How to Use Your



Music & Print Extras

Explore the Bible: Preschool Music & Print Extras is a great tool for teachers who want to help babies, toddlers, and preschoolers really dig into the Bible and explore it. Each quarter's resource includes printable files that relate to the teaching suggestions in your Explore the Bible Leader Guide. Some items can be used with the children during Bible-learning sessions; others can be used by teachers for outreach and ministry to families. You'll find many uses for the printable teaching aids included in *Music & Print Extras*.

Plus—Fun songs will help get your kids ready to connect with Bible truths! Lyrics for the songs are included on one of the files. Play the songs during sessions to teach children simple Bible concepts and enhance learning for everyone!

You have permission to print files (unless noted otherwise).

Winter 2022-23

Parent Email Messages

Stay in touch with families by sending weekly emails. Copy these quick FYIs into your messages to inform parents about the Explore the Bible content you will be sharing with preschoolers each session. Personalize the messages by adding a postscript or signing teachers' names.

Song Lyrics & Copyrights

Use the Song Lyrics page to learn songs related to this quarter's Bible emphases. Sing and play the songs during sessions to enhance Bible learning for babies, toddlers, and preschoolers.

Story Picture Pages

This item includes reproducible black and white versions of the full-color story pictures included in the Explore the Bible Preschool Leader Packs.

Next Hour Sessions: Toddlers Next Hour Sessions: Preschool

Weekly teaching suggestions are provided for the extended teaching time when families are in the worship service. Space is provided for writing teachers' names, time to arrive at classroom, and location of classroom.

Allergy Sign

Babies & Toddlers Sessions: 3, 4, 6, 7, 9 Preschool Sessions: 4, 6

Several exploration activities in the Leader Guide sessions include foods, plants, animals, or other nature items. Some children in your class may have allergies to these items. Whenever you plan to use nature items, inform parents ahead of time. Write the name of the nature item being used. Post the sign on the door for parents' attention.

Print several Allergy Signs to have on hand.

Bethlehem Picture

Preschool Session: 3

Use this picture with preschoolers during Session 3 in an activity called "Hurry to Bethlehem." See Preschool Leader Guide for more information.

Babies and toddlers' teachers may also want to use the picture during Session 3.

Bible Times House Pictures

Babies & Toddlers Session: 2

Preschool Session: 2

These pictures show the exterior and interior of houses during Bible times. Preschool Leader Guide suggests using the pictures during Session 2 to connect to Joseph's taking Mary to his home to care for her. Preschoolers are encouraged to use blocks to build similar houses.

Babies & Toddlers Leader Guide suggests using the pictures while children tap hammers on blocks.

Explore the Bible: Preschool Music & Print Extras Winter 2022-23 © 2022 Lifeway. OK to copy.

SONG LYRICS

Explore the Bible: Preschool Music & Print Extras

Winter 2022-23

1. JESUS IS GOD'S SON

God told Mary something special You will give birth to a son and call Him Jesus. Yes, God told Mary something special; Jesus is God's Son. (Repeat)

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2. GOD WILL SEND A CHILD

God will send a child; God will send a child

To be born in a manger crib. He will be called Jesus, Jesus. God will send a child to be born. (Repeat)

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3. JESUS IS SO SPECIAL

Jesus is special Jesus loves me Thank You, God, for Jesus He is so special Jesus loves me Thank You, God, for Jesus. (Repeat)

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4. WHO JESUS WAS

Jesus taught us how to love Jesus taught us to be kind to each other Jesus taught us how to care

Jesus was a teacher like no other

That's who Jesus was That's who Jesus was

Jesus taught us how to pray Jesus taught us we should share with each other Jesus taught us what is right Jesus was a teacher like no other

That's who Jesus was That's who Jesus was

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5. ALL WE NEED TO KNOW

Jesus teach us Help us all to grow Jesus teaches us All we need to know

How to give and how to share How to show the world we care How to love all people like You do Jesus teach us, too

Jesus teach us Help us all to grow Jesus teaches us All we need to know How to give and how to share How to show the world we care How to love all people like You do Jesus teach us, too

How to give and how to share How to show the world we care How to love all people like You do Jesus teach us, too Jesus teach us, too

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6. JESUS HELPED 1-2-3 (TESTRICITY*)

Come with me, "1-2-3" Let's start with "1" "1," Jesus helped everyone "1-2," Jesus showed them what to do "1-2-3," Jesus helped His friends to see Count with me, "1-2-3" "1-2-3," hey!

Sing with me, "A-B-C" Let's start with "A" "A," Jesus helped everyday "A-B," children sat upon His knee "A-B-C," Jesus gave them food to eat Sing with me, "A-B-C" "A-B-C," hey! Words and music by Wayne Tester and Esther Maus-Tester.

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7. GOD CARES FOR ME

God cares for me God cares for me God helps me, God helps me God cares for me. (Repeat)

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8. THE BIBLE IS TRUE

The Bible is true. The Bible is true. No matter what you say or do, The Bible is true. The Bible is true. The Bible is true. (Repeat)

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9. GOD'S WORD IS FOREVER

God's Word is forever, for ev'ryone Each word of His mouth is true God's Word is forever, for ev'ryone It guides us in all we do.

The Bible teaches you and me What He wants us all to be

God's Word is forever, for ev'ryone Each word of His mouth is true God's Word is forever, for ev'ryone It guides us in all we do. The Bible teaches you and me What He wants us all to be

God's Word is forever, for ev'ryone Each word of His mouth is true God's Word is forever, for ev'ryone It guides us in all we do.

Words and music by Janet McMahan and Tom McBryde.

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10. I LOVE TO LISTEN AND LEARN

All of God's words are true He tells me what to do Listen and learn Listen and learn The Bible tells me to listen and learn I love to listen and learn

God is good, He loves me God is kind, He helps me Listen and learn Listen and learn The Bible tells me to listen and learn I love to listen and learn

Listen and learn Listen and learn The Bible tells me to listen and learn I love to listen and learn.

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11. GOD'S WORDS

God's words, God's words Tell me what God wants me to do God's words, God's words Tell me what God wants me to do People wrote down in the Bible What God told them to say I can read all of the Bible And learn it every day.

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12. EVERY STORY

CHORUS This is the Word of God Every story His story Written for us all This is the Word of God Every story His story Written for us all

VERSE 1

Rap: The Old Testament Starts with the Pentateuch The first five books are The Law Then History and Poetry Wisdom and Prophecy

(Kids: "The Law!") Genesis. Exodus Leviticus, Numbers Deuteronomy ("History!") Joshua, Judges, Ruth 1st & 2nd Samuel 1st & 2nd Kings 1st & 2nd Chronicles Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther ("Poetry and Wisdom!") Job, Psalms, Proverbs And Ecclesiastes Then the Song of Songs We're heading into Prophecy ("Prophecy!") Isaiah, Jeremiah Lamentations Ezekiel, Daniel Hosea and Joel Amos, Obadiah Jonah, Micah, and Nahum

Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai Zechariah and Malachi

CHORUS

This is the Word of God Every story His story Written for us all This is the Word of God Every story His story Written for us all

VERSE 2

Rap: The New Testament has the Gospels And the History of the apostles Then Letters called Epistles And the Prophecy of John

(Kids: "The Gospels!") Matthew, Mark Luke, John ("History!") Acts ("Letters!") Romans 1st & 2nd Corinthians Galatians, Ephesians Philippians, Colossians 1st & 2nd Thessalonians 1st & 2nd Timothy Titus, Philemon ("Here we go!") Hebrews, James 1st & 2nd Peter 1st & 2nd and 3rd John Jude ("Prophecy!") And Revelation

CHORUS

This is the Word of God Every story His story Written for us all This is the Word of God Every story His story Written for us all This is the Word of God Every story His story Written for us all This is the Word of God Every story His story Written for us all

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Explore the Bible: Preschool Music & Print Extras, Winter 2022-23

Jesus Is God's Son

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God Will Send a Child

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Jesus Is So Special

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Who Jesus Was (TESTRICITY*)

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All We Need to Know

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Jesus Helped 1-2-3 (TESTRICITY*)

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God Cares for Me

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The Bible Is True

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God's Word Is Forever

Words and music by Janet McMahan and Tom McBryde.

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I Love to Listen and Learn

Words and music by Wayne Tester and Esther Maus-Tester

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God's Words

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Every Story

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Arranged by Jeffrey B. Scott

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The Promised One

YOUR TEACHING PARTNER:

YOUR TIME TO ARRIVE:

YOUR CLASSROOM:

OPTIONS

- 1. Continue explorations from first hour.
- 2. Try something different. Choose two or three new explorations.

REMINDERS

- Use the Bible!
- Talk to children about the Bible.
- Give children a Diaper Bag Card and Preschool Family Card to take home.

SCHEDULE

- Restroom & Snack (10 min.)
- Exploration Activities (30-40 min.)
- Circle Time (10 min.)
- Wrap-up (5 min.)

BIBLE STORY:

God's Plan for Jesus Matthew 1:1-17 The Bible story is printed on the back of the Story Picture.

TEXT TRUTH: Jesus had a family.

BIBLE VERSE PARAPHRASE:

A child will be born for us. *Isaiah 9:6*

EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES

- See next page.
- Clap a Verse
- Work Family Puzzles
- Play with People Figures

CIRCLE TIME

GATHER

- Play music as toddlers move to Circle Time.
- Be seated with the toddlers and sing (tune "Mary Had a Little Lamb"):

Jesus is a good name, a good name, a good name. Jesus is a good name, a good name for God's Son.

HEAR THE BIBLE STORY

- Show pictures in the Book: *Families* (Pack Item 33).
- Say: "God planned for people to have families. God planned for His Son to have a family."
- Lay the Story Picture (Pack Item 1) on the floor in front of the children.
- Open the Bible to Matthew 1 and recall the Bible story.

PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Open the Bible to Isaiah 9:6 and touch the page.
- Say: "A man named Isaiah wrote about Jesus, too. Isaiah told people a child would be born for them."
- Lay the opened Bible on the floor and lead children to repeat today's Bible verse a few times.

PRAY

- Say a prayer thanking God for planning to send His Son to help people.
- Thank God for the true Bible stories about Jesus and His family.



NEXT HOUR EXPLORATIONS FOR TODDLERS

CLAP A VERSE

Tools: Bible, Bible Verse Markers (Pack Item 16), Story Picture: God's Plan for Jesus (Pack Item 1)

- Sit on the floor with a child. Hand the Bible to her and help her open the Bible.
- Spend a few minutes showing the child how to turn the pages carefully.
- Guide the child to find Isaiah 9:6. Point to the verse in the Bible and read the words to the toddler.

Invite the toddler to clap her hands while

- you say the Bible verse. Ask the child to say the verse again with you.
- Clap loudly, softly, fast, and slowly.

WORK FAMILY PUZZLES

Tools: Bible, Diaper Bag Card, 2 or 3 puzzles featuring families

- Mark Matthew 1 with the Diaper Bag Card.
- Invite a toddler to choose a puzzle to work. Talk about the picture on the puzzle. Say: "I see a family. You have a family. Jesus had a family, too."
- Ask the preschooler to open the Bible to find the place where we learn about Jesus' family. Find Jesus' name and point to it.
- Show the picture on the Diaper Bag Card. Say: "Matthew wrote about the people in Jesus' family." Summarize the Bible story.

PLAY WITH PEOPLE FIGURES

Tools: Bible, Book: Jesus (Pack Item 22), Bible Verse Markers (Pack Item 16), toy people figures, dollhouse (optional)

- Place today's Verse Marker in the pocket on the back page of the book. Place the book and people figures in a basket next to the dollhouse.
- While toddlers play with the figures and dollhouse, relate their play to families and things they do. Ask children to name some people in their families.
- Read the book with a toddler. Ask the child to remove the Verse Marker from the pocket. Read the Bible verse.
- Point to the Bible and say: "Matthew wrote about the family God planned for Jesus."

- Make a final diaper check.
- Put a Diaper Bag Card and Preschool Family Card in each child's bag.
- Release children to authorized adults.



NEXT HOUR EXPLORATIONS FOR TODDLERS

A Family for Jesus

YOUR TEACHING PARTNER:

YOUR TIME TO ARRIVE:

YOUR CLASSROOM:

OPTIONS

- 1. Continue explorations from first hour.
- 2. Try something different. Choose two or three new explorations.

REMINDERS

- Use the Bible!
- Talk to children about the Bible.
- Give children a Diaper Bag Card and Preschool Family Card to take home.

SCHEDULE

- Restroom & Snack (10 min.)
- Exploration Activities (30-40 min.)
- Circle Time (10 min.)
- Wrap-up (5 min.)

BIBLE STORY:

News for Mary and Joseph Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-38 *The Bible story is printed on the back of the Story Picture.*

TEXT TRUTH:

God chose people to care for Jesus.

BIBLE VERSE PARAPHRASE:

The baby will be God's Son. *Luke 1:35*

EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES

See next page.

- Play Rhythm Instruments
- Guess & Match Items
- Lace Picture Cards

CIRCLE TIME

GATHER

- When toddlers are seated, place a step stool in the circle.
- Help a child step up on the stool.
- Whisper the Bible verse, then ask the child to talk into a toy microphone to make the announcement.
- Give every child a turn to speak.

HEAR THE BIBLE STORY

- Open the Bible to Matthew 1.
- Show the Story Picture (Pack Item 2), then pass it around the circle.
- Ask toddlers: Who chose a family for His Son? (God) What did the angel tell Joseph to do? (take care of Mary) What would be the baby's name? (Jesus)

PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Open the Bible to Luke 1:35. Place today's Bible Verse Marker (Pack Item 16) in the Bible and close it.
- Hand the Bible to the child sitting next to you and guide him to open the Bible.
- Encourage the other children to say the verse aloud.
- Tell the child to pass the Bible to the person next to him. Repeat.

PRAY

- Remind children that God chose people to care for Jesus.
- Say a prayer thanking God for His Son, Jesus.

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PLAY RHYTHM INSTRUMENTS

Tools: Bible, Bible Verse Markers (Pack Item 16), rhythm instruments, shallow basket, Music & Print Extras, Preschool Family Card

- Put instruments in the basket and put today's marker in the Bible at Luke 1:35.
- Invite a toddler to explore the instruments and choose one to play. • Play music softly, singing along to songs
- about Jesus.
- Open the Bible and point to verse 35. Remark: "This verse is about Jesus. The words say: 'The baby will be God's Son.'"
- Recall the Bible story as you show the child the picture on the Family Card.

GUESS & MATCH ITEMS

Tools: Bible, Story Picture: News for Mary and Joseph (Pack Item 2), toy donkey or horse, sandal, white or tan scarf or fabric, towel

- Lay the donkey, sandal, and scarf on the floor. Cover the items with the towel. Prop the Story Picture nearby and open the Bible to Matthew 1.
- Wiggle the towel to get a toddler's attention. Suggest he guess what is under the towel, then lead the child to reach under the towel to get one item.
- Help the child identify the item. Together, look at the Story Picture and find a similar item in the picture.
- Hold the Bible and recall the Bible story.

LACE PICTURE CARDS

Tools: Bible, Diaper Bag Card, 2 or 3 colorful baby announcement cards, hole punch, yarn cut into 12-inch pieces, masking tape

- Punch holes around the Diaper Bag Card and the announcement cards. Tie a piece of yarn through one hole of each card and knot it. Wrap tape around the other end of the yarn to make a point.
- Open the Bible to Matthew 1 and lay one card on the page.
- When a toddler notices the cards, say: "This is an announcement card (or a picture of Joseph and Mary). Sometimes people send announcements to friends to tell them about a new baby." Relate this to the angel's announcement that a special baby would be born to Mary.
- Invite the child to choose a card to lace as you recall the story.

- Make a final diaper check.
- Put a Diaper Bag Card and **Preschool Family Card in each** child's bag.
- Release children to authorized adults.



NEXT HOUR EXPLORATIONS FOR TODDLERS

Good News of Great Joy

YOUR TEACHING PARTNER:

YOUR TIME TO ARRIVE:

YOUR CLASSROOM:

OPTIONS

- 1. Continue explorations from first hour.
- 2. Try something different. Choose two or three new explorations.

REMINDERS

- Use the Bible!
- Talk to children about the Bible.
- Give children a Diaper Bag Card and Preschool Family Card

to take home.

SCHEDULE

- Restroom & Snack (10 min.)
- Exploration Activities (30-40 min.)
- Circle Time (10 min.)
- Wrap-up (5 min.)

BIBLE STORY:

A Baby in Bethlehem Matthew 1:24-25; Luke 2:1-20 The Bible story is printed on the back of the Story Picture.

TEXT TRUTH:

The birth of Jesus is good news.

BIBLE VERSE PARAPHRASE:

Glory to God, and peace on earth. *Luke 2:14*

EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES

See next page.

- Feed a Baby Doll
- Make a Christmas Ribbon Collage
- Fold Baby Blankets

CIRCLE TIME

GATHER

- Play and sing the song "Who Jesus Was" (track 4). Invite toddlers to sing and ring bells.
- Gather the bells and put them in a basket beside you.

HEAR THE BIBLE STORY

- Lay the Story Picture (Pack Item 3) and the Bible on the floor.
- Recall the Bible story, then open the Bible to Luke 2.
- Say: "The story about Jesus' birth is a true story, and it is in the Bible. Luke wrote about the birth of Jesus."
- Find Luke 2:14. Say: "The angel announced Jesus' birth. Then many angels said, 'Glory to God and peace on earth.'"

PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Distribute the Nativity Matching Cards (Pack Item 18) (one card per child).
- Say: "Look for a friend with a matching picture. Stand together."
- After matches are found, direct each pair of children to tell about their picture.
- Lead children to say today's Bible verse together.

PRAY

- Say: "The angels and shepherds thanked God for Jesus. We can say thank You, too."
- Encourage children to say: "Thank You, God, for Jesus."



NEXT HOUR EXPLORATIONS FOR TODDLERS

FEED A BABY DOLL

Tools: Bible, Bible Verse Markers (Pack Item 16), spoons, 2 baby dolls, toy cups or bottles

- Place today's marker in the Bible at Luke 2. Place the Bible on the floor.
- Tap a couple of spoons to get toddlers' interest. Offer spoons to two or three children. Lead toddlers to tap the spoons as you help the children say the Bible verse together.
- Show children the marker placed at Luke 2. Remark that this is where we read about a very special baby.
- Invite a child to feed a baby doll.
 Comment that Mary had a baby, Jesus, and she took care of Him. Tell the story.

MAKE A CHRISTMAS RIBBON COLLAGE

Tools: Bible, Story Picture: A Baby in Bethlehem (Pack Item 3), large sheet of paper, tape, glue sticks, snippets of bright-colored paper ribbon, tray or paper plate, marker

- Tape paper to the wall and tape the Story Picture next to the paper. Write across the paper the heading *The Best Gift of All—Jesus*.
- Put the ribbon snippets in the tray.
- Invite two toddlers to work together to make a ribbon collage. Guide the children to apply glue to the paper, then place ribbon snippets on the glue.
- While children work, read the heading and say: "Thank You, God, for Jesus."

