God's Word tell us about Jesus?**

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

Play Simon Says. Talk about being a good listener and how God wants us to be good listeners of His Word.

□ SNACK

Cut up a variety of fruits and vegetables (e.g., carrots, celery, cucumbers, strawberries, grapes, bananas) and set out dip.

□ CREATE

Make a picture wheel, using a paper plate, paper fastener, construction paper, and decorating supplies. Use the wheel to tell about places we hear God's Word and how God's Word tells us that Jesus loves and forgives us.

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

Do the children understand that Jesus loved both Mary and Martha? He didn't want Martha to fret about life's problems. He wanted her to enjoy His peace and learn from Him. Jesus wants us to listen to His Word, too, to learn we are His children. His Word gives us peace and joy in knowing that we are forgiven for His sake. It gives directives in dealing with problems, and it comforts us in sad times. Say, **Jesus said Mary made a good choice in listening to Him. Ask, Where do you hear Jesus' voice? What are some things you know about Jesus from God's Word?**

LEAVE

SING "Alleluia. Lord, to Whom Shall We Go" (digital resource center) or "Jesus Loves Me, This I Know" (*Little Ones Sing Praise*, p. 42)

SAY Jesus was glad Mary listened to Him teach about God's love. Jesus loved Martha and wanted her to listen too. Jesus loves us too and wants us to hear what He tells us. Where can we find out what Jesus says? Yes, in God's book, the Bible. The best thing we learn about Jesus is that He loves us and died on the cross for us. He forgives us and gives us eternal life with Him.

PRAY Dear God, thank You for loving us. Thank You for sending Jesus to be our Savior and giving us eternal life. Help us listen to Your Word so we can learn more about Jesus and Your love. Amen.



CHRIST CONNECTION

Christ, the Word of God in the flesh, has the words of eternal life. We listen to Him, and He gives us His gifts.



LEADER NOTE

Use paper plates with 7-inch centers or larger. *Option:* Divide the back of the plate into four sections and add stickers, instead of making a construction-paper circle for them. Give the children a choice of colors for the top construction-paper circle.



BONUS ACTIVITY

Teach some "Sign Language." Talk about how God loves and is with those who cannot hear and gives them ways they can learn about Jesus too.



BONUS ACTIVITY

Say a "Table Prayer" to talk about how we invite Jesus to be our guest at meals and thank Him for our food.

ACTIVE LEARNING

□ MOVE

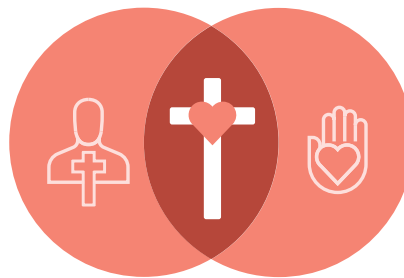
Say, In our Bible story today, Mary listened to Jesus. Let's play a listening game called Simon Says. When Simon tells you to do something, do it. But if Simon doesn't say to do it, stand still. Begin, Simon says, "Touch your toes." Good job. I can tell you are listening! Simon says, "Clap your hands!" Great! Now touch your head. Oh, oh. Simon didn't say to do that! Simon says, "Walk in place." You are being good listeners! Jump up and down. Did I trick anyone? Simon says, "Turn around." Good job! You are still listening. Simon says, "Please sit down." Talk about how the children were good listeners. Jesus wants them to listen to His Word too. Ask, **Where do you hear God's Word?** What does God tell us in the Bible?

□ SNACK

Say, **Fruits and vegetables are some of the best foods God gives us. They have vitamins and minerals that help our bodies grow strong. They are a food that is necessary to keep us healthy. Hearing God's Word is necessary to keep our faith strong.** Talk about where we hear God's Word, and share favorite Bible stories.

□ CREATE

Cut out two 7-inch paper circles. Use a marker to draw four pie-shaped sections on each. Glue one circle to a paper plate. Add a sticker in each section that shows where we hear God's Word. Cut one pie section from the other circle, leaving the middle corner uncut for the fastener. Use the Jesus, heart, and cross stickers to make "Jesus loves and forgives [child's name]" on the top circle. Decorate. Attach the circles with a paper fastener.



CONNECTING IDENTITY & CALLING

IDENTITY: WHO AM I?

God gives me His Word as the Spirit leads me in faith.

CALLING: WHY AM I HERE?

