

**ENDURING
FAITH™**

Sunday School • Midweek
Bible Curriculum

ELEMENTARY LEADER GUIDE

Unit 8: Jesus Saves the World



CONTENTS

ELEMENTARY LEADER GUIDE—UNIT 8

Flexible curriculum that nurtures lifelong disciples of Jesus

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

LESSON LESSON TITLE / TEXT

1	A Welcome Truth—Mary and Martha <i>Luke 10:38–42</i>
2	Lost-and-Found Wonders—Jesus Seeks the Lost <i>Luke 15</i>
3	The Seeing Sign—Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind <i>John 9</i>
4	A Resurrection Sign—Jesus Raises Lazarus <i>John 11:1–44</i>
5	The Thankful One—Jesus Heals Ten Lepers <i>Luke 17:11–19</i>
6	The Kingdom of Children—Jesus Blesses the Children <i>Luke 18:15–17</i>
7	The Passion Prediction—Mary Anoints Jesus <i>John 12:1–8</i>
8	The King Arrives (SEASONAL: Christmas)— Jesus Rides into Jerusalem <i>Matthew 21:1–11; Psalm 24:7–10</i>
9	A Trusting Widow—Jesus Teaches about Offerings <i>Mark 12:41–44</i>
10	Forever Food—The Lord's Supper <i>Luke 22:7–23</i>
11	Betrayed and Arrested—Jesus in Gethsemane <i>Matthew 26:36–56</i>
12	Standing Trial—Jesus on Trial/Peter Denies Jesus <i>Mark 14:53–72</i>
13	The Living Wonder—Jesus' Death and Resurrection <i>Mark 15:16–16:8</i>
14	The Proof Room—Jesus Appears to Thomas <i>John 20:19–31</i>

Enduring Faith™

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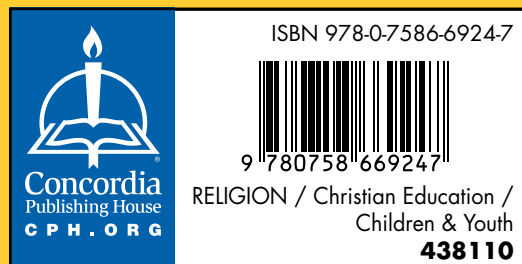
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Email us at sundayschool@cph.org.