FOLD BABY BLANKETS

Tools: Bible, Diaper Bag Card, shallow laundry basket, 3 soft baby blankets

- Lay the Bible in the basket and cover it with the baby blankets.
- Take a blanket from the basket and begin to fold it. Invite a toddler to get a blanket to fold.
- Comment: "This blanket is soft. We read in the Bible that Mary wrapped Baby Jesus in soft cloths."
- Show the picture on the Diaper Bag Card. Say: "The angel told the shepherds that the newborn baby would be wrapped in cloth. The shepherds hurried to see the baby."
- Ask the toddler to get the Bible from the basket. Turn to Luke 2 and summarize the Bible story.

- Make a final diaper check.
- Put a Diaper Bag Card and Preschool Family Card in each child's bag.
- Release children to authorized adults.



Worship the King

YOUR TEACHING PARTNER:

YOUR TIME TO ARRIVE:

YOUR CLASSROOM:

OPTIONS

- 1. Continue explorations from first hour.
- 2. Try something different. Choose two or three new explorations.

REMINDERS

- Use the Bible!
- Talk to children about the Bible.
- Give children a Diaper Bag Card and Preschool Family Card to take home.

SCHEDULE

- Restroom & Snack (10 min.)
- Exploration Activities (30-40 min.)
- Circle Time (10 min.)
- Wrap-up (5 min.)

BIBLE STORY:

Wise Men Worshiped Jesus Matthew 2:1-12 *The Bible story is printed on the back of the Story Picture.*

TEXT TRUTH:

Praise and worship Jesus.

BIBLE VERSE PARAPHRASE:

Jesus is the King. *Revelation* 17:14

EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES

See next page.

- Cut Stars from Play Dough
- Play with Toy Cars
- Praise Jesus with Music

CIRCLE TIME

GATHER

- Lay the Story Pictures for Sessions 1, 2, and 3 (Pack) in a line on the floor.
- When children are seated for Circle Time, give a beanbag to a child to toss on a picture. Ask the toddler to tell what he sees.
- Continue until all children have had a turn to toss the beanbag and tell about a picture.
- Say: "All the pictures help us remember that God sent Jesus, and we can worship Him."

HEAR THE BIBLE STORY

- Open a Bible to Matthew 2.
- Show the Story Picture and ask questions about the story: Who saw a bright star in the sky? (*wise men*)

What did the men want to do? (*find Jesus and worship Him*) What did the men take to Jesus? (*special gifts*) Who is the King of kings? (*Jesus*)

PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Comment: "The wise men worshiped Jesus. We can worship Jesus, too."
- Clap and say: "Jesus is the King. Jesus is the King."
- Encourage children to join you in walking in a circle and repeating the Bible verse.

PRAY

• Say a prayer thanking God that Jesus is the King and we can worship Him.



CUT STARS FROM PLAY DOUGH

-Tools: Bible, Story Picture: Wise Men Worshiped Jesus, fresh play dough, star cookie cutters, toy rolling pins (optional)

- Give a toddler a hand-size amount of dough and a cookie cutter.
- Show the child how to flatten the play dough. Guide her to press a cutter into the play dough.
- Relate the star cutouts to the large, bright star the wise men saw in the sky. Say: "The wise men followed the star until they found Jesus. The wise men worshiped Jesus."
 - Show the Story Picture and summarize
 - the Bible story.

PLAY WITH TOY CARS

Tools: Bible, several toy cars, Diaper Bag Card

- Provide a variety of cars for toddlers to drive. Encourage toddlers to exchange cars occasionally.
- While children pretend to go places, remark that the Bible tells about some men who went on a journey to find Jesus.
- Say: "The men did not drive cars. They probably rode on large camels or walked. The wise men traveled a long time. But then they found Jesus!"
- Show the picture on the Diaper Bag Card and ask a child to point to the camels, the wise men, and the bright star in the sky.
- Recall the Bible story.

PRAISE JESUS WITH MUSIC

Tools: Bible, Music & Print Extras, shiny tinsel garland pieces (12-inch lengths)

- Distribute pieces of garland to the toddlers.
- Play music and lead toddlers to wave their garland in time to the beat of the music. Suggest that we can praise Jesus and worship Him with music.
- Open the Bible to Matthew 2 and say: "The Bible tells about some men who wanted to praise and worship Jesus. They traveled a long time to find Jesus and His family."
- Recall the Bible story. Say: "The wise men believed Jesus was the King God promised. A verse in the Bible says that Jesus is the King."
- Turn to Revelation 17:14 and touch the words as you say the Bible verse.

- Make a final diaper check.
- Put a Diaper Bag Card and Preschool Family Card in each child's bag.
- Release children to authorized adults.



Jesus Pleased God

YOUR TEACHING PARTNER:

YOUR TIME TO ARRIVE:

YOUR CLASSROOM:

OPTIONS

- 1. Continue explorations from first hour.
- 2. Try something different. Choose two or three new explorations.

REMINDERS

- Use the Bible!
- Talk to children about the Bible.
- Give children a Diaper Bag Card and Preschool Family Card to take home.

SCHEDULE

- Restroom & Snack (10 min.)
- Exploration Activities (30-40 min.)
- Circle Time (10 min.)
- Wrap-up (5 min.)

BIBLE STORY:

Jesus Pleased God Matthew 3:13-17 The Bible story is printed on the back of the Story Picture.

TEXT TRUTH: Jesus pleased God.

BIBLE VERSE PARAPHRASE:

This is My Son. I am pleased with Him. *Matthew 3*:17

EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES

See next page.

- Trace & Decorate Footprints
- Play a Color Game
- Uncover the Story Picture

CIRCLE TIME

GATHER

- Play music and tell toddlers it is time to move to the circle.
- Begin blowing bubbles. Invite toddlers to pop bubbles.
- Direct children to be seated.

HEAR THE BIBLE STORY

- Say: "You saw the bubbles in the air. Our Bible story is about a time Jesus saw a dove (bird). Listen to the story."
- Open the Bible to Matthew 3 and recall the Bible story in your words.
- Pass the Story Picture (Pack Item 5) around the circle.

Ask children a few questions to review the story: Who looked for John? (*Jesus*) What did Jesus want John to do? (*baptize Jesus*) Who was pleased? (*God*)

PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Toss a ball to a child. Ask the child to stand next to you and hold the Bible opened to Matthew 3:17.
- Lead the toddler to say the Bible verse, then toss the ball to a friend.
- Repeat with the next child. Give every preschooler a turn.

PRAY

• Ask God to help boys and girls learn about Jesus. Pray that God would lead children to be obedient and obey God as Jesus did.



TRACE & DECORATE FOOTPRINTS

Tools: Bible, paper, crayons, stickers, Preschool Family Card (use to mark Matthew 3), Music & Print Extras

- Trace around a toddler's feet (or shoes) on
 - a piece of paper. Write today's Text Truth on the paper somewhere.
- Invite the toddler to decorate his footprints. When he finishes, guide him to open the Bible to Matthew $\overline{3}$ to the Family Card.
- Look at the picture together. Remark:
- "You use your feet to walk. Jesus walked to the river to find John. Jesus had something important to do."
- Summarize the Bible story.

PLAY A COLOR GAME

Tools: Bible, Diaper Bag Card, sheets of different colored construction paper, tape, beanbags

- Tape different colors of paper to the floor in random order. Help a child identify each color of paper.
- Give the toddler a beanbag. Name a color and instruct the toddler to toss her beanbag onto the same color of paper.
- Say: "Good job. You obeyed the instruction and tossed the beanbag on the yellow square."
- After a few turns, show the child the picture on the Diaper Bag Card. Point to Jesus. Say: "Jesus followed God's instructions. Jesus pleased God."

UNCOVER THE STORY PICTURE

Tools: Bible, Story Picture: Jesus Pleased God (Pack Item 5), sticky notes

- Cover the Story Picture with sticky notes. Lay the picture on the floor with the Bible.
- Invite a toddler to pull away a sticky note. Tell the child to look at the part of the picture that is revealed. Suggest the toddler tell you what he sees.
- After pulling away several sticky notes, the child may tell you he sees a man or Jesus.
- Open the Bible to Matthew 3 and point to Jesus' name. Say: "Jesus looked for His cousin John."
- As more notes are removed, ask toddlers to recall what they remember about the Bible story.

- Make a final diaper check.
- Put a Diaper Bag Card and **Preschool Family Card in each** child's bag.
- Release children to authorized adults.



Jesus' Test

YOUR TEACHING PARTNER:

YOUR TIME TO ARRIVE:

YOUR CLASSROOM:

OPTIONS

- 1. Continue explorations from first hour.
- 2. Try something different. Choose two or three new explorations.

REMINDERS

- Use the Bible!
- Talk to children about the Bible.
- Give children a Diaper Bag Card and
- Preschool Family Card to take home.

SCHEDULE

- Restroom & Snack (10 min.)
- Exploration Activities (30-40 min.)
- Circle Time (10 min.)
- Wrap-up (5 min.)

BIBLE STORY:

Jesus Worshiped God Matthew 4:1-11 The Bible story is printed on the back of the Story Picture.

TEXT TRUTH:

Worship God.

BIBLE VERSE PARAPHRASE:

Worship God and serve Him. *Matthew* 4:10

EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES

See next page.

- Drive Toy Vehicles
- Pour & Sip Water
- Make a Bookmark

CIRCLE TIME

GATHER

- Lay three or four colors of paper on the floor.
- Hand a beanbag to a child and tell him to toss the beanbag on a color you name. Give everyone a turn to toss the beanbag.
- Say: "We have fun at church playing games, hearing music, and learning from the Bible. Let's talk about the Bible story."

HEAR THE BIBLE STORY

- Give the Story Picture (Pack Item 6) to a child to hold.
- Open the Bible to Matthew 4 and summarize the Bible story.
- After the story, pass the Story Picture around the circle.

PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Distribute a Bible to each child.
- Tell toddlers to do these actions: lay Bibles on the floor, pick up Bibles, open Bibles, turn Bible pages, find a picture in the Bible (if you have provided picture Bibles), close Bibles.
- Praise children's efforts in handling their Bibles carefully.

PRAY

- Invite a child to say thank You to God for the Bible.
- Invite another child to say thank You that Jesus made the right choice.
- Ask God to help us love, worship, and serve Him.



NEXT HOUR EXPLORATIONS FOR TODDLERS

DRIVE TOY VEHICLES

Tools: Bible, toy cars and trucks, cardboard blocks, Diaper Bag Card

• As a toddler pushes cars on the floor,

- comment on ways his family travels. • Remark: "People in Bible times did not
- have cars to drive. How did they go places?" Lead the toddler to answer, "Walk." Relate this to Jesus' walking in the desert.
- Show the toddler the picture on the Diaper Bag Card. Say: "Jesus walked and walked. He got tired and hungry.
- Someone tried to trick Jesus."
- Recall the Bible story. Remark: "Jesus said He would worship and serve God."

POUR & SIP WATER

Tools: Bible, small plastic pitcher or measuring cup, cool water, plastic cups

- Invite individual children to pour a small amount of water into a cup and sip the water.
- Talk about the cool taste of water when we are tired and hot. Relate this to Jesus' thirst after He was in the desert a long time and had nothing to drink.
- Comment that Jesus did not worry about being thirsty. Jesus knew God loved Him and helped Him.
- Open the Bible to Matthew 4 and summarize the Bible story for toddlers. Help children say the Bible verse together.

MAKE A BOOKMARK

Tools: Bible, Story Picture: Jesus Worshiped God (Pack Item 6), 3-by-6-inch strips of brown construction paper, colorful stickers, washable markers, Music & Print Extras

- Write today's Bible verse on one side of each paper strip.
- Invite a toddler to make a bookmark. Provide him with a paper strip, stickers, and a marker.
- Play music softly while the child decorates his bookmark. Tell the toddler he can use the bookmark in his Bible to remind him of what Jesus said.
- Open the Bible to Matthew 4:10 and say the Bible verse. Comment: "These are the words written on your bookmark. They are from the book of Matthew."

- Make a final diaper check.
- Put a Diaper Bag Card and **Preschool Family Card in each** child's bag.
- Release children to authorized adults.



Lessons for People

YOUR TEACHING PARTNER:

YOUR TIME TO ARRIVE:

YOUR CLASSROOM:

OPTIONS

- 1. Continue explorations from first hour.
- 2. Try something different. Choose two or three new explorations.

REMINDERS

- Use the Bible!
- Talk to children about the Bible.
- Give children a Diaper Bag Card and Preschool Family Card to take home.

SCHEDULE

- Restroom & Snack (10 min.)
- Exploration Activities (30-40 min.)
- Circle Time (10 min.)
- Wrap-up (5 min.)

BIBLE STORY:

Jesus Taught from a Mountaintop Matthew 5–7 *The Bible story is printed on the back of the Story Picture.*

TEXT TRUTH: Jesus taught people.

BIBLE VERSE PARAPHRASE:

Let others see your good works. *Matthew 5:16*

EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES

See next page.

- Bounce a Ball
- Match Bibles to Shapes
- Search for Jesus' Name

CIRCLE TIME

GATHER

- Using painter's tape, outline three squares on the floor. The squares should be large enough for a child to stand in.
- Invite toddlers to play a hopping game. Demonstrate how to hop or step into a square and say: "The Bible tells about Jesus."
- Give everyone a turn to hop and speak.

HEAR THE BIBLE STORY

- Give each toddler a Bible and ask teachers to help children turn to Matthew 5.
- Say: "Please hold your Bible while I tell a true story from this part of the Bible."
- Summarize the Bible story, then show Story Picture (Pack Item 7).

PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Tell each child to close his Bible and follow your directions.
- Say: "Open your Bible and say 'Bible.' Close your Bible and say 'Bible.'" Guide toddlers as needed.
- Repeat the instructions. Remark: "You are learning to open and close the Bible."
- Open your Bible to Matthew 5:16 and lead children to say today's Bible verse.

PRAY

- Thank God for the Bible.
- Thank God for helping us learn how to do what God wants and show others that we love God's Son, Jesus.



BOUNCE A BALL

Tools: Bible, Story Picture: Jesus Taught from a Mountaintop (Pack Item 7), masking tape, large bouncing ball

- Make four or five large masking tape Xs in a circle on the floor. Place the Story Picture inside the circle.
- Invite toddlers to sit on the Xs and bounce the ball to friends.
- Each time a child bounces the ball, say today's Bible verse. Help the group say the verse together.
- Pause children's play to take time to look
 at the Story Picture.
- Help children recall what they remember about the Bible story.

MATCH BIBLES TO SHAPES

Tools: different sizes of Bibles, painter's tape, Diaper Bag Card

- Use tape to outline each Bible shape on the floor.
- Guide a toddler to put the Bibles in the corresponding outlines.
- Tell the child that we learn about Jesus from the Bible.
- Say: "The book of Matthew tells about things Jesus did and places He traveled. One day Jesus walked to a mountain and sat down. He taught the people how God wanted them to live."
- Show the child the picture on the Diaper Bag Card as you summarize the Bible story.

SEARCH FOR JESUS' NAME

Tools: Bible, Jesus Name Cards (Pack Item 20), self-stick magnetic tape, metal pan, masking tape

- Fasten small pieces of magnetic tape to the backs of the Jesus Name Cards. Tape the cards around the room in easy-to-spot locations.
- Say to toddlers: "J-E-S-U-S. Those letters spell Jesus' name. Let's look around the room for cards that show Jesus' name. I'll help you find the first card. We will place it on the pan."
- Locate one name card and read the letters in Jesus' name. Then place the card on the pan.
- Invite children to move around the room locating cards. When all Name Cards are placed on the pan, say: "We learn about Jesus from the Bible. People in Bible times learned from Jesus."

- Make a final diaper check.
- Put a Diaper Bag Card and Preschool Family Card in each child's bag.
- Release children to authorized adults.



Helping the Sick

YOUR TEACHING PARTNER:

YOUR TIME TO ARRIVE:

YOUR CLASSROOM:

OPTIONS

- 1. Continue explorations from first hour.
- 2. Try something different. Choose two or three new explorations.

REMINDERS

- Use the Bible!
- Talk to children about the Bible.
- Give children a Diaper Bag Card and Preschool Family Card to take home.

SCHEDULE

- Restroom & Snack (10 min.)
- Exploration Activities (30-40 min.)
- Circle Time (10 min.)
- Wrap-up (5 min.)

BIBLE STORY:

Jesus Helped Sick People Matthew 8:1-15 *The Bible story is printed on the back of the Story Picture.*

TEXT TRUTH:

Jesus wants to help people.

BIBLE VERSE PARAPHRASE:

Jesus is ready to help people. *Matthew 8:3*

EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES

See next page.

- Rest on Mats & Read
- Toss Sock Balls
- Scoop Cotton Balls

CIRCLE TIME

GATHER

- Play music to signal it is time for toddlers to gather for Circle Time.
- Show the Animal Action Cube (Pack Item 17). Ask children to name the animals.
- Say: "Let's move! When I toss the cube, let's move like that animal."
- Toss the cube several times and lead children to move.

HEAR THE BIBLE STORY

- Lay the Story Picture (Pack Item 8) on the floor.
- Say: "See the man kneeling on the ground. He may not have been able to move like you. The man saw Jesus and believed Jesus could make him well."

• Open the Bible to Matthew 8 and recall the Bible story in your own words.

PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Give it to a child. Direct children to pass the Bible while music plays.
- Stop the music and tell the child holding the Bible to say today's Bible verse.
- Give every toddler a turn to repeat the verse.

PRAY

• Thank God for Jesus. Say: "Thank You, God, for sending Jesus to love people and help them."



REST ON MATS & READ

Tools: CSB® Read to Me Bible, plastic rest mats, Book: Jesus (Pack Item 22), other books about Jesus, Story Picture: Jesus Helped Sick People (Pack Item 8)

- Spread a few mats in a quiet area of the room. Lay books near the mats.
- Tell a child she can lie down or sit on a mat and read a book.
- Say: "We can know more about Jesus by reading the Bible and reading other books about Him."
- about FIIII.
 Say: "People who are sick sometimes rest on mats." Show the Story Picture and point to the man kneeling on a mat.
 Turn to Matthew 8 and summarize the
 - Turn to Matthew 8 and summaries story.

TOSS SOCK BALLS

Tools: Bible, Diaper Bag Card, dishpan, tape, 2 pairs of men's socks rolled to make 4 balls

- Place the dishpan on the floor. Put the Diaper Bag Card in the dishpan.
- Make a tape line on the floor a short distance from the dishpan.
- Invite a toddler to stand on the tape line and toss a sock ball into the dishpan. Cheer and clap when the child succeeds.
- After the child tosses all the balls, direct him to remove them from the pan. When the Diaper Bag Card is revealed, ask the child to show it to you.
- Point to Jesus as you summarize today's Bible story for the toddler.

SCOOP COTTON BALLS

Tools: Bible, Jesus Picture Circles (Pack Item 19), 6-cup muffin pan, jumbo cotton balls, tablespoon, plastic bowl

- Place Jesus Picture Circles in the muffin pan cups. (Trim to size if necessary.) Put the cotton balls in the bowl.
- When a toddler shows interest, show him the pictures of Jesus. Remark that Jesus loved people and helped them.
- Use the spoon to scoop a cotton ball from the bowl and transfer it to a muffin pan cup. Give the spoon to the toddler so he can scoop cotton balls.
- While the toddler is busy, open the Bible to Matthew 8. Summarize the Bible story.