I can focus on God's Word as I read and hear it.

GROWING IN FAITH FOR LIFE

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

ADULT

I can relate the narrative to how God desires that we prioritize our lives as His people today.

YOUTH

I can describe the one thing necessary—faith in Christ received through God's Word.

ELEMENTARY

I understand that God gives faith in Christ through His Word.

EARLY CHILDHOOD

I know God wants me to listen to His Word.

★ BONUS ACTIVITIES

SONG REVIEW

10 minutes

Sing to tune of "Are You Sleeping?"

Repeat each line twice.

Where was Martha? Repeat.

Now we know. Repeat.

She was making dinner. Repeat.

All alone. Repeat.

Where was Mary? Repeat.

With her Lord. Repeat.

She was busy list'ning. Repeat.

To His Word. Repeat.

Where will I be? Repeat.

Sitting still. Repeat.

Ready here to listen. Repeat.

To God's Word. Repeat.

SIGN LANGUAGE

10 minutes

Tell the children that some people can't hear because they have a problem with their ears. They are deaf. Ask the children what they think these people do. Say, **These people "listen" with their eyes. They use hand signals called sign language because they can't hear what others say.** Teach the class some signs for "Jesus Loves Me, This I Know" (*Little Ones Sing Praise*, pp. 42–43). Sing the song and use the signs.

TABLE PRAYER

10 minutes

Say, **Mary and Martha were blessed to have Jesus as a guest in their home. What do you think they made for Him for supper? Jesus comes to our homes too. He blesses us and gives us the food we eat. When we eat, sometimes we pray a special prayer inviting Jesus to be our guest too. We pray, "Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest. Let these gifts to us be blessed." That means we want Jesus to be with us and we thank Him for our food.** Have the children repeat the prayer with you.

LOST-AND-FOUND WONDERS

Jesus Seeks
the Lost
Luke 15
AD 31

OVERVIEW

BIBLE TRUTH

Jesus seeks lost sinners.

BIBLE VERSE

For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.
Luke 19:10

LEARNER GOAL

I know God is my loving, forgiving Father.

LAW & GOSPEL

Because of my sin, I am lost from God.

My heavenly Father does not abandon me, but seeks me out, forgives me completely for Jesus' sake, and keeps me safe in faith.

SCRIPTURE SNAPSHOT

Jesus shares three parables demonstrating our heavenly Father's concern for the lost. The shepherd leaves the ninety-nine sheep to seek one that was lost. A woman sweeps the house to find one of ten silver coins. In the parable of the lost son, a young man squanders his inheritance, ending up in squalor. Determined to plead for his father's mercy and beg to return as a servant, the son instead receives a celebration. Angered at his father's welcome for the prodigal, the older son confronts his father. The father's gentle response reassures the young man of the father's everlasting love and care.

LESSON PREP

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

MORE TIME Read the notes on religious groups in *The Lutheran Study Bible*, pages 1556–58.

IN DEPTH In addition, read the notes on table fellowship in *The Lutheran Study Bible*, pages 2230–31.

SUPPLY LIST

FOR THIS LESSON

- ☐ Blocks, farm animals & fences
- ☐ Toy dishes, toy food & play dough; fruit, knife (adult use only) & bowls (optional)
- ☐ Party blowers & horns
- ☐ Toy figures, bag or wallet with money, toy fences or blocks & toy pigs (optional)
- ☐ Toy items to hide
- ☐ Instant pudding, milk, whisk, clear cups & stir-ins (e.g., granola, M&Ms, cereal, coconut)
- ☐ Pink cups, wiggle eyes, pink construction paper or craft foam, pipe cleaners & paper napkins

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 the 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 “Lost-and-Found Prayers” during Jesus Time or your Closing.



LEADER NOTE

Show your Bible. Tell the children that all the stories in God’s Word are true. Read the Bible Verse from your Bible so the children realize it is from God’s Word.

LAUNCH

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

BLOCKS Set out blocks, farm animals, and fences for the children to play farm. Talk about how farmers care for their animals (clean where they live, feed them, give them bedding, etc.). Say, **In our story today, a son leaves home and ends up working on a farm. He is so hungry, he wishes he could eat the pig food!**

DISCOVERY Set out toy dishes, toy food, and play dough to make food. Talk about making food for a party. *Option:* Peel fruit. Put the peels in one bowl and the fruit in another. Ask the children which they’d like to eat. Tell them pigs eat peels like this, but a boy in our story is so hungry that the peels look good to him too!