Manufactured in the United States of America



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

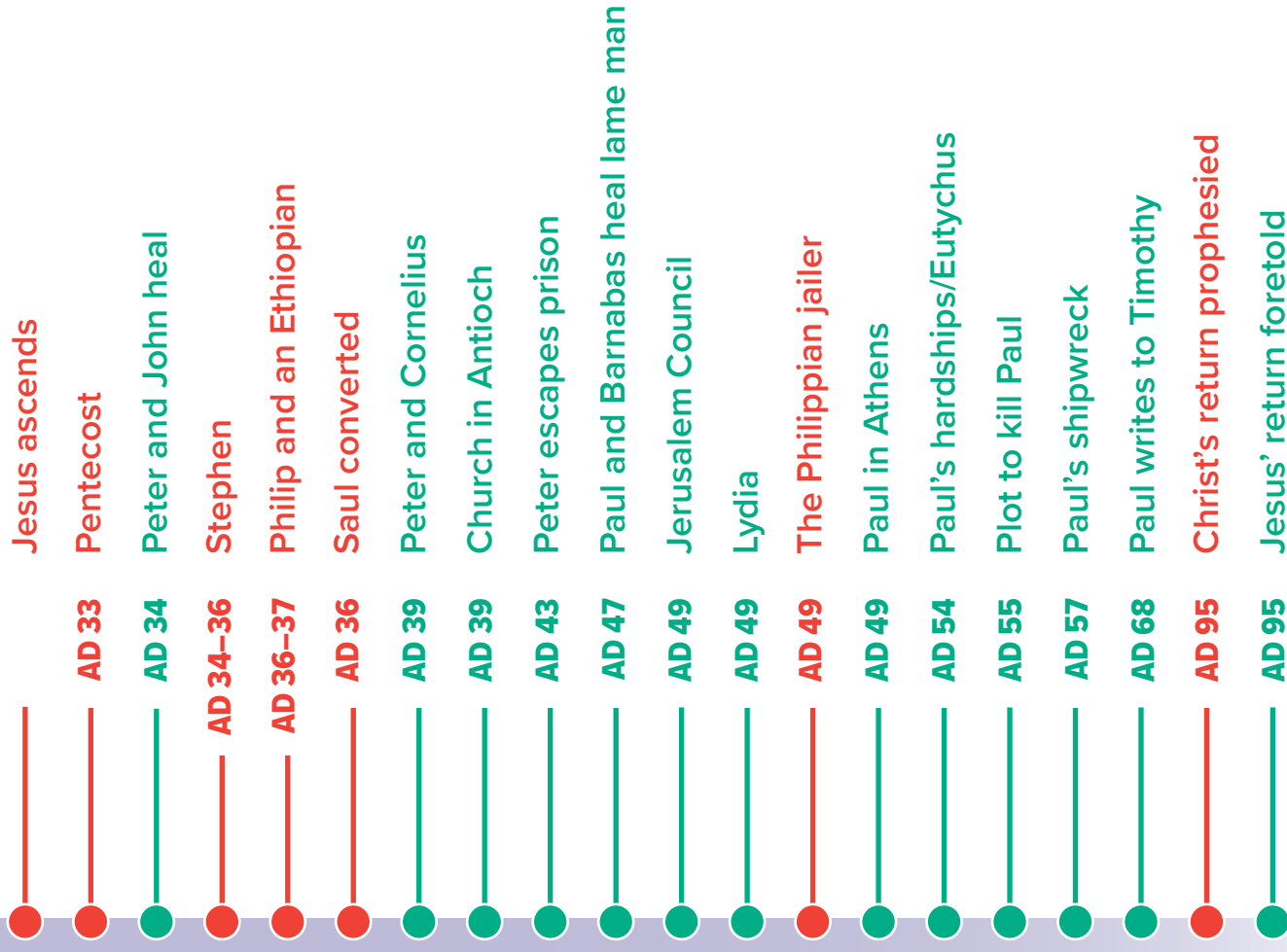
Jewish historian
Flavius Josephus born
AD 37

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 benefit you to have on hand as you prepare your lessons.

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

Lutheran Service Book (CPH, 2006), also referred to as *LSB*

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

Know the Bible Now (CPH, 2016)

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

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 materials in the online digital resource center.

ENDURING FAITH PAGES

When you lead a group of such a wide range of ages and abilities as this level is intended for, it's always a good idea to have something extra for students to do. Depending on your setting, you may have students who arrive at different times. You may have students who finish activities faster than others. Find the Enduring Faith Pages in the online digital resource center and download them for copying. Each page has an illustrated version of the day's Bible Verse. Have extras of these ready for students to color or decorate in those extra minutes of class time.

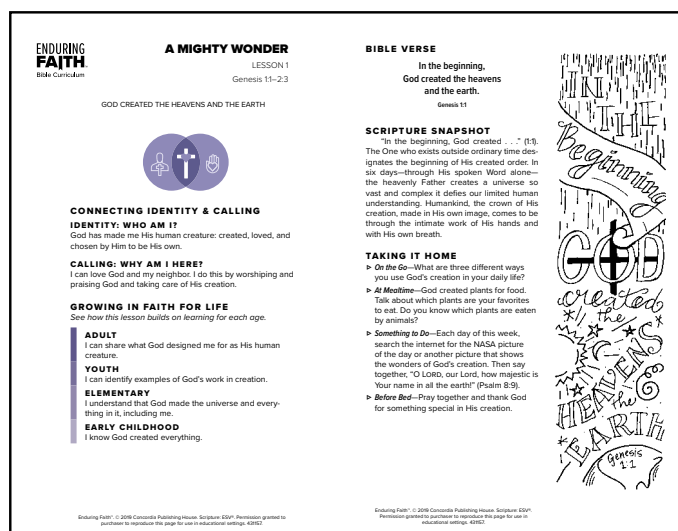
MUSIC

Download music from the online digital resource center. Songs and hymns have been chosen and used over the course of several lessons so students have an opportunity to learn and practice them so they understand and remember them. If you aren't comfortable teaching children to sing a song, play the music in the background as students enter your classroom or work on projects during the lesson or at the end of class. Together with students, sing along and enjoy God's Word in song.