- Make a final diaper check.
- Put a Diaper Bag Card and Preschool Family Card in each child's bag.
- Release children to authorized adults.



Jesus Provides

YOUR TEACHING PARTNER:

YOUR TIME TO ARRIVE:

YOUR CLASSROOM:

OPTIONS

- 1. Continue explorations from first hour.
- 2. Try something different. Choose two or three new explorations.

REMINDERS

- Use the Bible!
- Talk to children about the Bible.
- Give children a Diaper Bag Card and Preschool Family Card to take home.

SCHEDULE

- Restroom & Snack (10 min.)
- Exploration Activities (30-40 min.)
- Circle Time (10 min.)
- Wrap-up (5 min.)

BIBLE STORY:

Food for Everyone

Matthew 14:13-21 The Bible story is printed on the back of the Story Picture.

TEXT TRUTH:

Jesus cares about our needs.

BIBLE VERSE PARAPHRASE:

Jesus cared about the people. *Matthew* 14:14

EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES

See next page.

- Create with Play Dough
- Look for Jesus
- Pretend to Cook

CIRCLE TIME

GATHER

- Play music to lead children to Circle Time.
- Give each child a cardboard block.
- Invite children to tap a steady beat on a block.
- While the group pats the blocks, say together: "Jesus cares about our needs. Jesus cares about our needs."

HEAR THE BIBLE STORY

- Lay the Story Picture (Pack Item 9) and the Bible on the floor.
- Hand each child a People Picture (Pack Item 29) to hold.
- Tell children that when they hear you say the word *people*, they should hold up their picture.
- Summarize the Bible story.

• Open the Bible to Matthew 14. Say: "Jesus loved the people and cared for them."

PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Put a stack of Bibles in the center of the circle.
- Say: "The book of Matthew is in the New Testament. Let's find Matthew in the Bible."
- Ask teachers to help boys and girls turn to Matthew 14.

PRAY

- Thank God for the preschoolers and their families.
- Ask God to help everyone remember that Jesus cares about our needs.



CREATE WITH PLAY DOUGH

Tools: Bible, Story Picture: Food for Everyone (Pack Item 9), fresh play dough

Give each child a small amount of dough.

- As children push and mold the dough,
- show them the Story Picture. Say: "Jesus helped the people have bread and fish to eat. Jesus cared about the people."
- Sing (tune "God Is So Good"): Jesus gave food, Jesus gave food, Jesus gave food to the people.

• Open the Bible to Matthew 14:14 and say

- the Bible verse. Lead toddlers to repeat the Bible verse with you.
- Remind children to keep play dough on the table.

LOOK FOR JESUS

Tools: Bible, several cardboard tubes, Bible People Figures (Pack Item 28), Diaper Bag Card

- Place the Bible Figures and the Diaper Bag Card around the room in easy-tospot locations.
- Give a tube to a child and say: "Let's look for Jesus. Can you use your tube to search the room for a figure of Jesus?"
- When the child locates the figure, say: "Many people looked for Jesus so they could listen to Him teach."
- Lead the toddler to search for a picture of Jesus (on the Diaper Bag Card).
- Hold the card and recall the Bible story.

PRETEND TO COOK

Tools: Bible, toy cooking pots and pans, wooden or plastic spoons, Preschool Family Card

- Encourage toddlers to use the pots and pans to pretend to cook. Ask: "What foods do you like to eat?" Listen as toddlers tell about their favorite foods.
- Open the Bible to Matthew 14. Say: "Matthew wrote about a day when people stayed all day to hear Jesus teach. The people became hungry. Jesus' helpers did not know what to do. Jesus knew what to do. Jesus helped the people have food to eat. Jesus cared about the people."
- Show children the picture on the Family Card. Point to the fish and bread. Remark: "Everyone had plenty of food to eat!"

- Make a final diaper check.
- Put a Diaper Bag Card and **Preschool Family Card in each** child's bag.
- Release children to authorized adults.



God Calls

YOUR TEACHING PARTNER:

YOUR TIME TO ARRIVE:

YOUR CLASSROOM:

OPTIONS

- 1. Continue explorations from first hour.
- 2. Try something different. Choose two or three new explorations.

REMINDERS

- Use the Bible!
- Talk to children about the Bible.
- Give children a Diaper Bag Card and Preschool Family Card to take home.

SCHEDULE

- Restroom & Snack (10 min.)
- Exploration Activities (30-40 min.)
- Circle Time (10 min.)
- Wrap-up (5 min.)

BIBLE STORY:

A Job for Jeremiah Jeremiah 1 The Bible story is printed on the back of the Story Picture.

TEXT TRUTH:

God chooses people to tell about Him.

BIBLE VERSE PARAPHRASE:

Go, tell everyone what I tell you. *Jeremiah* 1:7

EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES

See next page.

- Stack Blocks & Find a Picture
- Stamp Letters
- Push Craft Sticks into a Box

CIRCLE TIME

GATHER

- Gather a few items from the room and put them in a backpack.
- Play music and give a streamer to each child to wave.
- Walk with preschoolers around the room to the Circle Time area.
- When children are seated, collect the streamers.

HEAR THE BIBLE STORY

- Show the backpack and take out items one at a time.
- Ask children how they used some of the items today. Comment that all the things helped them learn about Jeremiah.
- Open the Bible to Jeremiah 1 and recall the Bible story.

After the story, ask questions: Who is in the picture? (*Jeremiah*) Who had a special job for Jeremiah? (*God*) What did God tell Jeremiah to do? (*Tell the people what God said*.)

PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Open the Bible to today's Bible Verse Marker (Pack Item 16). Remark that today's verse is from the book of Jeremiah. Jeremiah wrote this Bible book.
- Help toddlers say the Bible verse a couple of times.

PRAY

- Thank God for opportunities to tell others about Him.
- Thank God for teachers and others whom God chose to teach children.



STACK BLOCKS & FIND A PICTURE

Tools: Bible, Story Picture: A Job for Jeremiah (Pack Item 10), cardboard or large plastic blocks

- Lay the Story Picture on the floor. Cover it with some blocks.
- Invite toddlers to stack blocks or move them from place to place.
- Talk about the Bible story as toddlers
- Talk about the bible story uncover the Story Picture. Point to Jeremiah and say: "Jeremiah listened to God. God chose Jeremiah to tell the people what God said."
- Help a toddler turn Bible pages to locate
 Jeremiah 1. Say: "This is where we learn about Jeremiah and what God told him."

STAMP LETTERS

Tools: Bible, paper, letter stamps (T, E, L), washable ink pad, marker, Diaper Bag Card

- On one sheet of paper, write the word *TELL*. Put the paper in the center of the table.
- Show a child the paper. Say: "This is the word *tell*. God told Jeremiah to tell people what God said."
- Show the child the picture on the Diaper Bag Card. Remark: "God chose Jeremiah to talk to people. God chooses people today to tell about Him." Name people such as the pastor and teachers.
- Give the child a paper and letter stamps to stamp the word *tell*.

PUSH CRAFT STICKS INTO A BOX

Tools: Bible, tall box with lid, craft knife, craft sticks, Preschool Family Card

- In the lid of the box, make several slits wide enough for a craft stick to be pushed through. Put the Family Card in the box and replace the lid.
- Invite a toddler to push sticks through the slits. After a while, tell the child to remove the box lid and retrieve the sticks.
- Call the child's attention to the Family Card picture. Say: "Jeremiah was a young man when he heard God tell him something important. God chose Jeremiah to be a messenger and tell people what God said to do."
- After the preschooler pushes all the sticks into the box, help him remove the lid and get the sticks.

- Make a final diaper check.
- Put a Diaper Bag Card and Preschool Family Card in each child's bag.
- Release children to authorized adults.



Listen and Obey

YOUR TEACHING PARTNER:

YOUR TIME TO ARRIVE:

YOUR CLASSROOM:

OPTIONS

- 1. Continue explorations from first hour.
- 2. Try something different. Choose two or three new explorations.

REMINDERS

- Use the Bible!
- Talk to children about the Bible.
- Give children a Diaper Bag Card and Preschool Family Card to take home.

SCHEDULE

- Restroom & Snack (10 min.)
- Exploration Activities (30-40 min.)
- Circle Time (10 min.)
- Wrap-up (5 min.)

BIBLE STORY:

Jeremiah Spoke at the Temple Jeremiah 26:1-19 *The Bible story is printed on the back of the Story Picture.*

TEXT TRUTH: Listen to God and obey Him.

BIBLE VERSE PARAPHRASE:

Obey God. Jeremiah 26:13

EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES

See next page.

- Work Church Puzzles
- Decorate Letter Os
- Move to the Bible

CIRCLE TIME

GATHER

- Glue a Happy Face (Music & Print Extras) on one side of a paper plate and a Sad Face on the other side. Prepare a face plate for each child.
- Say: "When I say something that makes you happy, show the happy face. When I say something that makes you sad, show the sad face."
- Make up a few scenarios such as: It rains all day and you can't play outdoors. Or, Mother said you may eat two cookies.
- Say: "Today's Bible story today is about Jeremiah talking to the people at the temple. Many of the people were sad, but many were angry, when they heard what God said He would do."

HEAR THE BIBLE STORY

• Open the Bible to Jeremiah 26. Summarize the Bible story. • Show children the Story Picture (Pack Item 11).

PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Place the Bible inside a zippered Bible cover.
- Pass the Bible around the circle to give toddlers turns zipping and unzipping the cover.
- Show toddlers your personal Bible. Invite a child to open the Bible to a marker placed at Jeremiah 26:13.
- Lead toddlers to say the verse with you.

PRAY

- Thank God for the truth of His Word and the things we learn from the Bible.
- Ask God to help everyone listen and learn what God wants us to do.

WORK CHURCH PUZZLES

The Bible

Tools: Bible; photo of your church; poster board; glue; scissors; wooden puzzles showing churches, children, or things we see at church

- Mount the photo of your church on the poster board and cut it into 3 or 4 pieces.
- Place the wooden puzzles and poster board puzzle on a table. Open the Bible to Jeremiah and put it next to the puzzles. • Invite children to work puzzles. Remark
- that the puzzle pictures remind you of today's story.
- Say: "Jeremiah went to the temple church to speak to the people. Jeremiah told the people to obey God."
- Summarize the Bible story in your own words.

DECORATE LETTER Os

Tools: Bible, paper, marker, office dot stickers, crayons, Story Picture: Jeremiah Spoke at the *Temple (Pack Item 11)*

- Use the marker to make a large letter ${\cal O}$ on the paper. Duplicate the paper to provide a page for each toddler.
- Give a paper to a child. Point to the letter. Say: "This is the letter O. It is the first letter in the word *obey*. When Jeremiah went to the temple, he told the people that God said to obey Him. God wants us to obey Him." Show the Story Picture.
- Guide the child to place dot stickers on the outline of the letter. Then offer crayons for the child to draw on the letter page.

MOVE TO THE BIBLE

Tools: Bible, Animal Action Cube (Pack Item 17), Music & Print Extras

- Place the Bible in a chair across the room. Play music as you get the attention of a child near you.
- Show the child pictures on the Animal Action Cube. Say: "Let's have some fun! See the Bible in the chair across the room. Can you move in a special way and touch the Bible? Then you can come back."
- Invite the toddler to toss the cube and tell you the picture facing up. Read the words and say: "Now move like this animal to get to the chair. Touch the Bible, then move back to me."
- When the child returns, say: "You obeyed the instructions. Jeremiah told the people to obey God." Recall the Bible story.

- Make a final diaper check.
- Put a Diaper Bag Card and **Preschool Family Card in each** child's bag.
- Release children to authorized adults.



God's Words

YOUR TEACHING PARTNER:

YOUR TIME TO ARRIVE:

YOUR CLASSROOM:

OPTIONS

- 1. Continue explorations from first hour.
- 2. Try something different. Choose two or three new explorations.

REMINDERS

- Use the Bible!
- Talk to children about the Bible.
- Give children a Diaper Bag Card and Preschool Family Card

to take home.

SCHEDULE

- Restroom & Snack (10 min.)
- Exploration Activities (30-40 min.)
- Circle Time (10 min.)
- Wrap-up (5 min.)

BIBLE STORY:

Jeremiah Wrote God's Words Jeremiah 36 *The Bible story is printed on the back of the Story Picture.*

TEXT TRUTH:

God told people to write the Bible.

BIBLE VERSE PARAPHRASE:

God told men to write His words. 2 *Peter 1:21*

EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES

See next page.

- Find Hidden Treasure
- Play Bible Relay
- Match Bible Pictures

CIRCLE TIME

GATHER

- Use a toy microphone to announce Circle Time.
- As the children are seated, pass the microphone around the circle and ask toddlers to say their names.
- Sing a song together (tune "The Farmer in the Dell"): The Bible's always here, The Bible's always here, God told men what to write. The Bible's always here.

HEAR THE BIBLE STORY

- Open the Bible to Jeremiah 36 and place the Bible in your lap.
- Say: "Jeremiah wrote the words God told him to write. God's words were very important. Listen to see what happened when Jeremiah's helper read the words at the temple."
- Recall the Bible story.

• Pass the Story Picture (Pack Item 12) around the circle for the children to see.

PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Show children the Bible Word Page (Music & Print Extras). Say the letters of the word.
- Hold up a Bible that has the word *Bible* printed on the cover.
- Say: "Even though Bibles may look different, all of them are true. God told people to write His words. God's words are in the Bible."

PRAY

Sing a simple prayer to the tune "Mary Had a Little Lamb": God chose people to write His words, write His words, write His words. God chose people to write His words. The Bible is God's Word.



NEXT HOUR EXPLORATIONS FOR TODDLERS

FIND HIDDEN TREASURE

Tools: Bible, Preschool Family Card, gift bag, plastic blocks or shape sorter pieces

- Place the Bible in the gift bag and fill the bag with the plastic blocks to hide the
- Bible.
- Invite a toddler to search the gift bag for a hidden treasure. As she moves the blocks and discovers the Bible, say: "It's a Bible! You found the Bible."
- Help the toddler turn to Jeremiah 36. Mention that Jeremiah and his helper, Baruch, wrote on paper the words that God said. The words are in the Bible. • Remark: "God told people to write the
- Bible. We learn from the Bible."

PLAY BIBLE RELAY

Tools: 2 Bibles, 2 plastic trays, Diaper Bag Card, masking tape

- Make two masking tape lines on the floor about 8 feet apart. Place a tray and a Bible at one end of both lines. Place the Diaper Bag Card between the lines at the opposite end.
- Say to two children: "Let's do a Bible relay. Stand behind your line and pick up the tray. When I say go, walk carefully to the end of your line. When you get there, stop."
- When both children reach the end and are next to the Diaper Bag Card, show the picture and recall the Bible story.
- Say the Bible verse with children.

MATCH BIBLE PICTURES

Tools: Bible, Bible Matching Cards (Pack Item 31), Music & Print Extras

- Place one of each of the Matching Cards in the Bible. Put the corresponding cards on the floor.
- Invite a child to search the Bible to find a card. Say: "Look for a card that shows the same Bible."
- When the child makes the matches, comment: "Bibles can look different, but they all have God's words written in them. God told men like Jeremiah to write what God said."
- Challenge older toddlers by laying all the cards facedown on the table and guiding children to find matches.
- Listen to songs about the Bible (tracks 8-12).
- Thank God for the Bible.

- Make a final diaper check.
- Put a Diaper Bag Card and **Preschool Family Card in each** child's bag.
- Release children to authorized adults.



Never-ending Love

YOUR TEACHING PARTNER:

YOUR TIME TO ARRIVE:

YOUR CLASSROOM:

OPTIONS

- 1. Continue explorations from first hour.
- 2. Try something different. Choose two or three new explorations.

REMINDERS

- Use the Bible!
- Talk to children about the Bible.
- Give children a Diaper Bag Card and Preschool Family Card to take home.

SCHEDULE

- Restroom & Snack (10 min.)
- Exploration Activities (30-40 min.)
- Circle Time (10 min.)
- Wrap-up (5 min.)

BIBLE STORY:

Jeremiah's Broken Heart Lamentations 1–5 The Bible story is printed on the back of the Story Picture.

TEXT TRUTH:

God's love for people never ends.

BIBLE VERSE PARAPHRASE:

God's love and kindness never end. *Lamentations* 3:22

EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES

See next page.

- Magnify Words in the Bible
- Make a Hands Picture
- Build a Blocks Tower

CIRCLE TIME

GATHER

- Play music to encourage children to move to the Circle Time area.
- Lay the pictures for the four Jeremiah stories (Pack Items 10–13) in a row on the floor.
- Give toddlers turns tossing a beanbag onto the pictures.
- Help the children recall the events of each story.

HEAR THE BIBLE STORY

- Open the Bible to Lamentations. Remind children that Jeremiah wrote a Bible book to tell about the things that happened.
- Summarize the Bible story.
- Ask a few review questions: Why was Jeremiah sad? (*Jerusalem was destroyed and the people were gone.*)

What did Jeremiah remember? (God is always good. His love and kindness never end.) What is the name of the Bible book with Jeremiah's poems? (Lamentations)

PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Pass a plastic heart around the circle while music plays.
- Stop the music and tell the child holding the heart to stand. Lead the child to say the Bible verse.
- Continue until each child has a turn to say the verse.

PRAY

 Pray: "Thank You, God, for always loving us and showing Your goodness to us in so many ways. Thank You for giving us the Bible to help us read about Your love."



MAGNIFY WORDS IN THE BIBLE

Tools: CSB® Read to Me Bible, child's magnifying glass, Story Picture: Jeremiah's Broken Heart (Pack Item 13)

- Invite a child to look at the Bible with you. Look at story illustrations together and summarize some of the stories.
- Guide the toddler to find the book of Lamentations. Say: "Can you hold the magnifying glass over the Bible page?"
 Turn to Lamentations 3:22 and remark:
- Turn to Lamentations 5.22 und FT "Jeremiah wrote these words about God. Jeremiah said God's love and kindness never end."
- never end.Look at the Story Picture and recall the
- Bible story.

MAKE A HANDS PICTURE

Tools: Bible, Diaper Bag Card, paper, pencil, crayons, stickers, Music & Print Extras

- Using a pencil, trace around a child's hands on the paper. Print the child's name on his paper.
- Encourage the child to use crayons and stickers to decorate his hands picture.
- Talk about ways toddlers use their hands. Say: "You use your hands to turn Bible pages. The Bible helps you learn about God. The Bible says that God's love never ends."
- Play music and listen for songs about God and the Bible. Recall the Bible story as the toddler looks at the picture on the Diaper Bag Card.

BUILD A BLOCKS TOWER

Tools: Bible, masking tape, cardboard blocks, Preschool Family Card

- Use masking tape to draw a large square on the floor. Encourage toddlers to build a tower inside the square.
- Toddlers like to knock down blocks, too. Encourage children to take turns knocking over block towers.
- Show children the picture on the Family Card. Say: "Building a tower is hard work. We are sad when it is knocked over. Jeremiah was sad when he saw the buildings in the city of Jerusalem destroyed."
- Open the Bible to Lamentations 1 and say: "Jeremiah was so sad, he wrote some poems about Jerusalem and the people. Jeremiah wrote about God's goodness. Jeremiah's poems are in the Bible."