JESUS TIME

SING “God, Our Father, Hear Your Children” (digital resource center) or “Jesus Loves Me, This I Know” (*Little Ones Sing Praise*, p. 42)

SAY **Hi, boys and girls! Who loves you? (Parents, friends, etc., and Jesus!) What if you do something naughty? Do they still love you? Today we’ll hear a story Jesus told to teach us about God’s love. It is about a boy who did not show love for his father, but his father was loving and forgiving.**

PRAY Dear God,* You love us so much.* Thank You* for sending Jesus* to be our Savior.* Thank You* for forgiving us* when we say or do bad things.* We are happy* to be Your children.* Amen.* *Have children echo phrases.

LEARN

INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

Give the children party blowers and horns, and encourage them to blow them. Ask when you might use things like this. (At parties and celebrations) Say, **Today we are celebrating our awesome God and how much He loves us! How did He show His love for us?** (He sent Jesus to be our Savior; He cares for us, hears our prayers, etc.) **God forgives us because of Jesus. That is something worth celebrating!**

TELL THE BIBLE STORY

Tell the Bible story in your own words, using the *Discover Leaflet* as a guide. *Option:* Use toy figures to represent the father, son, and brother as you tell it. Have a wallet or bag with some money in it to show when you talk about the father’s money. Count out some of the money and tell how the father gave his son part of his money when he asked for his share. Use toy fences or blocks and pigs for that part of the story.

SAY THE BIBLE VERSE

Read the Bible Verse from Luke 19:10. Say, **The son in the story did bad things. But his father loved him. He forgave him and welcomed him home. We all do bad things too. We can’t save ourselves. God, our Father in heaven, is sad when we do bad things instead of what He wants. But He is glad when we know we did a bad thing and are sorry. He loves us even more than the father in the story loved his son.**

The Bible calls Jesus the “Son of Man.” It says, “The Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.” God sent His Son, Jesus, to take away what we have done wrong, our sins. He welcomes us into His family because of Jesus and makes us His children in Baptism. When we sin and are sorry, He forgives us and welcomes us back. Someday He will welcome us home to heaven. Say the verse together.

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 the children finish coloring the page and circle the hidden hearts. Talk about how the father loved and forgave his son. Ask, **How does this story remind us of God our Father in heaven?**

SIDE 2 Read the text and talk about what is happening in the sin pictures on the left side. Say, **Jesus always loves us. Aren't you glad? Jesus doesn't want us to do wrong things though. He wants us to be sorry when we do.** Have the children draw a cross on each of these pictures. **Jesus helps us say, "I'm sorry."** Give the children Jesus stickers to put on the forgiveness pictures on the right side. **Jesus is always willing to forgive us. Aren't you glad?** Read the captions. **Draw a smiley face by each Jesus sticker.**

Option: Say, **God is loving and forgiving. When we sin, He helps us say we are sorry. He forgives us for Jesus' sake.** Pose sin situations and have the children practice saying "I'm sorry" and "I forgive you." For example: **Auggie was mad and pulled Caroline's hair. Pretend you are Auggie. What does God want you to say? (I'm sorry.)** Have the children say that. **Pretend you are Caroline. What will God help you tell Auggie? (I forgive you.)** Have the children do that.

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

Look for lost items to talk about how God sent Jesus to find us and save us.
Option: Play hide-and-seek. Talk about how Jesus finds and saves us.

□ SNACK

Serve "pig slop," using pudding and stir-ins.

□ CREATE

Make pig napkin holders, using wiggle eyes and pink paper cups, construction paper, pipe cleaners, and napkins.

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

Ask the children what their favorite part of the story is. Help them understand how the story Jesus told is a picture of how God loves and forgives us when we do wrong things. Say, **We do wrong things too. God is sad when we do bad things. Who did He send to save us from our sins? When we are sorry for our sins, what does God do?**

LEAVE

SING "Alleluia. Lord, to Whom Shall We Go" (digital resource center) or "I Am Sorry, Jesus" (*Little Ones Sing Praise*, p. 14)

SAY **God always loves us. He sent Jesus to be our Savior. He is always willing to forgive us when we do things that are wrong. He is our loving and forgiving Father.**

PRAY **Thank You, forgiving Father, for sending Jesus to be our Savior. Help us say "I'm sorry" when we do something bad. Thank You for forgiving our sins for Jesus' sake. In His name, we pray. Amen.**



CHRIST CONNECTION

By His life, death, and resurrection, Jesus Christ has sought us out, forgiven us, and called us to be His forever.