MAKE THIS YOUR OWN

We recognize that no two classrooms are the same. Each group of students is unique. Different teachers and students have differing backgrounds and abilities. You may have a large group of students of similar ages. You may have a small group of students with a wide age difference. You may have some mix of both. You may have students who are just learning to read and some who are advanced readers. You may have students who know these Bible narratives well and some students who have never heard them before. All this may change from week to week.

We hope we have provided you 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 your students 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 *EXPLORE BIBLE GUIDEBOOK* FOR STUDENTS

You will need one guidebook per student.

Page 1

- Bible narratives are written in age-appropriate ways.
- Colorful Bible art illustrates lesson narratives.
- Additional interesting facts about key figures are provided in the narratives.

Page 2

- Colorful and engaging visuals and text help students of different ages learn more in-depth information about each Bible narrative.
- For visual learners, there are many and varied pictures. For strong readers, there is additional text to share interesting Bible facts. There's something for everyone!
- Additional Scripture connections are provided for students who are adept at using their Bibles.

Keep the *Explore Bible Guidebook* in your classroom or with your materials to use every week. At the end of the unit, send the guidebooks home with students for use as personal devotions or for family Bible story reading.

HOW TO USE THE ELEMENTARY LEADER GUIDE

OVERVIEW

The Overview 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.

PAGE 1 LEADER GUIDE

ENDURING FAITH
Sandy School - Midwest
Bible Curriculum

ELEMENTARY
Unit 1
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 1

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

OVERVIEW
BIBLE TRUTH
God created the heavens and the earth.
BIBLE VERSE
In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.
Genesis 1:1
LEARNER GOAL
I understand that God made the universe and everything in it, including me.
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 through the “Challenges for Readers” section in the introduction to Genesis in *The Lutheran Study Bible*, page 9.
IN DEPTH Read *In the Beginning, God: Creation from God’s Perspective* by Joel Heck, especially part 1.
SUPPLY LIST
FOR THIS LESSON
☐ Blocks, Lego building blocks, or play dough
☐ Drawing supplies
☐ Poster paper or paper plates
FOR EVERY LESSON
☐ Device with downloaded music
☐ Pens or pencils
☐ Student copies of *Explore Bible Guidebook*
☐ Bible
☐ Copies of downloadable activity page
☐ Supplies for bonus activities

LESSON PREP

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

BASIC Begin here—read the full Bible text.

MORE TIME Go past the basics.

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

SUPPLY LIST

FOR THIS LESSON Check this list for items you will need specifically for this lesson.

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

DOWNLOADABLE PAGE HELPS

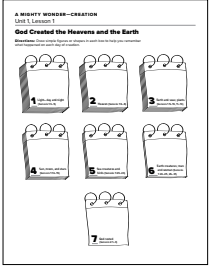
To reinforce learning, each lesson has an extra paper-and-pencil activity page that can be downloaded from the online digital resource center.

Look here for a thumbnail of the page and suggestions for use as well as answers you may need.

PAGE 4 LEADER GUIDE

DOWNLOADABLE PAGE HELPS
Make copies of the downloadable activity page by accessing the digital resource center. Use the helps below as a guide.
Guide students as they draw simple figures in each box to help them remember what happened on each day of creation. Remind them that the drawings are to help them remember God’s amazing work, not for judging their artwork.
Younger students can create simpler drawings, while older students may make more complex drawings. You can draw simple figures in each box along with your students to encourage them to make the artwork in their own style and to the best of their ability.

**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.

**A MIGHTY WONDER—CREATION**
Unit 1 Lesson 1
God Created the Heavens and the Earth
Directions: Draw simple figures in each box to help you remember what happened on each day of creation.

BONUS ACTIVITIES
PICTURE IT
10 minutes
Use the picture book *God Made It for You!* by Charles Lehmann to tell the story. If you have more younger students, they might respond better to this method of presentation.
MAKE A MURAL
20–30 minutes
As a class, make a giant wall mural of the days of creation, or make seven posters. If you have a larger class, you could divide into groups and let each group make a poster for one day.
TAKE A TRIP
25–35 minutes
Take a nature walk. Point out all the things you see that God created. Students could try to name which day of creation the sights were created on.

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.

BONUS ACTIVITIES

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

PAGE 2 LEADER GUIDE



LEADER NOTE
Give each student a handful of blocks, Lego building blocks, or play dough. Tell them to build whatever they can in two minutes. Then talk about how hard it is to build things even when you have something to start with. God made the world out of nothing.