- Make a final diaper check.
- Put a Diaper Bag Card and Preschool Family Card in each child's bag.
- Release children to authorized adults.



YOUR TEACHING PARTNER:

YOUR TIME TO ARRIVE:

NEXT HOUR EXPLORATIONS FOR PRESCHOOLERS

The Promised One

OPTIONS

- 1. Continue explorations from first hour.
- 2. Try something different. Choose two or three new explorations.

REMINDERS

- Use the Bible!
- Talk to children about the Bible.
- Give children an Activity Page and **Preschool Family Card** to take home.

SCHEDULE

- Restroom & Snack (10 min.)
- Exploration Activities (30-40 min.)
- Circle Time (10 min.)
- Wrap-up (5 min.)

YOUR CLASSROOM:

BIBLE STORY:

God's Plan for Jesus Matthew 1:1-17 The Bible story is printed on the back of the Story Picture.

TEXT TRUTH:

Jesus came from the family of Abraham.

BIBLE VERSE PARAPHRASE:

A child will be born, and He will reign as King. Isaiah 9:6-7

EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES

See next page.

- Lace the Story Picture
- Work Family & People Puzzles
- Click & Say
- Dig Up Bible Names

CIRCLE TIME

GATHER

- Play music and lead children to be seated in a circle.
- Pass the Story Picture (Pack Item 1) around the circle.

REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

• Ask questions to review today's Bible story: Who is in the picture? (*Matthew*) Who did Matthew write about? (Jesus)

Who were some of the people in Jesus' family? (Abraham, Isaac, David, Joseph)

PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

• Distribute a Bible to each pair of children. Say: "The Bible has two main parts—the Old Testament and the New Testament. Both parts tell about God's Son, Jesus." • Enlist teachers in the circle to help children open their Bibles to the book of Matthew and find Jesus' name.

PRAY

• Thank God for the Bible and its story about God's Son, Jesus.

WRAP UP

• Form groups of two or three preschoolers and a teacher. Look at the Activity Page, review the Bible story, and say the Bible verse.





LACE THE STORY PICTURE

Tools: Bible, Story Picture: God's Plan for Jesus (Pack Item 1), poster board, wide tape, hole punch, shoelace

- Tape the Story Picture to the poster board and punch holes around the picture (1 in. from edge and 1 in. apart). Tie the shoelace through a hole.
- Invite a child to thread the shoelace around the picture. While the preschooler is busy, talk about the picture. Remark that Matthew knew Jesus and wanted people to know about Him. Matthew wrote stories about Jesus, and the stories are in the New Testament part of the Bible.
- As the child looks at the Story Picture, summarize the Bible story.

WORK FAMILY & PEOPLE PUZZLES

Tools: Bible, 3-5 wooden puzzles showing families or people, construction paper, Bible Verse Markers

- Use today's Verse Marker to mark Isaiah 9:6-7 in the Bible. Put the Bible with the puzzles on the floor in a quiet area of the room. Cover each puzzle with a sheet of construction paper.
- When a preschooler notices the covered puzzles, invite her to choose one. As she puts together a puzzle, talk about the picture that is shown and relate it to people having families. Ask the child about her family. (Be sensitive to special family situations.)
- Say: "The Bible tells about Jesus. A man named Isaiah wrote that Jesus would be born, and He would be the King over God's people."
- Help the child open the Bible to the marker and say the verse with you.

CLICK & SAY

Tools: Bible, pairs of rhythm sticks or wooden dowels, paper with today's Text Truth printed on it in large type, Poster: Abraham's Family (Pack Item 20)

- Give children pairs of rhythm sticks. Ask preschoolers to click the rhythm of these words: Jesus came from the family of Abraham, Jesus came from the family of Abraham, Jesus came from the family of Abraham, I learn that from the Bible.
- Repeat the chant and this time direct children to clap their hands to the rhythm. Point to the Text Truth words written on the paper.
- Show children the poster and comment that Matthew wrote about the people in Jesus' family.
- Recall the Bible story.

DIG UP BIBLE NAMES

Tools: Bible; small objects on which to write names (wooden block, small gift box, plastic cup, plastic lid, new sponge, table tennis ball); shredded paper; plastic bin; marker

- Write these names on the objects (one name per object): *Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, David, Joseph, Jesus.*
- Put a shallow layer of shredded paper in the bin and hide the objects in the paper.
- Invite a child to dig in the paper to feel for objects. When he discovers one, read the name printed on the object. Relate the name to Matthew's record of the people in Jesus' family.
- Say: "Matthew wanted people to know that Jesus was from the family of Abraham. Let's look at Matthew's record in the Bible." Help the child find the names recorded in Matthew 1.



NEXT HOUR EXPLORATIONS FOR PRESCHOOLERS

A Family for Jesus

OPTIONS

- 1. Continue explorations from first hour.
- 2. Try something different. Choose two or three new explorations.

CIRCLE TIME

like a duck or fly like a bird.

Story Picture (Pack Item 2).

• Ask questions about the story:

Who visited Mary to tell good

What was the good news? (God's

What did the angel say Joseph

should do? (*Get married to Mary*

news? (an angel)

and take care of her.)

REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

• After children are seated, show the

REMINDERS

- Use the Bible!
- Talk to children about the Bible.
- Give children an Activity Page and Preschool Family Card to take home.

SCHEDULE

- Restroom & Snack (10 min.)
- Exploration Activities (30-40 min.)
- Circle Time (10 min.)
- Wrap-up (5 min.)

YOUR TEACHING PARTNER:

YOUR TIME TO ARRIVE:

YOUR CLASSROOM:

BIBLE STORY:

News for Mary and Joseph Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-38 *The Bible story is printed on the back of the Story Picture.*

TEXT TRUTH:

God chose people to care for His Son, Jesus.

BIBLE VERSE PARAPHRASE:

The baby to be born will be called the Son of God. *Luke 1:35*

EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES

See next page.

- Explore Carpenter Tools
- Sing & Say
- Make Play Dough Angels
- Match Picture Cards

GATHER When Circle Time is about to begin, suggest that children move in different ways, such as waddle Stop the music and tell the child with the ball to stand. Lead the child to say today's Bible verse.

• Give other children opportunity to say the verse.

PRAY

• Ask God to help children trust Him just as Mary and Joseph did. Thank God for the good news.

WRAP UP

• Form groups of two or three preschoolers and a teacher. Look at the Activity Page, review the Bible story, and say the Bible verse.

PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

Son, Jesus, would be born.)

• Pass a ball around the circle while music plays softly.





EXPLORE CARPENTER TOOLS

Tools: Bible, Bible Verse Markers (Pack Item 19), toy tools, blocks of smooth wood, sandpaper, measuring tape, safety goggles, Activity Page

- Encourage preschoolers to take turns using various tools.
- Ask: "Do you know anyone who is a carpenter? Someone who builds and repairs things and uses tools? Joseph was a carpenter."
- Guide a child to measure a piece of wood. Show him how to rub sandpaper across the wood to make it smooth.
- Show children the picture on the Activity Page. Say: "Joseph obeyed God when the angel told Joseph to take care of Mary." Recall the Bible story.

SING & SAY

Tools: Bible, Bible Verse Markers (place today's marker at Luke 1:35)

- Invite several children to sit on the floor in a circle. Say: "I'm going to sing a song as we pass the Bible around the circle. When I stop, the person holding the Bible will tell something she remembers from the story."
- Begin passing the Bible as you sing these words to the tune "Mary Had a Little Lamb": *God's Son, Jesus, would be born, would be born, would be born; God's Son, Jesus, would be born. It was good, good news!*
- Give a child a hint or ask a question if the preschooler cannot think of something from the Bible story.
- Continue singing and passing the Bible. After a few turns, direct the child holding the Bible to open it to the marker. Lead children to say today's Bible verse.

MAKE PLAY DOUGH ANGELS

Tools: Bible, fresh play dough, 2 angel cookie cutters, 2 people cookie cutters, toy rolling pin

- Place the items on the table. Invite two preschoolers to sit at the table, then give each child a large mound of dough.
- Encourage children to take turns using the rolling pin to flatten their dough.
- As children cut out angels and people figures, recall today's Bible story.
- Say: "An angel visited Mary and told her good news about Baby Jesus. Then, in a dream, the angel told Joseph about Jesus. What good news! God's Son, Jesus, would soon be born."

MATCH PICTURE CARDS

Tools: Bible, Message Match Cards (Pack Item 22), Story Picture: News for Mary and Joseph (Pack Item 2)

- Open the Bible to Matthew 1 and place the Story Picture nearby. Lay the Message Match Cards facedown on the table.
- Ask a child how he tells or learns about good news. Remark that people can tell news in many ways. Direct the child to turn over a card and identify the method used to tell news. Encourage the child to find a match for the card.
- While the child matches cards, remark that Mary and Joseph received amazing news. Ask: "Can you remember who told them the news? That's right. An angel!"
- Show the Story Picture and summarize the Bible story.



NEXT HOUR EXPLORATIONS FOR PRESCHOOLERS

Good News of Great Joy

OPTIONS

- 1. Continue explorations from first hour.
- 2. Try something different. Choose two or three new explorations.

CIRCLE TIME

REMINDERS

- Use the Bible!
- Talk to children about the Bible.
- Give children an Activity Page and Preschool Family Card to take home.

SCHEDULE

- Restroom & Snack (10 min.)
- Exploration Activities (30-40 min.)
- Circle Time (10 min.)
- Wrap-up (5 min.)

YOUR TEACHING PARTNER:

YOUR TIME TO ARRIVE:

YOUR CLASSROOM:

BIBLE STORY:

A Baby in Bethlehem Matthew 1:24-25; Luke 2:1-20 The Bible story is printed on the back of the Story Picture.

TEXT TRUTH:

The birth of Jesus is good news.

BIBLE VERSE PARAPHRASE:

Glory to God in heaven, and peace on earth to people. *Luke 2:14*

EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES

See next page.

- Play with Blocks & Manger Figures
- Move Cotton Balls
- Walk on a Paper Path
- Decorate Gift Bags

GATHER • Shine a flashlight on the floor to signal children to move to Circle Time.

• When everyone is seated, shine the light on today's Story Picture (Pack Item 3), then put away the flashlight.

REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

To review the Bible story, ask a few questions such as: Who saw a bright light in the nighttime sky? (*shepherds*) What did the angel tell the shepherds? (*Jesus was born.*) Where did the shepherds go? (*to Bethlehem to find the baby*)

PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

• Give each child a pair of rhythm sticks or some jingle bells.

- Lead preschoolers to say the Bible verse and tap their sticks as they say the words.
- After saying the verse, remark: "The birth of Jesus was good news!"

PRAY

- Thank God for sending Jesus into the world to love and help people.
- Ask God to help children learn and know the importance of Jesus' birth.

WRAP UP



Explore The Bible

PLAY WITH BLOCKS & MANGER FIGURES

Tools: Bible, nonbreakable manger scene figures (Joseph, Mary, Baby Jesus, shepherds), wooden blocks, a few toy farm animals, Story Picture: A Baby in Bethlehem (Pack Item 3)

- Prop the Story Picture against a wall near the blocks and figures.
- Show preschoolers the Story Picture and remark that Jesus' birthplace was in an animal stable. Point to the animals in the picture.
- Say: "Let's work together to build a stable for the animals. How should we begin?" Encourage children to do the work themselves, but give suggestions.
- Lead children to move the shepherd figures toward the stable as they look for the special baby. Summarize the Bible story.

MOVE COTTON BALLS

Tools: Bible, large cotton balls, craft sticks, masking tape, Activity Page

- Lay tape down the center of a table. At the end, make a large square. Scatter cotton balls on the table.
- Show children the picture on the Activity Page. Point to the shepherds.
- Say: "Shepherds closely watched their sheep to keep them safe. The shepherds guided the sheep with their staffs (long thin sticks)."
- Direct a child to use a craft stick to move cotton balls down the tape line to the box at the end of the table.
- Encourage preschoolers to wait for their turn to move cotton balls with the craft sticks. As children wait, recall the Bible story.

WALK ON A PAPER PATH

Tools: Bible, 7 pieces of construction paper, marker, tape, Bible Verse Markers (Pack Item 19)

- Use the marker to write on each paper one word of the Text Truth. Lay the papers in order on the floor and tape them. Space the papers about a foot apart. Place today's Verse Marker in the Bible at Luke 2, then lay the Bible at the end of the path.
- Invite a child to walk on the path. As the child steps from paper to paper, say the words of the Text Truth. When the child reaches the end, ask him to pick up the Bible and open it to the marker at Luke 2.
- Say: "The angels and shepherds knew the birth of Jesus was good news. The angels said, 'Glory to God in heaven, and peace on earth to people.' Let's say those words together."
- Lead the child to say the Bible verse with you.

DECORATE GIFT BAGS

Tools: Bible, plain gift bags or white paper sacks, star stickers, colorful tape, washable markers, book about Jesus' birth

- Give each child supplies to decorate a bag. Talk about people using bags to hold gifts. Say: "You can decorate your bag and use it for a gift for someone in your family or for a friend."
- Picture-read the book to children as they decorate their bags. Remark that Christmas is a special time when we thank God for sending His Son, Jesus.
- Turn to Luke 2:14 and show the children the verse in the Bible. Help preschoolers say the Bible verse with you.



NEXT HOUR EXPLORATIONS FOR PRESCHOOLERS

Worship the King

OPTIONS

- 1. Continue explorations from
- first hour. 2. Try something different. Choose two or three new explorations.

REMINDERS

- Use the Bible!
- Talk to children about the Bible.
- Give children an Activity Page and Preschool Family Card to take home.

SCHEDULE

- Restroom & Snack (10 min.)
- Exploration Activities (30-40 min.)
- Circle Time (10 min.)
- Wrap-up (5 min.)

YOUR TEACHING PARTNER:

YOUR TIME TO ARRIVE:

YOUR CLASSROOM:

BIBLE STORY:

Wise Men Worshiped Jesus Matthew 2:1-12 *The Bible story is printed on the back of the Story Picture.*

TEXT TRUTH:

Praise and worship Jesus.

BIBLE VERSE PARAPHRASE:

Jesus is the King of kings. *Revelation* 17:14

EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES

See next page.

- Draw a Mural
- Search & Find
- Work Verse Puzzles
- Sort Gift Bows

CIRCLE TIME

GATHER

- Encourage preschoolers to pretend they are following a star as they walk to Circle Time.
- When preschoolers are gathered, lead them in a simple "Follow the Leader" game. Give simple actions.

REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

- Show the Story Picture (Pack Item 4), then pass it around the circle.
- As each child receives the picture, encourage her to tell something she remembers about the story.

PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

• Give each pair of children a Bible. Ask teachers to guide children to locate Revelation 17:14 in the Bible.

- Tell children this is where we read today's Bible verse. Say the verse together.
- Remark that the Bible story is from the book of Matthew.

PRAY

- Thank God for sending Jesus to the world.
- Sing a song of praise to Jesus.

WRAP UP



EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES

DRAW A MURAL

Tools: Bible, long piece of paper, tape, crayons or markers, Story Picture: Wise Men Worshiped Jesus (Pack Item 4)

- Tape paper to the wall at preschoolers' eye level. Place the crayons on the floor under the paper. Print the Text Truth at the top of the paper.
- Read the words to children. Invite preschoolers to draw pictures showing ways we can praise and worship Jesus. Offer suggestions if needed.
- Tell the Bible story to children to remind them of the wonderful news of Jesus' birth. Show the Story Picture and recall that the wise men traveled a long way to find Jesus and worship Him.
- Help a child turn to Revelation 17:14. Point to the words and lead the preschooler to say today's Bible verse after you. Comment: "The wise men believed the baby who had been born was the King of kings."

SEARCH & FIND

Tools: Bible, toy binoculars, items to hide in the room: CD of Christmas or praise music, gold gift bag, scented candle (new), musical instrument, Christmas card, book about Jesus' birth

- Put the items in places where children can find them.
- Give a child the binoculars. Say: "Today we have talked about the wise men searching for Jesus. Will you use the binoculars to search our room for items that help us remember the Bible story?"
- Name an item to locate in the room. For example, say: "Look for a candle." When the child finds the candle, relate it to the gifts of scent the wise men took to Jesus.
- Relate the items to praising and worshiping Jesus.

WORK VERSE PUZZLES

Tools: Bible, colored construction paper, marker, scissors

- Print the words of the Bible verse onto several different colored sheets of paper. Cut the papers into 4 or 5 pieces each.
- Invite preschoolers to put together the puzzles. When a word puzzle is complete, read the words to the children. Tell preschoolers these words are true and they are from the Bible.
- Open the Bible to Revelation 17:14 and show children the verse. Say: "This verse helps us know that the king the wise men worshiped is the King of kings."

SORT GIFT BOWS

Tools: Bible, box filled with assorted paper gift bows, Activity Page

- Open the Bible to Matthew 2 and lay a gift bow on the pages.
- When a preschooler notices the bows, remark that people decorate gift boxes with ribbons and bows to make them look special.
- Suggest that the preschooler sort the bows by color or size. As the child works, remark that some wise men took special gifts to Jesus. They may have placed their gifts in special boxes.
- Say: "The Bible says that the wise men took gifts of frankincense, myrrh, and gold to Jesus."
- Look at Matthew 2:2 and point out the words *King* of the Jews and worship Him. Say: "The wise men believed Jesus was the King, and they wanted to worship Him."



NEXT HOUR EXPLORATIONS FOR PRESCHOOLERS

Jesus Pleased God

OPTIONS

- 1. Continue explorations from first hour.
- 2. Try something different. Choose two or three new explorations.

CIRCLE TIME

• Sing a song about Jesus as you

walk around the room. Direct

children to move to the circle.

REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

• Ask a volunteer to stand and face

the group. Ask one child to hold the Activity Page and show the

• Help preschoolers recall the story

• Say: "This story about Jesus is

as their friend shows the picture.

GATHER

picture.

true."

REMINDERS

- Use the Bible!
- Talk to children about the Bible.
- Give children an Activity Page and Preschool Family Card to take home.

SCHEDULE

- Restroom & Snack (10 min.)
- Exploration Activities (30-40 min.)
- Circle Time (10 min.)
- Wrap-up (5 min.)

YOUR TEACHING PARTNER:

YOUR TIME TO ARRIVE:

YOUR CLASSROOM:

BIBLE STORY:

Jesus Pleased God Matthew 3:13-17 The Bible story is printed on the back of the Story Picture.

TEXT TRUTH:

Jesus pleased God.

BIBLE VERSE PARAPHRASE:

This is My Son, with whom I am well pleased. *Matthew 3:*17

EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES

See next page.

- Make Sand Art
- Walk on a Tape Path
- Spell Jesus' Name
- Play with People Figures

Pass the Bible again to give other children opportunity to say the

PRAY

Bible verse.

• Thank God for the Bible and for helping us learn about Jesus.

WRAP UP

• Form groups of two or three preschoolers and a teacher. Look at the Activity Page, review the Bible story, and say the Bible verse.

you count to five.

PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

• Ask the child holding the Bible to stand and say today's Bible verse with you.



EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES

MAKE SAND ART

Tools: Bible, clean play sand in plastic salt shakers, glue, heavy paper or poster board, box lid

- Place the items on a table with the Bible opened to Matthew 3.
- Suggest that a child dribble glue across a piece of paper to make interesting designs. Tell the child to lay his paper in the box lid, then lightly shake sand over it. Guide the child to move the box to shake the excess sand off the pictures.
- While the child makes his sand art, remark that Jesus walked over the sandy desert. He walked to find His cousin John.
- Say: "Jesus wanted to do what God said to do. And God was pleased with His Son, Jesus."

WALK ON A TAPE PATH

Tools: Bible, Activity Page, masking tape

- Use masking tape to make a long path winding around the room. At one end of the path, lay the Bible and Activity Page.
- Invite a preschooler to walk along the path. As the child walks, say the Text Truth, "Jesus pleased God," and the Bible verse, "This is My Son, with whom I am well pleased. Matthew 3:17."
- When the child reaches the end of the path, ask her to tell something she remembers from the Bible story. Give hints as needed, showing the picture on the Activity Page.
- Direct the preschooler to touch Jesus in the picture. Say: "Jesus obeyed God. Everything Jesus did pleased God."

SPELL JESUS' NAME

Tools: Bible; large card with Jesus' name printed on it; alphabet blocks, magnetic letters, or letter tiles

- Lay the card on a table with the blocks or letters and open the Bible to Matthew 3.
- Show a child the card and read the letters. Say: "These letters spell Jesus' name. J-E-S-U-S. Jesus. Can you find letters on the table to spell Jesus' name?"
- After the preschooler arranges letters in order, show him the Bible. Say: "The Bible is about Jesus. A man named Matthew wrote about Jesus."
- Help the preschooler find Jesus' name in the story passage.

PLAY WITH PEOPLE FIGURES

Tools: Bible, Story Picture: Jesus Pleased God (Pack Item 5), toy people figures, wooden blocks, toy cars

- Invite preschoolers to drive cars and pretend with the figures. As children play and build with blocks, ask them about their families.
- Say: "Jesus had a family, and you have a family. John was Jesus' cousin. Do you have a cousin?" Listen as preschoolers tell you about their families.
- Open the Bible to Matthew 3. Remark: "Matthew wrote about a time when Jesus asked His cousin John to do something for Him."
- Show the Story Picture and recall the Bible story. Say: "God was pleased with His Son, Jesus."



Jesus' Test

OPTIONS

- 1. Continue explorations from first hour.
- 2. Try something different. Choose two or three new explorations.

REMINDERS

- Use the Bible!
- Talk to children about the Bible.
- Give children an Activity Page and **Preschool Family Card** to take home.

SCHEDULE

- Restroom & Snack (10 min.)
- Exploration Activities (30-40 min.)
- Circle Time (10 min.)
- Wrap-up (5 min.)

YOUR TEACHING PARTNER:

YOUR TIME TO ARRIVE:

YOUR CLASSROOM:

BIBLE STORY:

Jesus Worshiped God Matthew 4:1-11 The Bible story is printed on the back of the Story Picture.

TEXT TRUTH:

Worship God and serve Him.

BIBLE VERSE PARAPHRASE:

Worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only. Matthew 4:10

EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES

See next page.

- Roll a Ball
- Read Books About God
- Match Bible Pictures
- Make Yarn Designs on Sandpaper

CIRCLE TIME

GATHER

• As children move to Circle Time, lead children in singing these words (tune "London Bridge"): Jesus served and worshiped God, Yes, He did, Yes, He did. Jesus served and worshiped God, Yes, He did.

REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

• Pass the Story Picture (Pack Item 6) around the circle. Ask children a few questions to review the story: Where did Jesus go? (to the wilderness) Who tried to get Jesus to make bad choices? (the enemy, Satan) What did Jesus say to do? (Worship God and serve Him only.)

PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

• Hold the Bible and encourage the children to repeat after you: "This book is God's Word. It is true!"

- Ask a preschooler to open the Bible to a marker placed at Matthew 4.
- Say: "Today's story about Jesus is in the book of Matthew. Matthew wrote true stories about Jesus."

PRAY

- Thank God for giving us His Word, the Bible.
- Ask God to help children know that we are to serve the one and only true God.

WRAP UP





ROLL A BALL

Tools: Bible, Story Picture: Jesus Worshiped God (Pack Item 6), large ball, Music & Print Extras

- Lay the Story Picture on the floor with the Bible.
- Ask several children to sit in a large circle on the floor. Say: "Let's roll the ball. When you receive the ball, it is your turn to tell something you know about Jesus."
- Help children recall Bible stories they have heard, songs they know, and words used to describe Jesus.
- After everyone has a turn, remark: "There is no one like Jesus. The Bible helps us know about Him. Jesus pleased God, and He worshiped God. Jesus said, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only.'"

READ BOOKS ABOUT GOD

Tools: Bible, Book: I Will Obey (Pack Item 29), other books about God, several large lounging-type pillows, basket, Music & Print Extras, Preschool Family Card

- Arrange the pillows to make a cozy reading spot. Place the books in a basket next to the pillows.
- Play soft music in the background to create a peaceful atmosphere.
- Offer a book to a child and invite her to relax and read. Comment that the Bible and the books in the basket tell about God.
- Show the child the picture on the Family Card. Say: "Jesus loved God and obeyed Him. Jesus said we are to worship God and serve Him."
- Open the Bible to Matthew 4:10 and show the verse to the child.

MATCH BIBLE PICTURES

Tools: 2 or 3 different Bibles, Types of Bibles Cards (Pack Item 30), Bible Verse Markers (Pack Item 19), large card with today's Bible verse printed on it, sticky note flags, cloth

- Spread the items on a table or cloth on the floor.
- Show a child the Bibles and talk about their similarities and differences. Remark that all the Bibles tell about Jesus and God.
- Invite the child to look at the Bibles Cards, then match the ones that look alike. Remark that though Bibles may look different, they all are about God.
- Guide the preschooler to locate today's Bible verse in a Bible and place a sticky note flag on the page. Help the child say the Bible verse with you.
- Say: "Jesus talked about the Bible—the Scriptures. Jesus said the words 'It is written' Jesus meant that the Bible tells people to worship God and serve Him."

MAKE YARN DESIGNS ON SANDPAPER

Tools: Bible, fine-grained sandpaper, thick yarn, scissors, Activity Page

- Cut the sandpaper into 6-inch squares. Cut the yarn into varying lengths.
- Give a preschooler a square of sandpaper and several pieces of yarn. Tell the child he can make designs with the yarn on the sandpaper.
- Say: "Jesus walked through the sandy desert. He was in the desert and wilderness for a long time. Jesus got hungry and thirsty."
- Show the child the picture on the Activity Page and summarize the Bible story.



NEXT HOUR EXPLORATIONS FOR PRESCHOOLERS

Lessons for People

OPTIONS

- 1. Continue explorations from first hour.
- 2. Try something different. Choose two or three new explorations.

CIRCLE TIME

GATHER

REMINDERS

- Use the Bible!
- Talk to children about the Bible.
- Give children an Activity Page and Preschool Family Card to take home.

SCHEDULE

- Restroom & Snack (10 min.)
- Exploration Activities (30-40 min.)
- Circle Time (10 min.)
- Wrap-up (5 min.)

YOUR CLASSROOM:

YOUR TIME TO ARRIVE:

YOUR TEACHING PARTNER:

BIBLE STORY:

Jesus Taught from a Mountaintop Matthew 5–7 The Bible story is printed on the back of the Story Picture.

TEXT TRUTH:

Jesus taught people how to live for God.

BIBLE VERSE PARAPHRASE:

Let others see your good works and tell others. *Matthew 5:16*

EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES

See next page.

- Build a Mountain
- Toss Rings on Bibles
- Match Shoes
- Decorate a Talking Tube

• Play music and invite all the girls to go to Circle Time. Next, invite boys to join you.

• Tell preschoolers to stand and wiggle in place as they hear the music. When the music stops, everyone should be seated.

REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

- Show the Story Picture (Pack Item 7) to the group.
- Toss a ball to a child and ask her to tell something she remembers from the story. Give other children turns to speak.

PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

• Distribute Bibles to children, or ask those who brought Bibles to get them.

• Give each preschooler a sticky note to place on the page where we read today's Bible story.

PRAY

• Thank God for the lessons we can learn from Jesus.

WRAP UP



BUILD A MOUNTAIN

Tools: Bible, brown paper sacks, newspaper or paper towels, masking tape, Bible Verse Markers (Pack Item 19)

- Create mountainous rocks by stuffing paper bags with crumpled paper. Tape the sacks closed.
- Lay the Verse Marker in the Bible at Matthew 5:16. Leave the Bible open.
- When children show interest in the bags, touch the Bible and say: "One day Jesus walked up a mountain and began to teach people. The people wanted to hear what Jesus had to say."
- Guide a child to stack the paper bag "rocks" in a pile to build a mountain.
- Show preschoolers the Bible and help children say the Bible verse with you. Say: "This is something Jesus taught the people. Jesus taught many things about obeying God and living for Him."

TOSS RINGS ON BIBLES

Tools: several Bibles in various sizes and styles, paper plates, scissors, Activity Page

- Cut the middle section from the paper plates to make rings. Lay the Bibles on the floor with space between them.
- Direct a preschooler to toss a paper plate ring on a Bible. Give a ring to another child to toss.
- Comment: "These Bibles look different, don't they? But each one tells about God and Jesus. People learned from Jesus. One day, Jesus went to a mountain and sat down to teach many people. The words Jesus spoke to the people are written in the Bible. We can know what Jesus taught the people."

• After a while, invite children to sit near you to see the picture on the Activity Page. Recall some of the things Jesus taught the people.

MATCH SHOES

Tools: Bible, large box or basket, Story Picture: Jesus Taught from a Mountaintop (Pack Item 7)

- Sit in a circle on the floor with the children. Briefly review the Bible story while holding the Story Picture for preschoolers to see.
- Ask each child to take off one shoe and place it in the box or basket.
- Choose a child in the circle to select a shoe from the box and look for the child with the matching shoe. Tell that child to go to the box and choose a shoe. Continue until all the shoes are matched with their owners.
- Open the Bible to Matthew 5 and remark that people followed Jesus many places so they could hear Him teach. The people walked and walked to find Jesus and listen to Him.

DECORATE A TALKING TUBE

Tools: Bible, cardboard tubes (1 per child), colorful stickers, masking tape, washable markers

- Invite a child to decorate a tube. After he finishes, put masking tape around the opening at both ends for stability. Write the child's name on his tube.
- Open the Bible to Matthew 5:16. Say the verse, then tell the child to talk through his tube to say the verse.
- Comment: "Jesus loved the people and wanted them to know the right things to do. Jesus said, 'Let others see your good works and tell others.' We can do good things, too, because we love Jesus."



NEXT HOUR EXPLORATIONS FOR PRESCHOOLERS

Helping the Sick

OPTIONS

- 1. Continue explorations from first hour.
- 2. Try something different. Choose two or three new explorations.

REMINDERS

- Use the Bible!
- Talk to children about the Bible.
- Give children an Activity Page and Preschool Family Card to take home.

SCHEDULE

- Restroom & Snack (10 min.)
- Exploration Activities (30-40 min.)
- Circle Time (10 min.)
- Wrap-up (5 min.)

YOUR TEACHING PARTNER:

YOUR TIME TO ARRIVE:

YOUR CLASSROOM:

BIBLE STORY:

Jesus Helped Sick People Matthew 8:1-15 *The Bible story is printed on the back of the Story Picture.*

TEXT TRUTH:

Jesus is willing to help people.

BIBLE VERSE PARAPHRASE:

Jesus said, "I am willing; be made clean." *Matthew 8:3*

EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES

See next page.

- Play Musical Chairs
- Lay Pom-poms on Letters
- Follow a Paper Path
- Pass the Picture

CIRCLE TIME

GATHER

- Play music as children move to the Circle Time area. Direct children to stand in place at their seats.
- Lead children to step high, step fast, turn around, then sit down.

REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

Show the Story Picture (Pack Item 8) to preschoolers and ask:
Who followed Jesus? (many people)
Who did Jesus help? (sick and hurting people, sad people)
Was Jesus willing to help people
who asked Him? (yes)

PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

• Say: "Today's story is from the book of Matthew. Is Matthew's book in the Old or New Testament? That's right, it's in the New Testament!"

- Lead children to say the names of the first four books in the New Testament (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John).
- Tell children these four books are called the Gospels.

PRAY

• Thank God for sending Jesus to help people.

WRAP UP



EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES

PLAY MUSICAL CHAIRS

Tools: Bible, Activity Page, chairs (1 per child), large sticky note, Music & Print Extras

- Use the sticky note to mark Matthew 8 in the Bible.
- Place chairs in a circle facing outward. Lay the Bible under one chair and the Activity Page under a different chair.
- Play music and tell children to walk slowly around the circle of chairs.
- Stop the music. Direct children to sit in chairs.
- Tell the child sitting in the chair over the Bible to open the Bible to the sticky note. Tell the child sitting in the chair over the Activity Page to show the picture to everyone.
- Say: "The Bible says that Jesus helped sick people. He is willing to help you."
- Give other children turns to open the Bible and show the picture.

LAY POM-POMS ON LETTERS

Tools: Bible, wide masking tape, small colored craft pom-poms, plastic bowl or basket

- Use the tape to make a large letter *J* on the floor. Next to the *J*, make a large letter *W*. Put the bowl of pom-poms between the letters.
- When a child shows interest, help him identify the letters. Say: "The letter *J* is the first letter in Jesus' name. The letter *W* reminds me that Jesus is willing to help people."
- Invite the child to choose a letter and lay pom-poms on the tape letter.

• Open the Bible to Matthew 8 and help a child find Jesus' name. Remark: "Jesus loved people and was willing to help them."

FOLLOW A PAPER PATH

Tools: Bible, sheets of colored paper

- Suggest that a child help a friend cross the room. Direct the first child to lay paper on the floor to create a stepping path for his friend to follow.
- When the friend reaches the destination, direct children to exchange roles. Thank them for cooperating and being kind to each other.
- Comment: "Jesus walked to many places to help people. Jesus taught the people, and He healed people."
- Encourage children to walk together on the path as if they are looking for Jesus. Summarize the Bible story while children walk.

PASS THE PICTURE

Tools: Bible, Story Picture: Jesus Helped Sick People (Pack Item 8), ball of rolled gauze

- Sit on the floor with several children and form a circle. Pass the Story Picture around the circle.
- After one pass, lay the picture in the center of the circle. Toss the ball of rolled gauze to a child.
- Ask: "What is your favorite part of this Bible story?" Or, "Can you tell something you remember about the Bible story?"
- After the child responds, toss the gauze to another preschooler. Continue passing the picture and giving other children turns to tell about the Bible story.



Jesus Provides

OPTIONS

- 1. Continue explorations from first hour.
- 2. Try something different. Choose two or three new explorations.

REMINDERS

- Use the Bible!
- Talk to children about the Bible.
- Give children an Activity Page and Preschool Family Card to take home.

SCHEDULE

- Restroom & Snack (10 min.)
- Exploration Activities (30-40 min.)
- Circle Time (10 min.)
- Wrap-up (5 min.)

YOUR TIME TO ARRIVE:

YOUR TEACHING PARTNER:

YOUR CLASSROOM:

BIBLE STORY:

Food for Everyone Matthew 14:13-21 *The Bible story is printed on the back of the Story Picture.*

TEXT TRUTH:

Jesus cares about our needs.

BIBLE VERSE PARAPHRASE:

Jesus cared about the people. *Matthew* 14:14

EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES

See next page.

- Trace Jesus' Name
- Make Play Dough Bread
- Play a Jesus Game
- Chant Bible Book Names

CIRCLE TIME

GATHER

- Play music as you lead children to the Circle Time area.
- When seated, ask each child to tell what he enjoyed doing most today.

REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

 Show children the Story Picture (Pack Item 9) and ask questions for review:

Who is holding a basket of fish and bread? (*a young boy*) Who said, "Give food to the people"? (*Jesus*) How much food was left over after everyone ate? (*12 full baskets*)

• Remark: "Jesus loved the people and cared for their needs."

PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

• Play a song and pass a Bible around the circle.

• Stop the music and lead the child holding the Bible to say the Bible verse. Continue so other children can have turns to say the verse.

PRAY

• Thank God for Jesus' love and care. Ask God to help boys and girls know Jesus cares for them.

WRAP UP



EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES

TRACE JESUS' NAME

Tools: Bible, copy paper, black marker, crayons

- Use a black marker to print the name *JESUS* in large letters in the center of a sheet of paper. Make a paper for each preschooler.
- Ask children if they can read the name on their papers. Talk about the Bible story, mentioning that people followed Jesus and listened to Him.
- Say: "Jesus loved the people and cared about them. He cares about us, too." Sing the song "Jesus Loves Me," and invite children to sing.
- Direct preschoolers to trace over and around the letters of Jesus' name.

MAKE PLAY DOUGH BREAD

Tools: Bible, Story Picture: Food for Everyone (Pack Item 9), small plastic basket, fresh play dough, craft sticks, toy rolling pins

- Show children the Story Picture and point to the bread in the basket and in Jesus' hands. Remark that a boy packed a lunch with bread and fish. Then the boy went to hear Jesus teach.
- Invite preschoolers to use the tools to make play dough bread and put it in the basket. Caution children not to eat the pretend bread!
- While children enjoy playing with the dough, ask them how many fish were in the boy's lunch. (2) How many pieces of bread did he pack? (5)
- Remark: "Jesus blessed the food, then the disciples gave food to everyone. Jesus cared about the people and made sure they had plenty of food to eat. Jesus loves us that much, too!"

PLAY A JESUS GAME

Tools: Bible, Jesus Game Spinner (Pack Item 24), Jesus Game Cards (Pack Item 25), tokens

- Give a game card and tokens to four preschoolers. Enlist another preschooler to be the "caller" for this Bingo-type game.
- Say: "Today we heard a story about Jesus giving food to people. The Bible tells about other times when Jesus helped people. Let's play a game to remember some of the stories about Jesus in the Bible."
- Direct the "caller" to turn the spinner. When the spinner arrow stops at a picture, ask the "caller" to tell what is shown in the picture. Say: "Now look on your card for the same picture."
- As various pictures are described, remind children that all the stories about Jesus are true.

CHANT BIBLE BOOK NAMES

Tools: 3 or 4 Bibles, paper strip with the Gospel book names (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John) *printed on it*

- Help preschoolers learn the names of the four Gospel books in the New Testament. Hold the paper strip in front of you.
- Say: "The Bible has two parts—the Old Testament and the New Testament. The first four books in the New Testament are called Gospel books. They all tell the good news about Jesus. Let's say the book names together."
- Chant: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John; Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John; Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, are Gospels in the Bible.
- Repeat the chant, then distribute the Bibles. Ask teachers to help childrem locate Gospel books.



God Calls

OPTIONS

- 1. Continue explorations from first hour.
- 2. Try something different. Choose two or three new explorations.

REMINDERS

- Use the Bible!
- Talk to children about the Bible.
- Give children an Activity Page and Preschool Family Card to take home.

SCHEDULE

- Restroom & Snack (10 min.)
- Exploration Activities (30-40 min.)
- Circle Time (10 min.)
- Wrap-up (5 min.)

YOUR TEACHING PARTNER:

YOUR TIME TO ARRIVE:

YOUR CLASSROOM:

BIBLE STORY:

A Job for Jeremiah Jeremiah 1 The Bible story is printed on the back of the Story Picture.