LEADER NOTE

Check with parents ahead of time, and provide options for children with allergies. Most cookies, pretzels, and such can also be purchased in allergy-free forms; or provide fruit or the like as an option.



BONUS ACTIVITY

Play "Musical Chairs." Reinforce that we are never left out of God's love for us in Jesus.



BONUS ACTIVITY

Hold a "Forgiveness Party" during snack time.

ACTIVE LEARNING

□ MOVE

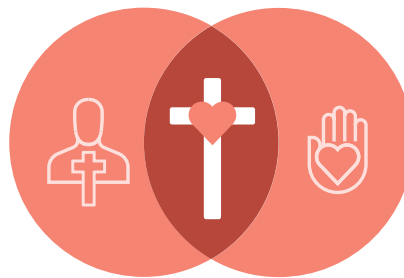
Hide items for the children to find (e.g., animals, toy people). Tell the children what to look for and how many things there are. When they are found, say, **The lost things have been found. People without God are lost. But God does not give up on them. He is loving and forgiving. He sent Jesus to save those who are lost, including us. God works in people's hearts so they are sorry for the wrong things they do and can receive Jesus' forgiveness and salvation.**

□ SNACK

Combine instant pudding with 2 cups of milk. Whisk. Spoon the pudding into individual clear cups. Set out stir-ins in separate bowls (e.g., cereal, granola, coconut, M&Ms). Let the children add stir-ins to their pudding cups. Tell them that real pig slop is made with kitchen scraps. The son was so hungry he wished he could eat pig food!

□ CREATE

Trace around the bottom of a pink cup onto craft foam or pink construction paper. Cut out the circle for a face. Glue wiggly eyes to it. Add snout sticker. Draw a mouth. Turn cup upside down. Glue the face to the cup's side, near the top. Cut foam ears; glue to cup. Wrap a pink pipe cleaner around a pencil to make a curly pig tail. Poke a small hole in the back of the cup and stick tail through the hole, bending the wire to keep it in place. Cut four U-shaped sections from the cup opening to make legs. Fit a rolled-up napkin under them. Add the Bible Verse sticker. Talk about how the father welcomed his lost son and celebrated his return. God does that for us in Jesus.



CONNECTING IDENTITY & CALLING

IDENTITY: WHO AM I?

God seeks all who are lost and separated from Him.

CALLING: WHY AM I HERE?

I have been sought and redeemed by Christ, my Savior.

GROWING IN FAITH FOR LIFE

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

ADULT

I can analyze the text to understand what it means that Jesus seeks lost sinners like me.

YOUTH

I can give biblical examples to show how Jesus seeks lost sinners.

ELEMENTARY

I understand that Jesus comes to find lost sinners like me.

EARLY CHILDHOOD

I know God is my loving, forgiving Father.

★ BONUS ACTIVITIES

LOST-AND-FOUND PRAYERS

15 minutes

Have the children draw pictures of things they want to pray for, or have them dictate what or who they want to pray for, and write their requests on paper. Hide the papers around the room, and have the children look for them. Use the requests in a prayer. Begin, **Our prayers never get lost. God is always near and always listens to our prayers for Jesus' sake. He promises to answer them in a way that is best. Let's pray for** [read or show a prayer starter request]. Continue with the rest.

MUSICAL CHAIRS

15 minutes

Form a circle with chairs or carpet squares, one fewer than the number of children. Explain the game. Play music as children walk around chairs. When music stops, all but one child sits on chairs. Remove that child and a chair; play again. Continue until just one chair is left. Say, **Being left out is part of this game. We never need to worry about being left out of God's love and forgiveness, though. He welcomes us and forgives us through Jesus and gives us eternal life.** Connect to the story.

FORGIVENESS PARTY

15 minutes

Have the children decorate index cards and poster paper to make name cards and place mats. Hand out bonus stickers to use. Let children decorate your snack area with balloons, streamers, curly ribbons, and the like. Set the table with name cards and place mats. Set out party food. Say a prayer, thanking God for His love and forgiveness in Jesus. Play music and celebrate God's love as you enjoy your snack. Make or give the children party hats. **The Bible says heaven is like a big feast or party where God welcomes us.**