LAUNCH

PRAY Dear Lord, bless us as we gather to study Your Word today. Help us to learn how You created all things. Amen.

SING "Builder of Everything"
"God, Who Built This Wondrous Planet"
Music can be found in the digital resource center.

SAY What kind of things do you like to build or make? Even when we make things from scratch, we start with some ingredients. Let's see what God used to create the universe.

LEARN

READ "A MIGHTY WONDER"
Read the Bible narrative aloud to your students, or ask volunteers to take turns reading sections. Fill in a chart in front of the class that records what was created on each day.

DO SOMETHING

FOR A LARGER GROUP Review the Bible narrative by having students work in pairs or trios to develop an action to represent each day. Have an older student say the day number and what was created that day, and then have the other students do the actions.

FOR A SMALLER GROUP Use paper plates as your base and have students work in pairs to draw what was created on each day (one plate for each day). Have them hold up the corresponding plate as you reread or retell the creation story.

KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

- Through your group activity, help students identify what God created on each day.
- Help students see the orderly and amazing way that God made the universe and continues to keep it going.
- God spoke creation into being. It was not an accident.
- Note how God declared the work of each day "good." God's creation was made to work together in wonderful concert.
- The high point of this narrative is the creation of both male and female.



GUIDEBOOKS
Hand out student copies of the *Explore Bible Guidebook* and turn to Lesson 1.



LEADER NOTE
If you have confident readers, have them read this account directly from their Bibles.



BONUS ACTIVITY
Check "Make a Meal" on the back page for a fun way to reflect on the days of creation.

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LAUNCH

Start your lesson here by opening with prayer.

If your students haven't had an opportunity to sing with the larger group, music suggestions are provided here to connect with the day's lesson. Find downloadable music in the online digital resource center.

Use the "Say" section to engage students and introduce the day's narrative.

LEARN

Here's the heart of your lesson, the Bible narrative. Use the *Explore Bible Guidebook* to share the Bible story with your students.

Look in the "Do Something" section for teaching and review activity options.

Use the "Key Discussion Points" to guide you, but make the lesson your own.

All of these are options. You know your group better than anyone. Choose from all the options to make a lesson that fits your students best.

SIDEBARS

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

Leader Note gives options and helps.

Guidebooks reminds you to hand out the *Explore Bible Guidebooks*.

Christ Connection points to Christ in the narrative.

Bonus Activity suggests options for adding to or extending the lesson.

Downloadable Page points to the digital resources to be used at this point in the lesson.

LIVE

Now that you and your students know the Bible narrative, you can dig a little deeper into the context of the story. Use the second page of the *Explore Bible Guidebook* to learn new and interesting facts about the Bible narrative.

Then use the "Talk about It" section to discuss how this narrative matters in the daily lives of your students.

Use the "Check for Understanding" suggestions to wrap up your lesson.

LEAVE

Send your students out into the world by reminding them of the day's Bible Truth. Collect the student books for use in the next lesson.

Close each lesson by singing the Doxology or the Lord's Prayer. Close with prayer.

PAGE 3 LEADER GUIDE

LIVE

EXPLORE THE CONTENT
Before you start the discussion questions, use the *Explore Bible Guidebook* for further details about God's amazing work of creation.

TALK ABOUT IT
Choose from the following questions. For a few helps, encourage students to look in the *Explore Bible Guidebook*.

- ▶ What is your favorite thing that God made?
- ▶ How do you think God could make all this?
- ▶ God didn't stop giving us gifts when He finished creation on the sixth day. What other gifts does God continue to give us?
- ▶ What evidence do you see in our world or in your life of how God continues to keep His creation going?
- ▶ What are some ways we can care for God's creation?

SAY THE BIBLE VERSE TOGETHER
In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. Genesis 1:1

KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

- Read John 1:3 to consider creation and the Trinity.
- Help students to see that Jesus was with God in the beginning. The Word was Jesus (the Word made flesh)!.
- Reread Genesis 1:2.
- Look who else was there at creation—the Holy Spirit! This is something that may really click for older students in your group. Younger students may not get it just yet.

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING
As you close for the day, check for understanding by asking students to review the creation events. Listen for the Bible Truth in their retelling.