TEXT TRUTH:

God chooses people to tell about Him.

BIBLE VERSE PARAPHRASE:

Go where I send you, and speak what I tell you. *Jeremiah* 1:7

EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES

See next page.

- Guess the Job
- Choose a Friend
- Make a Thank-you Card
- Play with Toy Cars

CIRCLE TIME

GATHER

- Play music and lead children to the Circle Time area.
- Pass the Story Picture (Pack Item 10) around the circle.

REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

- Ask questions to review the story: Who is in the picture? (*Jeremiah*) What did God want Jeremiah to do? (*Tell people about Him.*) Where was Jeremiah supposed to go? (*wherever God said*)
- Say: "God chose Jeremiah, and He chooses other people to tell about Him."

PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

• Remind preschoolers that today's Bible verse is from the book of Jeremiah in the Old Testament.

- Ask a preschooler to open the Bible to a marker placed at Jeremiah 1:7.
- While the child holds the Bible, lead the group to say the verse and Scripture reference.

PRAY

- Thank God for letting us be His messengers.
- Ask God to help you and the children be ready and willing to go when God chooses you to go tell about Him.

WRAP UP





GUESS THE JOB

Tools: Bible, toy construction helmet, toy stethoscope, toy microphone, toy chef's hat or kitchen gadget, Activity Page

- Lay all the items in front of preschoolers. Help children identify the items and the types of jobs associated with the items.
- Remark: "People often have special tools and equipment to do their jobs. Jeremiah had a job, too. His job was to tell people what God said. I think Jeremiah's most important tool was his mouth!"
- Preschoolers may want to use the items for pretend play and assume roles of some workers who use the items.
- While children play, tell them: "Even though people have different jobs and work to do, God chooses people to tell about Him. A teacher or a doctor or a builder can tell people about God."

CHOOSE A FRIEND

Tools: Bible, Music & Print Extras, masking tape

- Make a large masking tape circle on the floor. Direct children to stand on the tape circle. Play music for a few seconds, then stop the music.
- Say: "I choose my friend Cannon." Direct the child to step to the center of the circle.
- Resume the music and play again. Tell the child in the center of the circle to choose a friend to stand in the center, exchanging places.
- After everyone has been chosen and has moved, sit down inside the tape circle. Say: "We chose friends to stand in the circle. God chose Jeremiah to tell about Him."

MAKE A THANK-YOU CARD

Tools: Bible, poster board, washable markers, stickers, Story Picture: A Job for Jeremiah (Pack Item 10)

- Fold the poster board in half to make a giant greeting card. Put the art supplies and Story Picture near the card on a table.
- Ask children: "Who tells you about God? Do you know someone at church who reads from the Bible and helps people know what God wants people to do?"
- Lead children to name a few church leaders who serve in your church. Remark that God chose these people to tell others about Him. God chooses people to teach children, too.
- Say: "Let's make a thank-you card for our pastor (or other church leader). We can tell him thank you for helping us know about God."
- After children design the card, ask them for message suggestions you can write inside the card.

PLAY WITH TOY CARS

Tools: Bible, Book: I Will Obey (*Pack Item 29*), *toy cars, toy people figures, wooden blocks*

- Give children freedom to be creative with the blocks and cars. Suggest children make roads or houses. Ask children where the people are going.
- At breaks in the children's play, picture-read the book to them. Remark that God told Jeremiah He had a special job for Jeremiah. Jeremiah obeyed God and prepared to go wherever God sent him.
- Open the Bible to Jeremiah 1:7 and point to the words. Tell children what God said to Jeremiah, then help the children repeat the verse.



Listen and Obey

OPTIONS

- 1. Continue explorations from first hour.
- 2. Try something different. Choose two or three new explorations.

REMINDERS

- Use the Bible!
- Talk to children about the Bible.
- Give children an Activity Page and Preschool Family Card to take home.

SCHEDULE

- Restroom & Snack (10 min.)
- Exploration Activities (30-40 min.)
- Circle Time (10 min.)
- Wrap-up (5 min.)

YOUR TEACHING PARTNER:

YOUR TIME TO ARRIVE:

YOUR CLASSROOM:

BIBLE STORY:

Jeremiah Spoke at the Temple Jeremiah 26:1-19 *The Bible story is printed on the back of the Story Picture.*

TEXT TRUTH:

Listen to God and obey Him.

BIBLE VERSE PARAPHRASE:

Correct your ways and obey God. *Jeremiah* 26:13

EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES

- See next page.
- Walk to the Temple
- Record Voices
- Make Bible Verse Cards
- Work a Word Puzzle

CIRCLE TIME

GATHER

- Gently tap each child on the shoulder and say: "Come with me to Circle Time."
- Play music while children move.

REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

- Say: "When your family or teachers tell you to do something, what should you do? That's right. Obey. God wants us to obey Him. The Bible tells about a man who told people they should change what they were doing."
- Show the Story Picture (Pack Item 11) and recall story highlights.

PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

• Open a Bible to Jeremiah 26:13. Clap a simple rhythm as you say the verse. • Encourage preschoolers to clap and repeat the verse with you. Say the verse while walking around the circle.

PRAY

- Tell children that we can pray and ask God to help us learn from the Bible and know how to obey.
- Pray briefly in words children understand.

WRAP UP





WALK TO THE TEMPLE

Tools: Bible, colored index cards or paper footprint cutouts, tape, Story Picture: Jeremiah Spoke at the Temple (Pack Item 11)

- Use the cards to make a walking path on the floor. Make a few twists and turns in the path if you have enough floor space. Tape the Story Picture to a wall at the end of the path.
- Call attention to the card path. Say: "Jeremiah walked to the temple to speak to the people. Let's pretend we are going to the temple to hear Jeremiah."
- Lead the group, or choose someone to lead. As you walk to the temple, recall what Jeremiah told the people and how the people responded.
- Stop at the Story Picture and summarize the Bible story.

RECORD VOICES

Tools: Bible, Preschool Family Card, digital recorder or smartphone, Jeremiah Picture Cards (Pack Item 31)

- Guide a child to match the Jeremiah Picture Cards. When the child finishes, show him the picture on the Family Card.
- Remark: "Jeremiah obeyed God's instructions. Jeremiah went to the temple to tell people to listen to everything God said. Jeremiah told the people, 'Correct your ways and obey God.'"
- Invite the preschooler to talk into the recorder or phone and say the Bible verse. Play back the recording for the child to hear.
- Summarize the Bible story.

MAKE BIBLE VERSE CARDS

Tools: Bible, large index cards, washable markers, colorful stickers, Music & Print Extras

- Fold index cards in half. On the inside of each card, write the Bible verse and reference. Leave space for preschoolers to decorate the card.
- Invite two or three preschoolers to make a Bible verse card. Read the verse you have printed on the inside of the card. Suggest that children use the markers and stickers to decorate the card.
- While children work, play music. Listen for songs about God.
- Tell children they may take the cards home to help them remember to obey God.

WORK A WORD PUZZLE

Tools: Bible, heavyweight paper, marker, scissors, Activity Page

- Write the Bible verse on the paper. Cut the paper into four pieces. Place the pieces at random places in the Bible.
- Guide a child to look through the Bible to find the paper pieces.
- Say: "These are words of today's Bible verse. Let's put the words in order."
- After helping the child arrange the word puzzle pieces correctly to form the verse, read the verse to the child. Help the child repeat the verse.
- Look at the Activity Page picture. Say: "Jeremiah spoke those words to the people at the temple."



God's Words

OPTIONS

- 1. Continue explorations from
- first hour. 2. Try something different. Choose two or three new explorations.

REMINDERS

- Use the Bible!
- Talk to children about the Bible.
- Give children an Activity Page and Preschool Family Card to take home.

SCHEDULE

- Restroom & Snack (10 min.)
- Exploration Activities (30-40 min.)
- Circle Time (10 min.)
- Wrap-up (5 min.)

YOUR TEACHING PARTNER:

YOUR TIME TO ARRIVE:

YOUR CLASSROOM:

BIBLE STORY:

Jeremiah Wrote God's Words Jeremiah 36 *The Bible story is printed on the back of the Story Picture.*

TEXT TRUTH:

God's words in the Bible will never go away.

BIBLE VERSE PARAPHRASE:

God's Word is forever. *Psalm 119:89*

EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES

See next page. • Hide & Seek Bible Verses • Stack Bible Word Blocks

- Shake & Say
- Stamp Letters

CIRCLE TIME

GATHER

- Invite preschoolers to Circle Time. When children are seated, pass the Story Picture (Pack Item 12).
- Play a few songs about the Bible. (See Music & Print Extras, tracks 8-12.)
- Ask: "What is the most important book? Yes, it is the Bible!"

REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

• Ask a few questions about the Bible story to refresh children's memory.

PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

• Distribute Bibles to the children. Ask teachers to help preschoolers locate Jeremiah 36, then Psalm 119:89. • Direct children to stand and hold their Bibles open as everyone says the Bible verse together.

PRAY

- Thank God that His true Word lasts forever.
- Ask God to help children and grown-ups learn from the Bible.

WRAP UP



HIDE & SEEK BIBLE VERSES

Tools: 4 or 5 Bibles, construction paper strips, Bible Verse Markers (Pack Item 19), Music & Print Extras

- Place construction paper strips in different Bibles to mark Psalm 119:89. Hide the Bibles in obvious places in the classroom where preschoolers can find them.
- Say: "When I play music, look around the room to find Bibles with markers."
- After all of the Bibles have been located, encourage preschoolers to sit down and open the Bibles to the markers.
- Show children today's Verse Marker. Say: "Your Bible is marked at this verse. Let's say the verse together."
- Comment: "You did a great job finding the Bibles, and you did an even better job finding the verse in the Bible. We can always find God's words in the Bible."

STACK BIBLE WORD BLOCKS

Tools: Bible, cardboard blocks, paper strips (fit to one side of the cardboard blocks), marker, tape, Story Picture: Jeremiah Wrote God's Words (Pack Item 12)

- Write single words of today's Bible verse on the paper strips. Tape each strip on a cardboard block. Prop the Story Picture near the blocks.
- Invite preschoolers to stack the blocks. When preschoolers notice the words on the blocks, read each word. Remark that today's Bible verse includes that word.
- Open the Bible to Psalm 119:89 and say the verse. Then guide children to stack the blocks in word order to form the verse.

- Lead preschoolers to say the verse with you a few times. Say: "The Bible is God's Word. Everything in the Bible is true, and we can learn from it."
- Show children the Story Picture and comment that Jeremiah wrote down what God told him to write.

SHAKE & SAY

Tools: Bible, shakers or maracas, paper with today's Bible verse printed on it

- Give each child a shaker. Tell children: "Today's Bible verse reminds us that God's words in the Bible will never go away. Say the verse with me."
- Show children the printed Bible verse and say it aloud. Say: "Now let's say the verse while we make sounds with the shakers."
- Lead children around the room as they move shakers and say the Bible verse.

STAMP LETTERS

Tools: Bible, Activity Page, paper, letter stamps, washable ink pads, marker

- Cut the paper in half. Write the words *Bible* and *Forever* on separate papers.
- Read the words to children. Say the letters of each word. Invite preschoolers to stamp letters to form the words. Guide preschoolers to find the correct letter stamps.
- Talk about the Bible verse for today. Remark that though the king destroyed Jeremiah's first Bible scroll, Baruch and Jeremiah wrote everything again on a new scroll. We can read the words in our Bible.
- Show the picture on the Activity Page and point to Jeremiah and Baruch.



NEXT HOUR EXPLORATIONS FOR PRESCHOOLERS

Never-ending Love

OPTIONS

- 1. Continue explorations from
- first hour. 2. Try something different. Choose two or three new explorations.

REMINDERS

- Use the Bible!
- Talk to children about the Bible.
- Give children an Activity Page and Preschool Family Card to take home.

SCHEDULE

- Restroom & Snack (10 min.)
- Exploration Activities (30-40 min.)
- Circle Time (10 min.)
- Wrap-up (5 min.)

YOUR TEACHING PARTNER:

YOUR TIME TO ARRIVE:

YOUR CLASSROOM:

BIBLE STORY:

Jeremiah's Broken Heart Lamentations 1–5 The Bible story is printed on the back of the Story Picture.

TEXT TRUTH:

God's love for people never ends.

BIBLE VERSE PARAPHRASE:

God's love and mercies never end. *Lamentations* 3:22

EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES

See next page.

- Read Books About God's Love
- Walk to Jeremiah
- Make Play Dough Hearts
- Work Puzzles

CIRCLE TIME

GATHER

- Sit in front of today's Story Picture (Pack Item 13) taped to a wall.
- After children arrive in the circle, pass a ball. As a child receives the ball, ask her to tell a way God is good or shows His love.

REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

- Recap the story in your own words.
- Ask a few questions: What made Jeremiah sad? (*The temple had been burned down*. *No one sat at the gates of the city*.) What gave Jeremiah hope? (*He knew God would always love and help people*.)

PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

• Say: "We learn about Jeremiah in two Bible books: Jeremiah and

Lamentations. Let's look for these books in the Old Testament part of the Bible."

- Ask teachers to use their Bibles to help children locate the books.
- Find Lamentations 3:22 and say the Bible verse together.

PRAY

- Thank God for His love for every person.
- Ask God to help children and grown-ups obey God and thank Him for His never-ending love.

WRAP UP





READ BOOKS ABOUT GOD'S LOVE

Tools: Bible, several preschool books telling about God's love, shallow basket, Music & Print Extras

- Put the books in the basket. Play music softly as children explore the book choices. Comment that all the books are about God's love.
- Open the Bible to Lamentations. Remark: "I love reading about God's love. Jeremiah wrote about God's love. Jeremiah said that even though people disobeyed God and did not follow Him as they should, God never stopped loving the people."
- Turn to Lamentations 3:22 and point to the verse. Guide preschoolers to say the Bible verse together.

WALK TO JEREMIAH

Tools: Bible, Story Pictures 10–13, tape

- Tape the four Story Pictures on opposite walls in the room.
- Invite children to play a game. Say: "I'm going to describe a picture showing Jeremiah. Look at the pictures on the wall. When you know the picture I'm describing, move to that picture."
- Make statements such as: "In this picture, I see Jeremiah standing near a window while another man writes on a scroll." Or "Jeremiah is sitting on a hill looking at the fires in the city."
- After describing and moving to pictures, direct children to sit down and listen as you summarize today's Bible story. Open the Bible to the book of Jeremiah.

MAKE PLAY DOUGH HEARTS

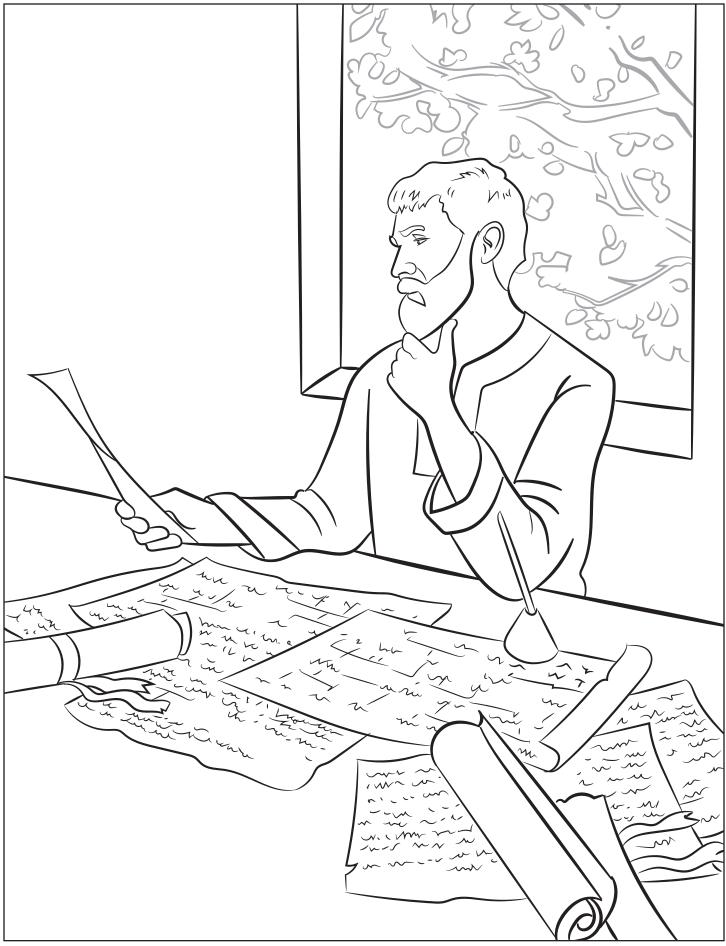
Tools: Bible, fresh play dough, heart-shaped cookie cutters, Activity Page

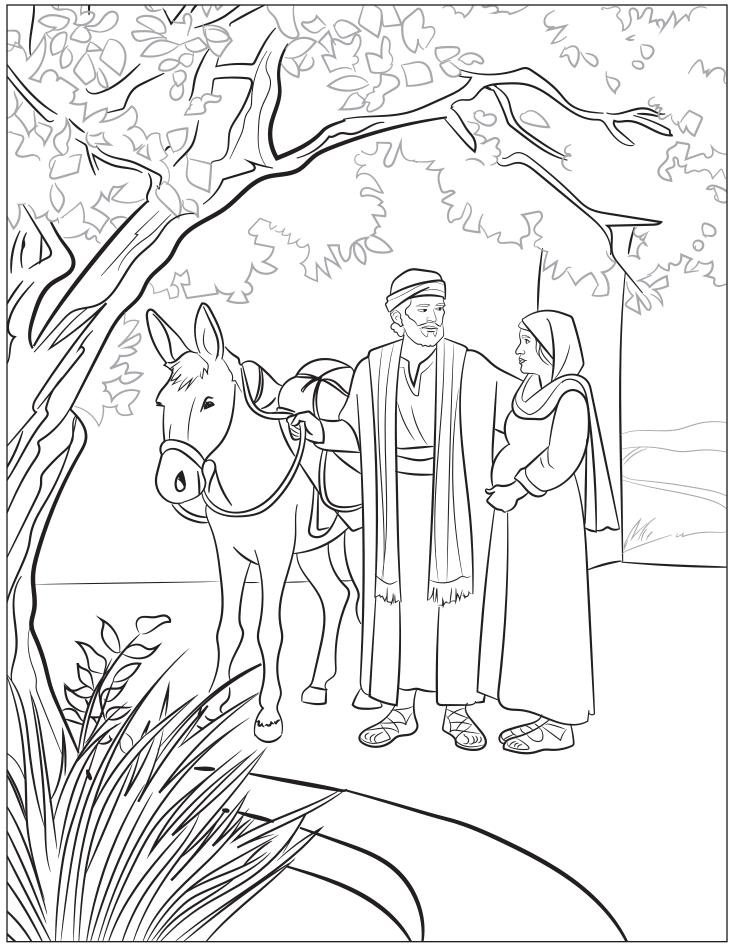
- Open the Bible to Lamentations 1 and lay the Activity Page on the Bible. Give each child a hand-size amount of dough and a cookie cutter.
- While children enjoy cutting out hearts, say: "Jeremiah's heart was broken. Do you remember why he was sad?"
- Show preschoolers the picture on the Activity Page and recall what made Jeremiah cry.
- Remark: "But Jeremiah remembered something about God—God's love and kindness never end. That is good news for everyone."
- Find Lamentations 3:22 and read the verse to preschoolers. Invite children to say the verse with you.

WORK PUZZLES

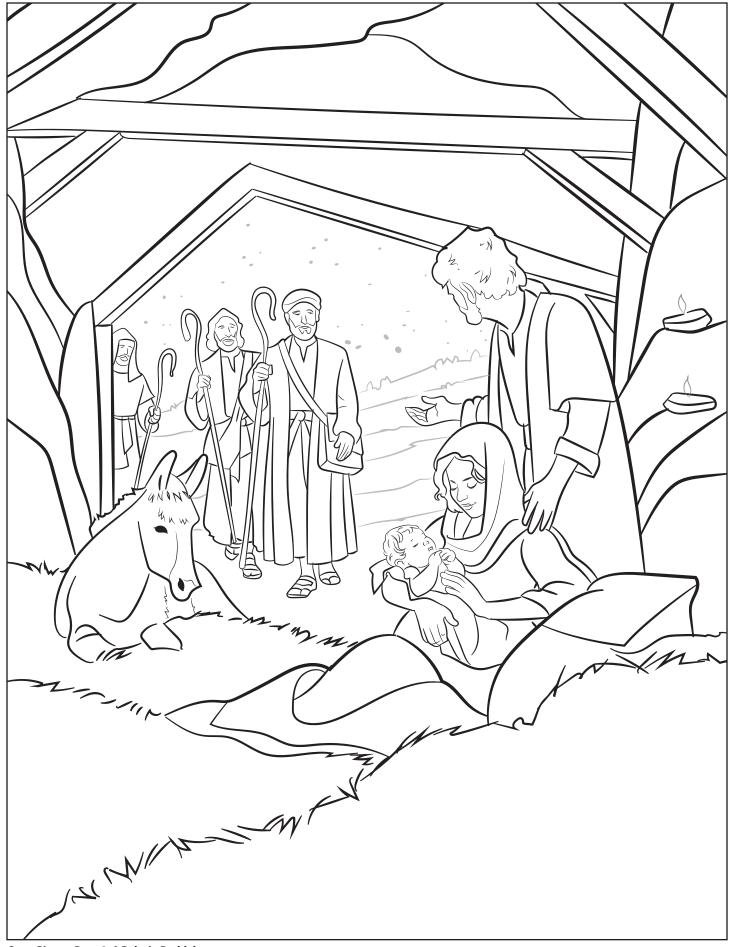
Tools: Bible, several puzzles featuring people, Jeremiah Picture Cards (Pack Item 31)

- Encourage children to work the puzzles, then exchange them with a friend. Point out that all the puzzles show people.
- Say: "Seeing the people reminds me that Jeremiah was sad because all the people left Jerusalem. Jeremiah was alone." Use this opportunity to summarize the Bible story.
- Spread the Jeremiah Picture Cards on the table facedown. Invite a child to look for picture matches. Use the cards to talk more about Jeremiah and what he did and said.





Story Picture Page 2: News for Mary and Joseph Explore the Bible: Preschool Music & Print Extras, Winter 2022-23 © 2022 Lifeway. OK to copy.

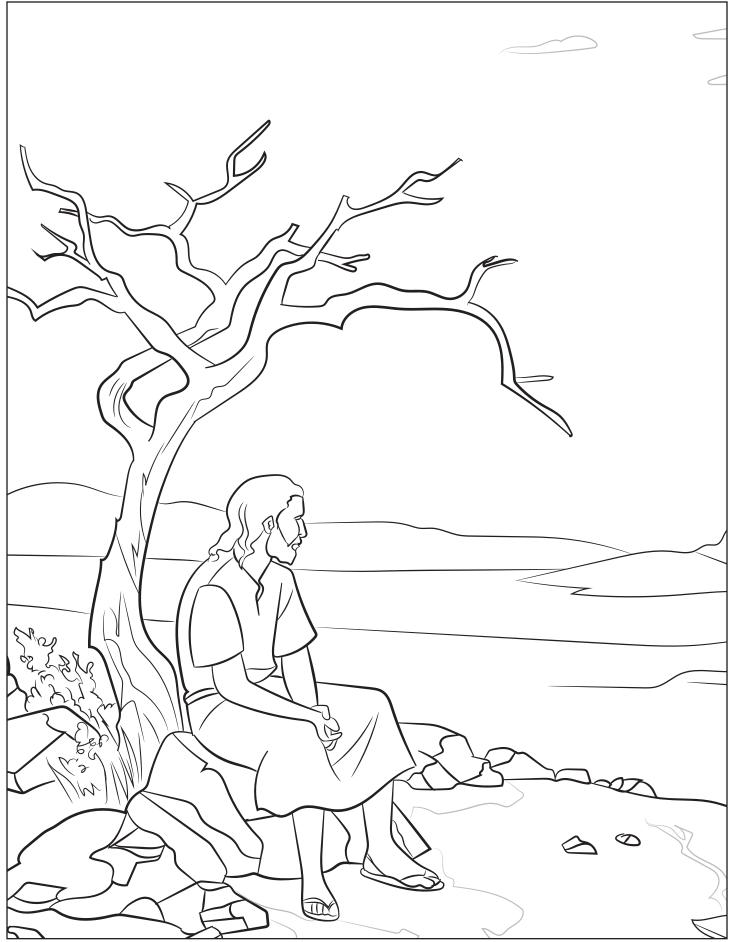


Story Picture Page 3: A Baby in Bethlehem Explore the Bible: Preschool Music & Print Extras, Winter 2022-23 © 2022 Lifeway. OK to copy.

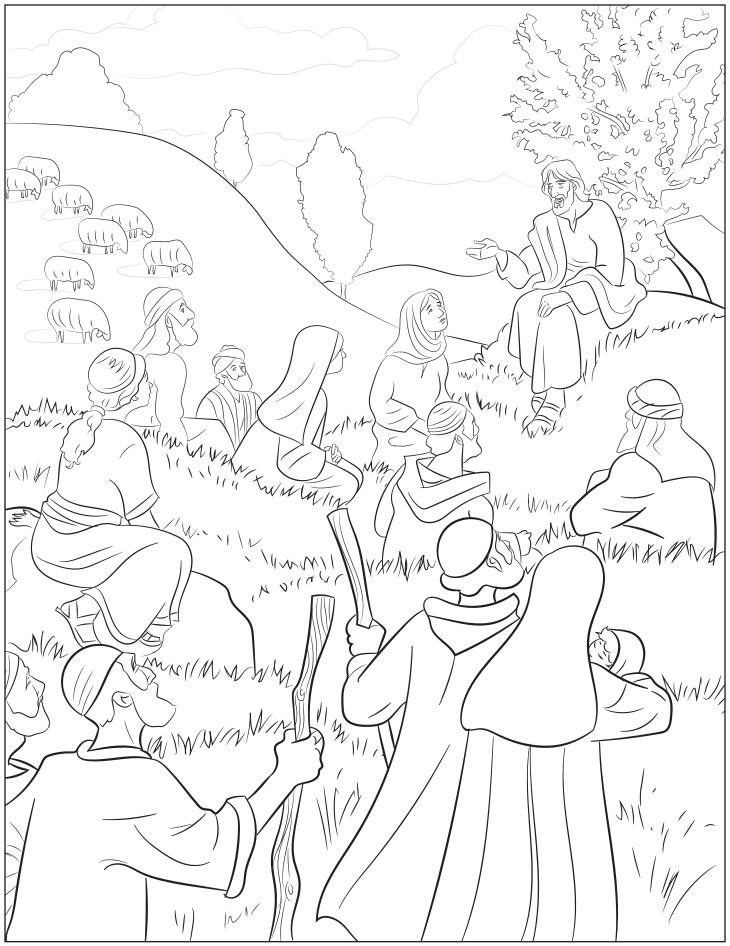




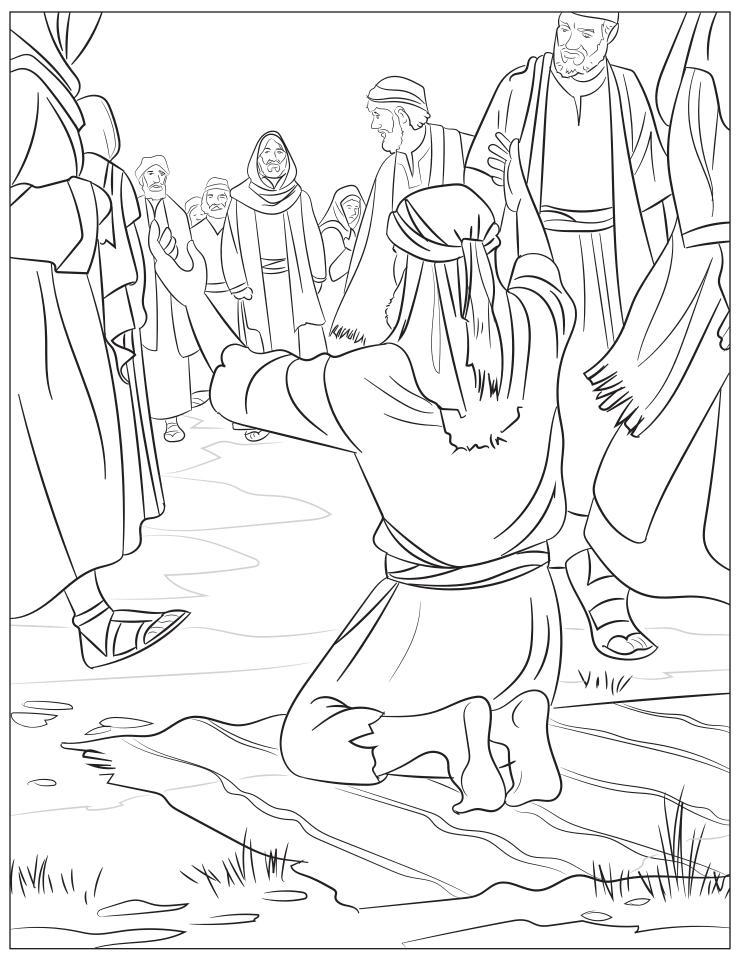
Story Picture Page 5: Jesus Pleased God Explore the Bible: Preschool Music & Print Extras, Winter 2022-23 © 2022 Lifeway. OK to copy.



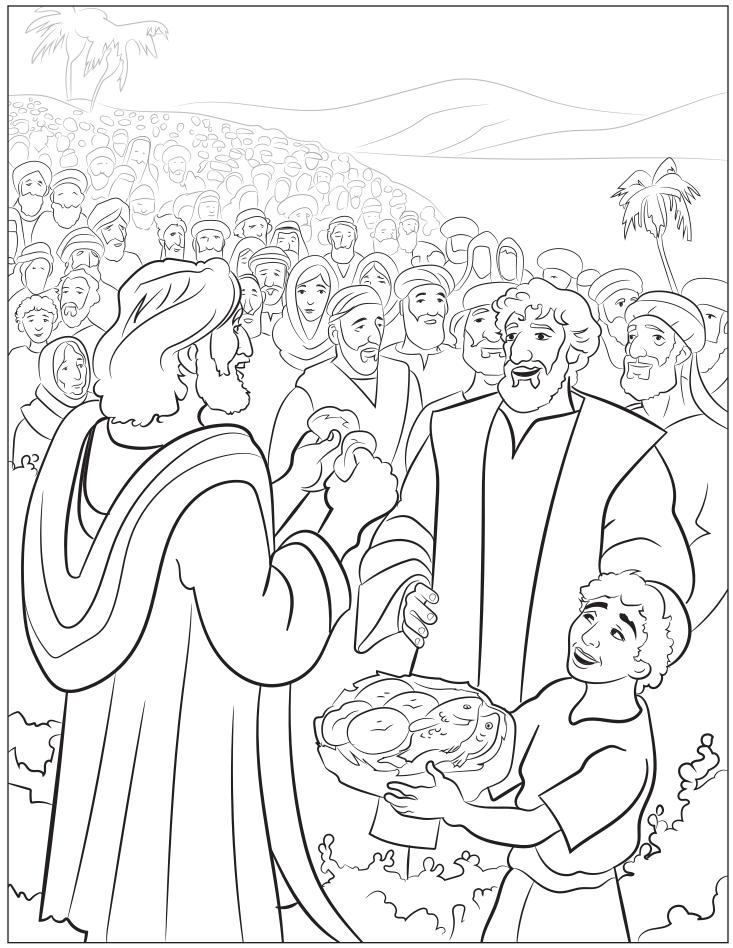
Story Picture Page 6: Jesus Worshiped God Explore the Bible: Preschool Music & Print Extras, Winter 2022-23 © 2022 Lifeway. OK to copy.



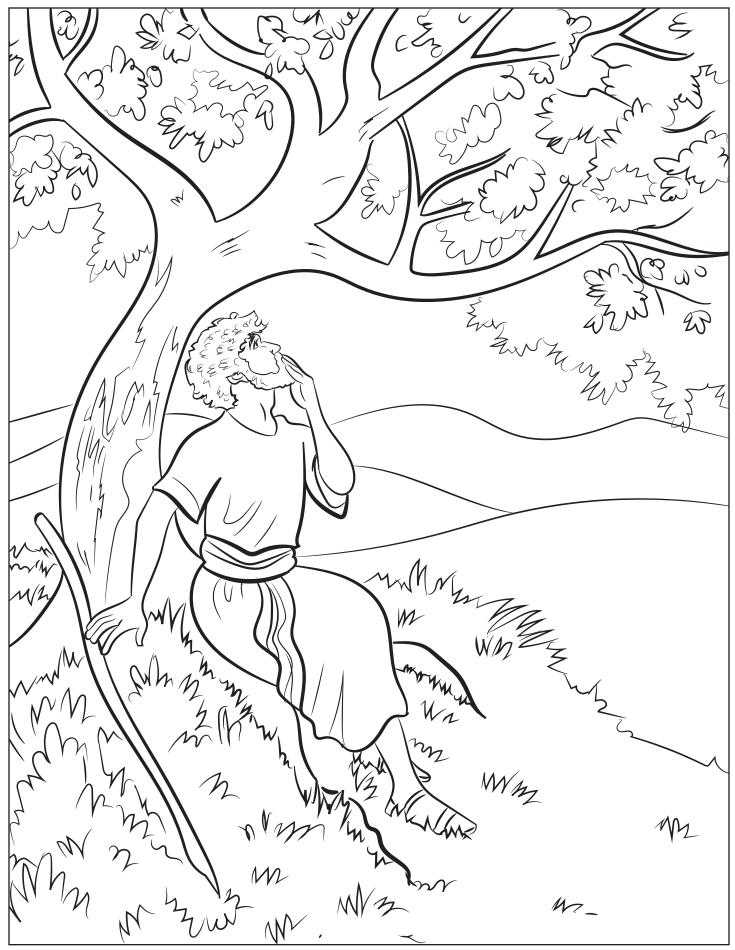
Story Picture Page 7: Jesus Taught from a Mountaintop *Explore the Bible: Preschool Music & Print Extras,* Winter 2022-23 © 2022 Lifeway. OK to copy.



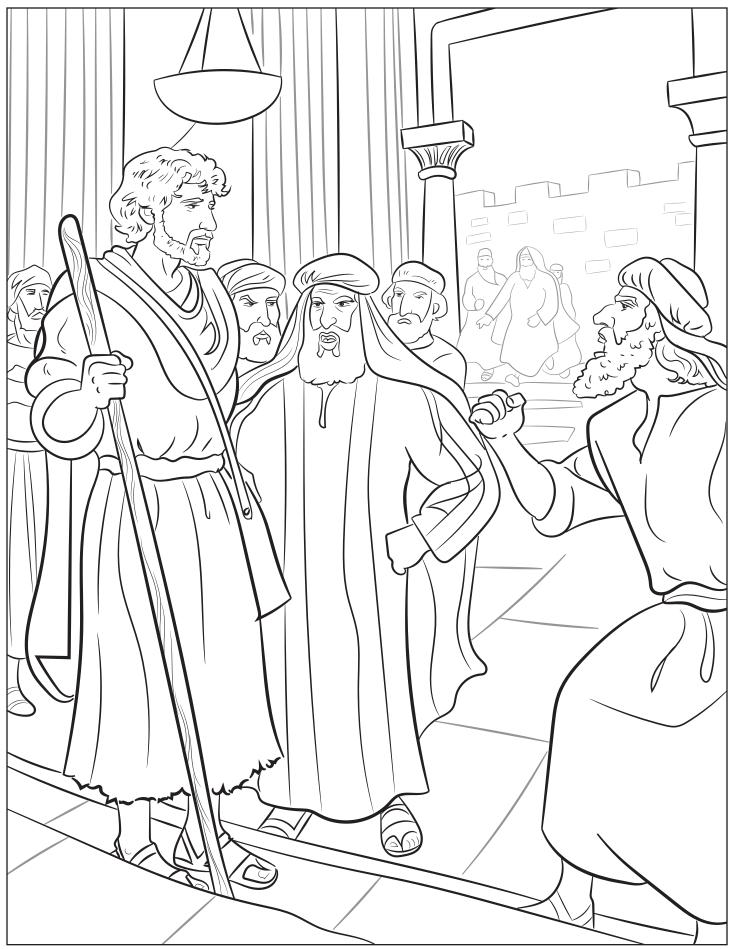
Story Picture Page 8: Jesus Helped Sick People *Explore the Bible: Preschool Music & Print Extras,* Winter 2022-23 © 2022 Lifeway. OK to copy.



Story Picture Page 9: Food for Everyone *Explore the Bible: Preschool Music & Print Extras,* Winter 2022-23 © 2022 Lifeway. OK to copy.



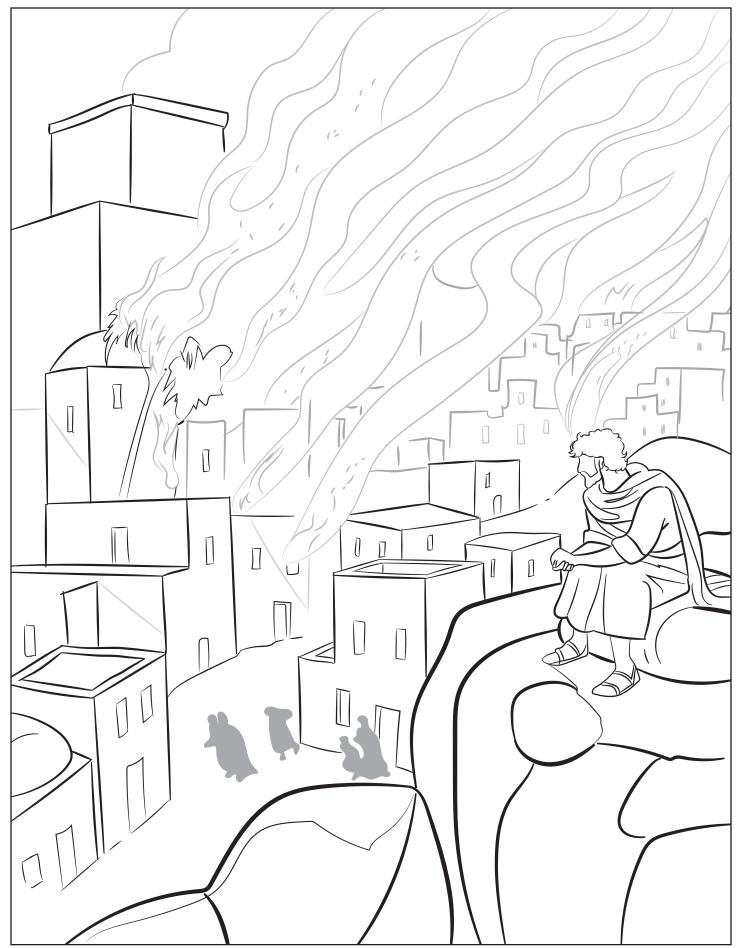
Story Picture Page 10: A Job for Jeremiah *Explore the Bible: Preschool Music & Print Extras,* Winter 2022-23 © 2022 Lifeway. OK to copy.