LEAVE

SAY Praise God for He created the heavens and the earth.
Our verse for today reminds us of that: "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth" (Genesis 1:1).

SING "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"
"The Lord's Prayer"
Music can be found in the digital resource center.

PRAY Thank You, heavenly Father, for creating such a wonderful world for us. Help us to care for Your creation and share the love of Jesus with everyone. In Your name we pray. Amen.



DOWNLOADABLE PAGE
Extend learning by printing the downloadable activity page, found in the digital resource center. See the back page of this guide for details.



CHRIST CONNECTION
God built everything, but sometimes we forget that He still takes care of it! Even though we messed it up with our sin, God didn't leave us on our own. He sent His Son to be our Savior.



LEADER NOTE
Remember to collect student copies of the *Explore Bible Guidebook* for use in class again next week.

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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 understand that God gives faith in Christ through 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 **Luke 10:38–42** and study notes in *The Lutheran Study Bible (TLSB)*.

MORE TIME Read the Third Commandment in *Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation* (2017).

IN DEPTH Read **John 11** and **12:1–8** and study notes in *TLSB* for more on the family of Mary, Martha, and Lazarus.

SUPPLY LIST

FOR THIS LESSON

- ☐ Broom
- ☐ Poster paper and marker (or whiteboard and dry-erase markers)

FOR EVERY LESSON

- ☐ Device with downloaded music
- ☐ Pens or pencils
- ☐ Student copies of *Explore Bible Guidebook*
- ☐ Bible
- ☐ Copies of downloadable activity page
- ☐ Supplies for bonus activities



LEADER NOTE

This is a new unit. Make sure that all of your students received their copies of the *Explore Bible Guidebook* from the last unit. You might take a minute to look at the new student guidebooks and look ahead to the parts of Scripture you'll be learning about in the next 14 weeks.



GUIDEBOOKS

Hand out student copies of the *Explore Bible Guidebook* and turn to Lesson 1.



BONUS ACTIVITY

For an activity that doubles as a snack, check the back page for the “Edible Books” activity to extend the learning.

LAUNCH

PRAY Dear Lord Jesus, thank You for Your Word, which shows us the way, the truth, and the life. Guide our conversations so that we may build one another up in Your love. In Your name we pray. Amen.

SING “I Will Rely on Him”
“Now That You Know”
Music can be found in the digital resource center.

SAY (Hold up broom.) **I brought a broom to class today. What do you suppose a broom can teach us about Jesus?** (Listen to responses.) **If you were getting ready for a lot of people to come to your house, what would you need to do? Let's make a to-do list. What should we put on it?** (Record their answers, making one big to-do list either on a piece of poster paper or on the whiteboard in your class space. Save the list for later.) **If Jesus were coming to your house, what would you do?**

LEARN

READ “A WELCOME TRUTH”

Use the *Explore Bible Guidebook* to read the Bible narrative aloud to your students.

DO SOMETHING

FOR YOUNGER LEARNERS As you read the narrative, each time you come to a section in bold, stop and have students strike a pose to depict this part of the story, as if you were taking a photo of the events in the narrative. If you have a camera on your phone, take actual photos. When you're finished with the narrative, scroll through the photos as a review.

FOR OLDER LEARNERS OR STRONG READERS This passage of Scripture is relatively short and easy to read. Have student volunteers read this narrative directly from the Bible, then have them write or create a short skit to act it out. Have students dictate the script, including stage directions, to you. If time allows, have students act out their skit for younger students in another class.

KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

- As God's people, we are certainly called to serve one another, but that is not the main focus of this lesson. The call to serve should never take priority over hearing God's Word.
- Jesus is so gentle with Martha, even after she practically scolds Him. He cares about her and her worries, but instead of scolding her, He kindly reminds her of the most important thing: hearing God's Word. Jesus does the same for us. He loves us and doesn't want us to be worried about earthly things either. He reminds us of the gifts we have in His Word.
- Martha is providing for the physical needs of Jesus and the disciples. What she's doing is good; yet Jesus reminds us here of an even greater good: hearing and treasuring the Word of God.
- Through hearing God's Word, we receive faith in Christ. This lesson isn't about what we do or whether we are a Mary or a Martha; it is about what God does through His Word.

LIVE

EXPLORE THE CONTEXT

Before you start the discussion questions, use the *Explore Bible Guidebook* for further details about Bethany and hospitality, found on the second page of Lesson 1.