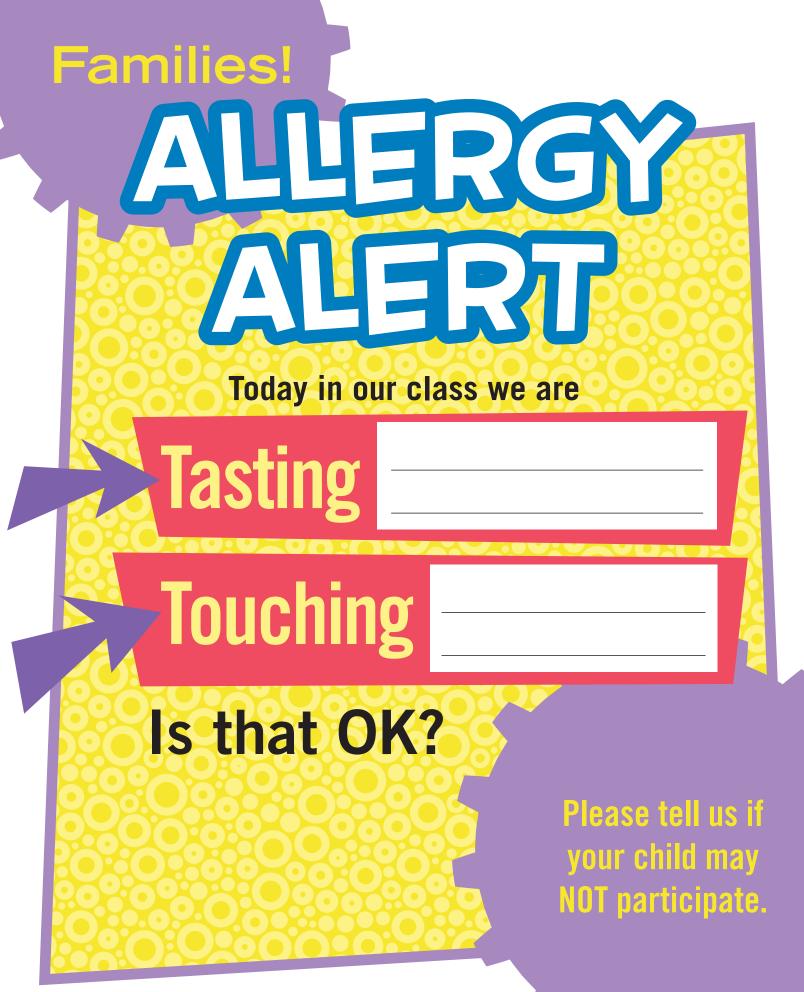
Story Picture Page 11: Jeremiah Spoke at the Temple *Explore the Bible: Preschool Music & Print Extras,* Winter 2022-23 © 2022 Lifeway. OK to copy.



Story Picture Page 12: Jeremiah Wrote God's Words Explore the Bible: Preschool Music & Print Extras, Winter 2022-23 © 2022 Lifeway. OK to copy.



Story Picture Page 13: Jeremiah's Broken Heart Explore the Bible: Preschool Music & Print Extras, Winter 2022-23 © 2022 Lifeway. OK to copy.



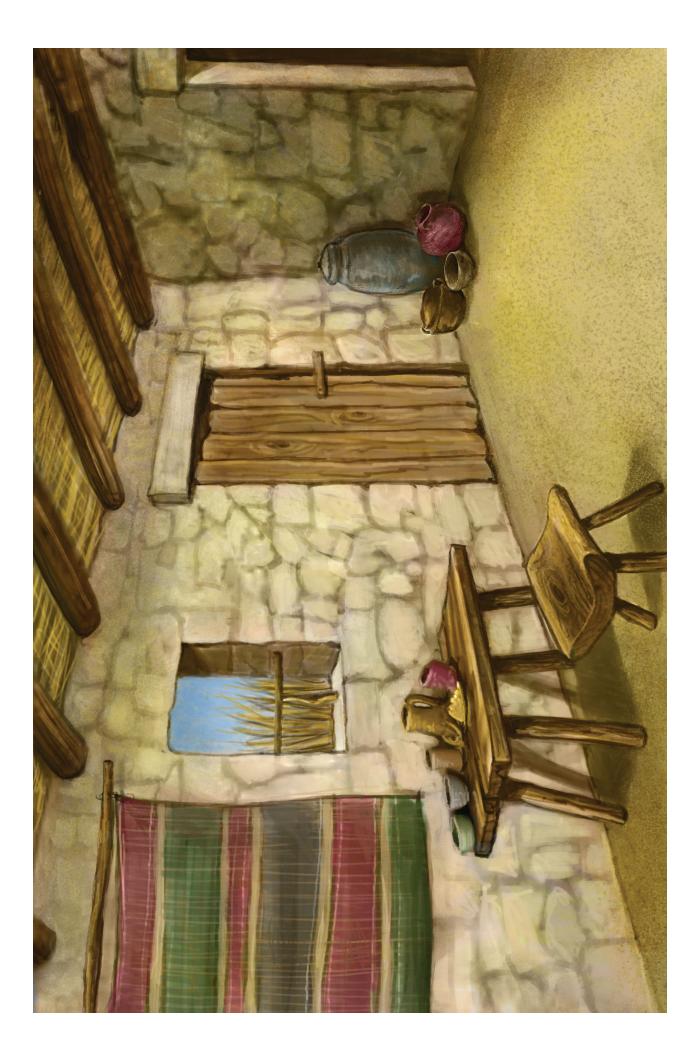
Allergy Sign Explore the Bible: Preschool Music & Print Extras, Winter 2022-23 © 2022 LifeWay. OK to copy.



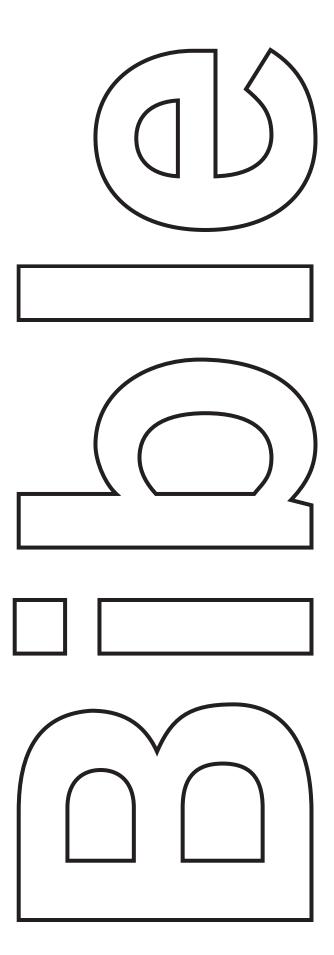


Bethlehem Picture Explore the Bible: Preschool Music & Print Extras, Winter 2022-23 © 2022 Lifeway. OK to copy.









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Glory to God in heaven, and peace on earth to people.

God's Son!

Baby Jesus is born in Bethlehem! **Birth Announcement Cutouts** Explore the Bible: Preschool Music & Print Extras, Winter 2022-23 © 2022 Lifeway. OK to copy.







Jesus Pleased God

Obeyed God

Jesus Pleased God

Prayed

Jesus Pleased God Cards Explore the Bible: Preschool Music & Print Extras, Winter 2022-23 © 2022 Lifeway. OK to copy.

Jesus Pleased God

Worshiped God

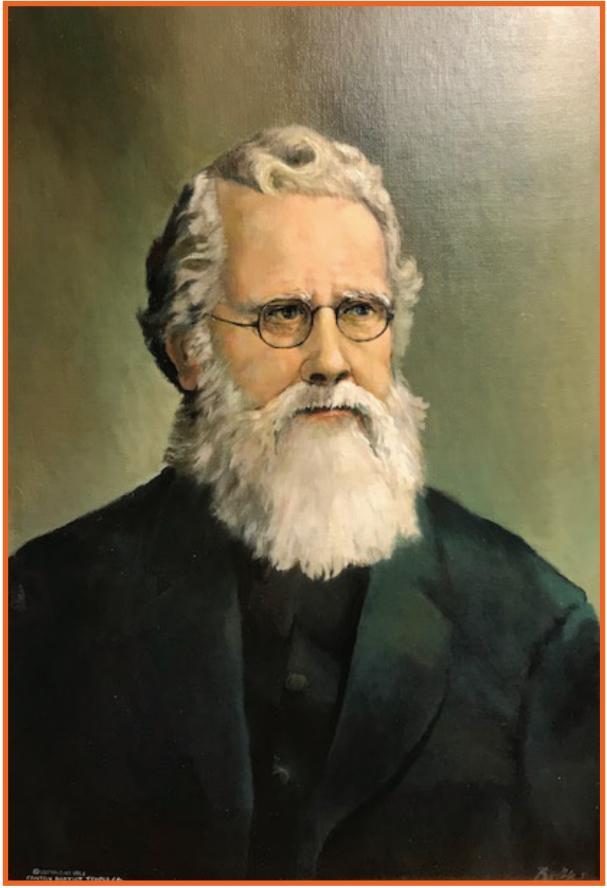
Jesus Pleased God

Showed God's Love to Others

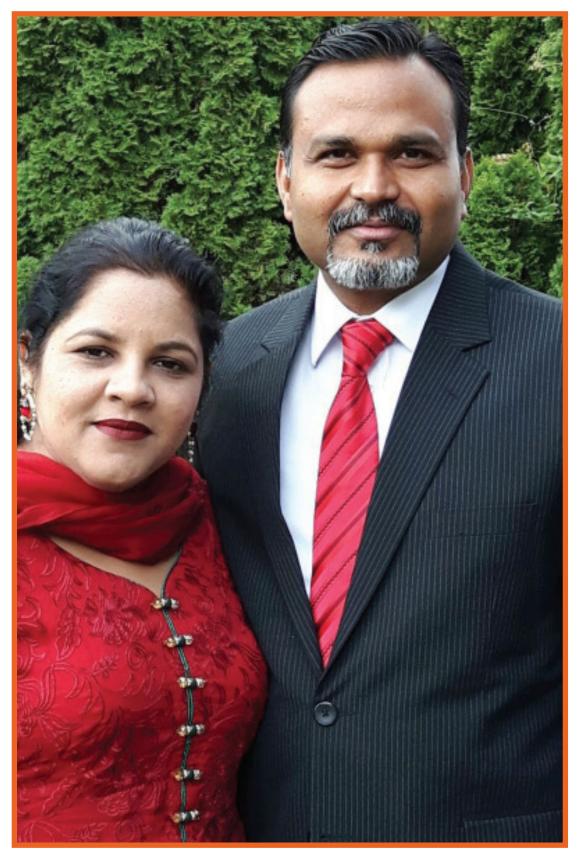
Jesus Pleased God

Told People About God





Hudson Taylor



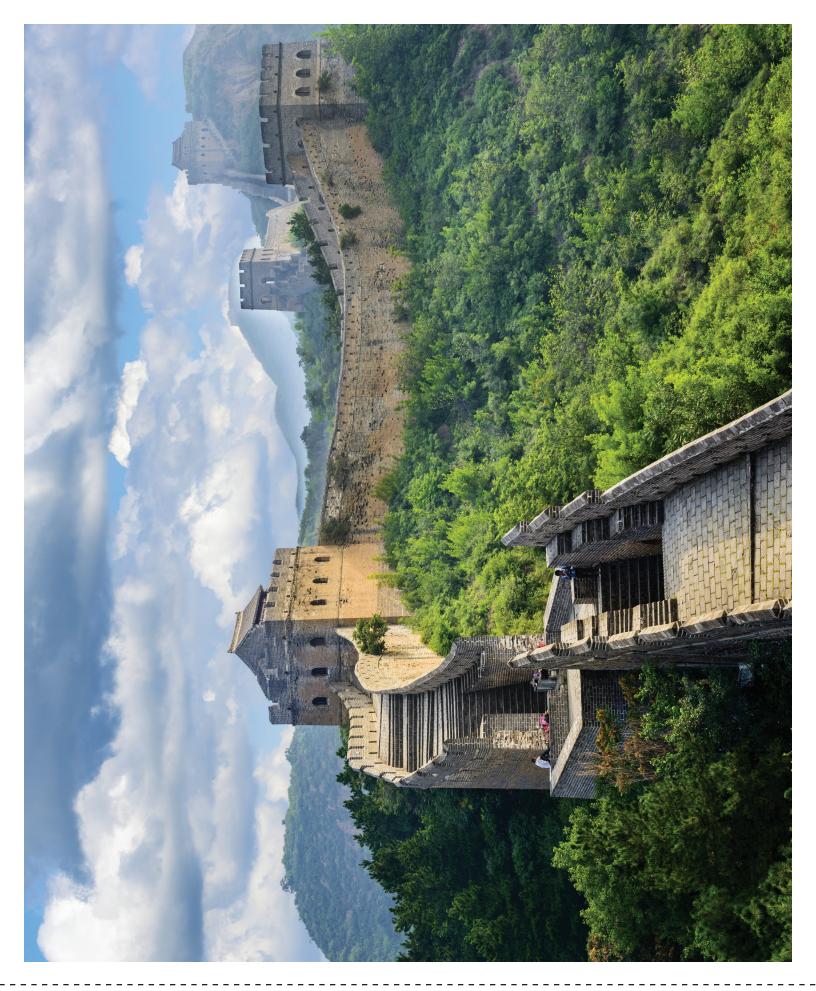
Shahid and Maroofa Kamal



Missions Poster Pictures Explore the Bible: Preschool Music & Print Extras, Winter 2022-23 © 2022 Lifeway. OK to copy.



Old & New Object cards Explore the Bible: Preschool Music & Print Extras, Winter 2022-23 © 2022 Lifeway. OK to copy.



Picture: Great Wall Of China *Explore the Bible: Preschool Music & Print Extras,* Winter 2022-23 © 2022 Lifeway. OK to copy.



AT-A-GLANCE

SESSION	SUGGESTED FOR The week of	SESSION TITLE	TEXT TRUTH
1	Dec. 4	The Promised One	Jesus had a family.
2	Dec. 11	A Family for Jesus	God chose people to care for Jesus.
3	Dec. 18	Good News of Great Joy	The birth of Jesus is good news.
4	Dec. 25	Worship the King	Praise and worship Jesus.
5	Jan. 1	Jesus Pleased God	Jesus pleased God.
6	Jan. 8	Jesus' Test	Worship God.
7	Jan. 15	Lessons for People	Jesus taught people.
8	Jan. 22	Helping the Sick	Jesus wants to help people.
9	Jan. 29	Jesus Provides	Jesus cares about our needs.
10	Feb. 5	God Calls	God chooses people to tell about Him.
11	Feb. 12	Listen and Obey	Listen to God and obey Him.
12	Feb. 19	God's Words	God told people to write the Bible.
13	Feb. 26	Never-ending Love	God's love for people never ends.

Explore the Bible: Babies & Toddlers Winter 2022-23

BIBLE STORY	BIBLE VERSE
God's Plan for Jesus (based on Matthew 1:1-17)	Isaiah 9:6
News for Mary and Joseph (based on Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-38)	Luke 1:35
A Baby in Bethlehem (based on Matthew 1:24-25; Luke 2:1-20)	Luke 2:14
Wise Men Worshiped Jesus (based on Matthew 2:1-12)	Revelation 17:14
Jesus Pleased God (based on Matthew 3:13-17)	Matthew 3:17
Jesus Worshiped God (based on Matthew 4:1-11)	Matthew 4:10
Jesus Taught from a Mountaintop (based on Matthew 5–7)	Matthew 5:16
Jesus Helped Sick People (based on Matthew 8:1-15)	Matthew 8:3
Food for Everyone (based on Matthew 14:13-21)	Matthew 14:14
A Job for Jeremiah (based on Jeremiah 1)	Jeremiah 1:7
Jeremiah Spoke at the Temple (based on Jeremiah 26:1-19)	Jeremiah 26:13
Jeremiah Wrote God's Words (<i>based on Jeremiah 36</i>)	2 Peter 1:21
Jeremiah's Broken Heart (based on Lamentations 1–5)	Lamentations 3:22

AT-A-GLANCE

SESSION	SUGGESTED FOR The week of	SESSION TITLE	TEXT TRUTH
1	Dec. 4	The Promised One	Jesus came from the family of Abraham.
2	Dec. 11	A Family for Jesus	God chose people to care for His Son, Jesus.
3	Dec. 18	Good News of Great Joy	The birth of Jesus is good news.
4	Dec. 25	Worship the King	Praise and worship Jesus.
5	Jan. 1	Jesus Pleased God	Jesus pleased God.
6	Jan. 8	Jesus' Test	Worship God and serve Him.
7	Jan. 15	Lessons for People	Jesus taught people how to live for God.
8	Jan. 22	Helping the Sick	Jesus is willing to help people.
9	Jan. 29	Jesus Provides	Jesus cares about our needs.
10	Feb. 5	God Calls	God chooses people to tell about Him.
11	Feb. 12	Listen and Obey	Listen to God and obey Him.
12	Feb. 19	God's Words	God's words in the Bible will never go away.
13	Feb. 26	Never-ending Love	God's love for people never ends.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE: PRESCHOOL WINTER 2022-23

BIBLE STORY	BIBLE VERSE
God's Plan for Jesus (based on Matthew 1:1-17)	Isaiah 9:6-7
News for Mary and Joseph (based on Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-38)	Luke 1:35
A Baby in Bethlehem (based on Matthew 1:24-25; Luke 2:1-20)	Luke 2:14
Wise Men Worshiped Jesus (based on Matthew 2:1-12)	Revelation 17:14
Jesus Pleased God (<i>based on Matthew 3:13-17</i>)	Matthew 3:17
Jesus Worshiped God (based on Matthew 4:1-11)	Matthew 4:10
Jesus Taught from a Mountaintop (<i>based on Matthew 5–7</i>)	Matthew 5:16
Jesus Helped Sick People (based on Matthew 8:1-15)	Matthew 8:3
Food for Everyone (based on Matthew 14:13-21)	Matthew 14:14
A Job for Jeremiah (based on Jeremiah 1)	Jeremiah 1:7
Jeremiah Spoke at the Temple (based on Jeremiah 26:1-19)	Jeremiah 26:13
Jeremiah Wrote God's Words (based on Jeremiah 36)	Psalm 119:89
Jeremiah's Broken Heart (based on Lamentations 1–5)	Lamentations 3:22