TALK ABOUT IT

Choose from the following questions. For a few helps, encourage students to look in their *Explore Bible Guidebook*.

- ▶ Both of these women loved Jesus, but they showed it in different ways. Jesus reminds them here that while serving is good, we shouldn't let it take precedence over hearing God's Word. What are some ways we can show Jesus how much we love Him?
- ▶ Today, we are often so distracted that we neglect what matters most: God's Word. What are some things that distract us from God's Word? What are things that we, like Martha, worry about so we get distracted from God's Word? When we look to God's Word, how does God help us with those distractions and worries?
- ▶ When we hear God's Word, our faith is nourished—not by what we are doing, but by what God is doing through His Word. What is your favorite thing about going to church or coming to Bible class?

SAY THE BIBLE VERSE TOGETHER

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

KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

- The bread and meat that Martha made for Jesus and the disciples would last only a little while, but the words that Jesus was sharing with Mary (and with us) will last for eternity.

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

Ask students to tell you how the broom that you brought to class related to today's Bible narrative.

LEAVE

SAY Remember that to-do list we made? (Display it or point it out.) Martha probably had to do some of these things, but were any of them the most important thing? No, let's cross those out. (With a marker, cross out the entire list.) What is the most important thing to put at the very top of our to-do list? Yes, it's "Listen to God's Word." (Write that at the top of your list.) God gives us faith in Christ through His Word.

SING The Doxology, "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"
"The Lord's Prayer"
Music can be found in the digital resource center.

PRAY Dear Jesus, thank You for giving us faith through hearing Your Word. Take away the things that distract us from You, Lord. In Your name we pray, Jesus. Amen.



DOWNLOADABLE PAGE

Extend learning by printing the downloadable activity page found in the digital resource center. See the back page of this guide for details.



CHRIST CONNECTION

Jesus Christ, the Word of God in the flesh, has the words of eternal life.



LEADER NOTE

Remember to collect student copies of the *Explore Bible Guidebook* for use in class again next week.

DOWNLOADABLE PAGE HELPS

Make copies of the downloadable activity page found in the digital resource center. Use the helps below as a guide.

Encourage students to listen carefully as you read each Bible passage out loud. Help students personalize their responses by using the pronoun “me” as they write. For students who struggle with writing, have them dictate their thoughts to you. You can also do this as a group activity and write your answers where students can see and copy them.

John 6:35: Jesus feeds me with the truth that saves. **John 8:12:** Jesus is the light who leads me out of sin’s darkness. **John 10:11:** Jesus gave His life to save me. **John 11:25–26:** Through faith in Jesus, I have eternal life.

A WELCOME TRUTH—MARY AND MARTHA
Unit 8, Lesson 1

Listening Carefully
Mary listened carefully to Jesus as He taught God’s Word. As she listened, God strengthened her faith and led her to know Jesus more and more. Whenever we read and hear God’s Word, the Holy Spirit helps us to carefully listen, and He grows our faith and knowledge of Jesus.

Directions: Listen carefully as your teacher reads the words of Jesus printed here. In the space below, choose one passage and write about or draw a picture that tells what you learned about Jesus as you listened.

Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to Me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in Me shall never thirst.” (John 6:35)	Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” (John 8:12)
Jesus said, “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.” (John 10:11)	Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in Me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in Me shall never die.” (John 11:25–26)



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

THIRD COMMANDMENT & MEANING

5 minutes

Bring your catechism; turn to the Third Commandment and its meaning. Read and discuss this section with your students, talking about how it connects to this narrative, particularly the section of the meaning that says, “we do not despise . . . His Word, but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it.”

EDIBLE BOOKS

10–15 minutes

Many big events in Scripture involve a feast. Here we see Martha preparing a feast for Jesus. Make edible books by decorating graham crackers with frosting to look like Bibles. Talk about how food satisfies physical hunger, but then we get hungry again. Discuss how God’s Word satisfies us in a much more important and eternal way.

INVITATIONS TO HEAR GOD’S WORD

Times may vary

Using cardstock and art supplies your group enjoys, make invitations for you and your students to send to families or friends to come hear God’s Word and learn about Jesus’ love for us at Sunday School, Bible class, or worship. Include all the appropriate times and places so others can easily find your church.

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 understand that Jesus comes to find lost sinners like me.

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 **Luke 15** and study notes in *The Lutheran Study Bible (TLSB)*.

MORE TIME Read pages 323–325 in *Concordia's Complete Bible Handbook* to learn more about the Book of Luke.

IN-DEPTH Read the article "Parables of Our Lord" in *TLSB*, page 1609.

SUPPLY LIST

FOR THIS LESSON

- ☐ Car keys (or a cell phone)
- ☐ Picture of a sheep or lamb (or stuffed toy sheep or lamb)
- ☐ Coin
- ☐ Picture of a person
- ☐ Drawing paper and markers

FOR EVERY LESSON

- ☐ Device with downloaded music
- ☐ Pens or pencils
- ☐ Student copies of *Explore Bible Guidebook*
- ☐ Bible
- ☐ Copies of downloadable activity page
- ☐ Supplies for bonus activities



LEADER NOTE

Before students arrive, hide a picture of a sheep or lamb (or a stuffed toy sheep or lamb), a coin, and a picture of a person. You can use the line drawings from the downloadable activity page or photographs.



GUIDEBOOKS

Hand out student copies of the *Explore Bible Guidebook* and turn to Lesson 2.



DOWNLOADABLE PAGE

Extend learning by printing the downloadable activity page found in the digital resource center. See the back page of this guide for details.

LAUNCH

PRAY Dear Lord Jesus, You have so much to teach us. Thank You for giving us Your Word to guide us. Bless our time together here with our friends. In Your name we pray. Amen.

SING “These Things Are Written”
“I Will Rely on Him”
Music can be found in the digital resource center.

SAY Show your car keys (or substitute a cell phone). **I have some car keys here. It’s really easy to lose your car keys. Do you know anyone who has ever lost their car keys? How did the keys get found? Have you lost anything lately? Did you find it? How did you find your lost object? Have you ever been lost?** (If you have your own story of being lost or losing something, this is a good time to share it.) **What did that feel like? What do you think it felt like for the person who was looking for you? How did you feel when you were found? How did the person who was looking for you feel?**

LEARN

READ “LOST-AND-FOUND WONDERS”

Use the *Explore Bible Guidebook* to read the Bible narrative aloud to your students.

DO SOMETHING

FOR YOUNGER LEARNERS After you read the narrative to your group, have your students go on a “treasure hunt” for the items that you hid before class. They correlate to the three parables in Luke 15. When students have found each of the lost “treasures,” have them use these items to retell and review each narrative. Allow students to work in pairs.

FOR OLDER LEARNERS OR STRONG READERS This is a passage that could be read aloud directly from Scripture. After you have read the three parables, have students make “Lost” or “Missing” posters to go with each parable. Have students draw a picture of the lost item and then list things at the bottom like “last seen . . .,” “favorites,” “reward,” or any other creative way the students want to connect to each parable.

KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

- Jesus was telling these parables for the benefit of the Pharisees, who grumbled about sinners but did not see their own need to repent of their sins.
- These parables have one big point: God loves you so much that He will move heaven and earth to have you as His own. If you lose your way, God will seek and find you.
- In the parable of the lost son, the father is loving and forgiving, like God, our Father. The prodigal son is a sinner, like you and me. When we sin, we can repent too. Jesus is waiting. He is ready and willing to forgive us. Notice, though, that the father is getting the party ready for his son before the son even repents of his sins. The father loves his son so much, just as our Lord loves His children so much and has all the gifts of eternal life and salvation ready and waiting for us.
- In the parables of the lost sheep and lost coin, the object that is lost can do nothing to help itself be found. The focus of all three parables should be on the one who does the finding, not those that are lost. The finder seeks out the lost and rejoices over finding it. God does it all, without any merit or worthiness in us.

LIVE

EXPLORE THE CONTEXT

Before you start the discussion questions, use the *Explore Bible Guidebook* for further details about various aspects of these parables, found on the second page of Lesson 2.

TALK ABOUT IT

Choose from the following questions. For a few helps, encourage students to look in their *Explore Bible Guidebook*.

- ▶ **The older son in the parable didn't really know his father at all. He thought he was a mean dad who only loved his children if they kept all the rules. But a good father does not love his children like that. He loves them no matter what—even if they break the rules. How are we sometimes like the lost son?** (We want to be in charge and go our own way.)
- ▶ **How are we sometimes like the older brother?** (Sometimes, we are jealous of the love and blessings that God gives others. Sometimes, we don't understand the way God loves His children.)
- ▶ **We can be sure that God's love finds us and forgives us completely because of Jesus' death on the cross. What are some ways Jesus gives us that love and forgiveness?** (Means of Grace: Baptism, Lord's Supper, His Word)

SAY THE BIBLE VERSE TOGETHER

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

KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

- Yes, the son repents, but it seems a little like it's only because he is hungry. However, the father's joy is no less, and the party thrown for the son is quite large. The father's love and grace is much bigger than the son's repentance. Our repentance is not equal to God's love for us. The emphasis is always on what God does for us in Jesus.

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

Ask students to tell you about their favorite parable of the three and why they like that one best.

LEAVE

SAY Next time you see a Baptism at church, even though it might be quiet in your church, you can imagine all of heaven rejoicing! Jesus came to save lost sinners like you and me.

SING The Doxology, "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"
"The Lord's Prayer"
Music can be found in the digital resource center.

PRAY Dear Jesus, thank You for seeking and saving me. I know that You rejoice over me, and that feels great! Thank You for loving me so much. In Your name we pray, Jesus. Amen.



BONUS ACTIVITY

To reinforce the Bible Verse for this lesson and get students up and moving, check the back page for the "Seek and Find Bible Words" activity to extend the learning.



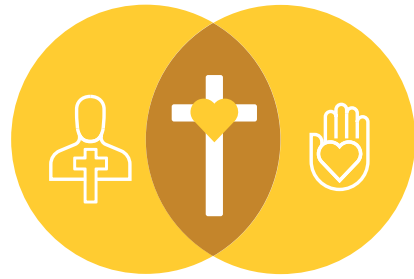
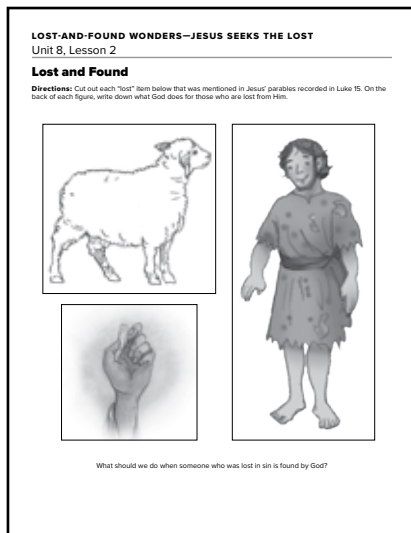
CHRIST CONNECTION

Jesus came to find and save me, a sinner, through His saving work on the cross so that I can live with Him forever.

DOWNLOADABLE PAGE HELPS

Make copies of the downloadable activity page found in the digital resource center. Use the helps below as a guide.

Copy this page onto white cardstock. Cut out the three figures and hide them in your classroom before the students arrive. Direct students to hunt for the three figures and return them to you. Give each student a copy of the page and a pair of scissors. Direct students to cut out each figure. They can also color the coin and the person. Point out what Jesus said in His parable that He does when a sheep is lost from Him. (He searches and finds the sheep, then rejoices.) Have students write this on the back of the sheep figure. When a coin is lost, its owner searches for it and rejoices when it is found. Have students write this on the back of the coin. In the case of the prodigal son, his father celebrates his return. Direct students to write this on the back of the son figure. We are also to rejoice when someone who was lost in sin is found by God.



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

MODERN-DAY PARABLES

Times may vary

Working either as a whole group or in pairs, have students write their own modern-day parables. Use a modern-day object or occupation to illustrate something lost and found and the rejoicing that follows. Some students may work better if they can tell you their ideas and have you write them. Others may want to illustrate or act out their parable.

ACT IT OUT

Times may vary

If your group is large enough, divide into three groups and have each group act out a different parable for the rest of the class. You might even have them portray them in charades, with the other students guessing which parable is being acted out.

SEEK AND FIND BIBLE WORDS

5–10 minutes

Write today's Bible Verse on a piece of paper, then cut the paper into three sections. Take turns hiding the pieces. Once your group finds all three, recite the words together. You could also put the pieces of paper in a small container for hiding (like a plastic Easter egg or small box) to make it more fun to hide and find.