

ACTIVITY KEY

8:30 and 11:00 am hours:
Green Check Marks

9:40 am hour:
Red Check Marks





SOLOMON'S WISDOM

BIBLE PASSAGE 1 KINGS 3:3–15; 4:29–34

Summary: David's son Solomon became king, keeping God's covenant with David. Solomon loved the Lord. God appeared to him in a dream, asking what Solomon wanted. Solomon requested wisdom to govern Israel, which pleased God. In addition to wisdom, God promised Solomon riches and honor, emphasizing the importance of following Him. Solomon's reign brought prosperity, wisdom and peace to Israel. He was wiser than any other person. Solomon's reign points toward Jesus, the forever King.

Today's Brite Idea is: Every good gift is from God.



MONTHLY *Memory Verse*

God is a very present help.
(PSALM 46:1)



BIG QUESTION

Is anyone or anything
wiser than God? No!



LEADER TRAINING: BE PREPARED

One of the best tools to help you teach kids the truth of Jesus is to be prepared. To be prepared, study your lesson beforehand. Setting aside dedicated time to read and review the lesson helps avoid any last-minute prep when kids are arriving. Create a plan or review the plan prepared by the person in charge of your church's kids ministry. This allows you to be focused on engaging with the kids rather than feeling stressed about the activities or what you need to know. Make a point to arrive early and set up your space so each kid has your full attention when they walk through the door.

NAVIGATING A BROKEN WORLD: DEFINING IDENTITY

In a 2019 survey, parents overwhelmingly identified personality and interests as the characteristics that defined their kids' identity.* As preschoolers have first-time experiences growing up, they can struggle with who they want to become and who likes them or wants to be their friend. In this week's lesson, kids will learn about Solomon, who sought after God's wisdom and blessing instead of finding his identity and purpose in his riches or power. As the world tries to define kids and their worth, call out who each kid is in Christ. Remind kids that they are loved by God and created in His image.

*For more resources on this topic, check out: <https://pin.it/7DENjStvp>

PRESCHOOL GLOSSARY:

Honor: to have high respect for someone or something

Wisdom: making decisions based on what God says is good and bad



MEMORY GIFT

SUPPLIES:

Printable page, scissors (prep)

PREP:

Print two sets of the printable pages and cut out. Shuffle the cards thoroughly and arrange them face down in a grid pattern on the playing surface.

LEADER TIP:

Model enthusiasm by sharing your own favorite gift when introducing the activity. It sets the tone for kids to share joyfully!

ACTIVITY INTRO:

Welcome, everyone! My name is _____. Can each of you tell us your name? *Welcome each kid by name and welcome any new kids to the group.*

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Say:** Today we will play a fun game called "Memory Gift" and talk about some of our favorite gifts. Are you ready?
2. **Say:** On the table, we have lots of colorful gift cards, but they're all mixed up and face down. Your job is to find two matching gifts!
3. **Say:** When it's your turn, you'll flip over two cards. If they match, you get to keep them and go again! But if they don't match, we'll flip them back over, and it will be the next friend's turn.
4. *Model flipping two cards to show how the game works. Encourage the kids to go one by one.*
5. *Continue until all pairs are found. Celebrate every match!*
6. **Ask:** What's a gift you've received that you've loved? It could be a toy, something handmade or even a hug or kind words!

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

You did an amazing job playing "Memory Gift"! You also shared about so many special gifts you've received. Isn't it wonderful to think about how many good gifts we've been given? The Bible tells us that all good gifts come from God, and He loves giving us wonderful things.



GOD'S GIFT TOSS

SUPPLIES:

5 soft balls, 3 baskets

PREP:

Set up a space for tossing the balls into the baskets.

LEADER TIP:

Start by tossing the ball softly to the kids, allowing them to practice before beginning the game.

ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS:

Brainstorm a few ideas before tossing the ball so kids have examples of God's gifts.

ACTIVITY INTRO:

Welcome, everyone! My name is _____. Can each of you tell us your name? *Welcome each kid by name and welcome any new kids to the group.*

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Say:** Today we will toss these balls into the baskets.
2. *Demonstrate tossing the soft balls into the baskets.*
3. **Say:** Every time we toss the ball, let's share something we like that God has given us.
4. *Let the kids take turns tossing the balls into the baskets.*
5. **Say:** Great job! God gives us many good gifts to be thankful for!
6. **Say:** Now we will make it a little bit more challenging! Let's move the baskets farther away from us. We'll see how far we can toss the balls and still get them in the baskets!
7. *Move the baskets a few feet away from the kids to increase the challenge.*
8. **Say:** Now you'll need to aim and toss carefully! But remember, every time we toss the ball, say something you like that God has given us.
9. *Encourage the kids to try tossing the balls into the baskets from the new distance. Offer help and encouragement to anyone who needs it.*



ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

That was a fun game to play together! Today we will learn more about how God gives us gifts. He gave someone named Solomon a very special gift. Let's find out what it is in today's Bible story!

INTRO:

Play Countdown Video and guide kids to sit together for large group teaching time.

WELCOME:

Say: Welcome everyone! I am so happy to see you here today!

RECAP FROM *Last Week*

Say: Last week we learned about God's covenant with David. David praised God saying, "How great You are!" David knew God is always faithful and greater than anything.

Show teaching illustration: David Praying (Image 06).

Say: Today we will learn a true story from the Bible about Solomon, David's son. Solomon became king and was given something very special that would set him apart from others.

Say: Let's take a look at this month's Big Question. Can you help me do a drumroll? Ready? One, two, three ... drumroll!

? BIG QUESTION

Show the Big Question Teaching Image.

Say: Is anyone or anything wiser than God? We'll learn more about wisdom and the answer to this Big Question in today's Bible story.



PLAY FIND IT IN THE *Bible Song*

Play the "Find It in the Bible" song.

Hold up a Bible.

Say: Who can tell me the name of this book? Allow kids to respond.

Say: Yes! This book is called the Bible. The Bible is the most important book of all. The Bible is full of true stories about how God takes care of His people and loves them. Today we will hear a story from the Old Testament in the book 1 Kings. The Old Testament is filled with many stories about the beginning, God's promises to His people and the promised Savior to come.

SUPPLIES:

Bible, teaching slides, teaching pictures (printed/shown from teaching slides), video player, music player, crown

PREP:

None

LEADER TIP:

Engage kids in today's Bible story by doing a call and response. Ask questions and encourage kids to follow along with the various movements and activities to help them feel like they are part of the story.

SOLOMON'S WISDOM

1 KINGS 3:3–15; 4:29–34

Say: Today's Bible story starts out with something very exciting. It was time to pick the next king of Israel! Do you think many people wanted to be chosen? Raise your hand if you would want to be picked as the king. *Select a kid to be the new king.* The new king who was picked was David's son, Solomon. Can you say "Solomon"? Solomon! (*Kid's name*) will pretend to be King Solomon today. *Lead them to stand next to you. Place a crown on the kid's head.*

Say: Solomon loved God and followed God's ways. He was going to be a great king! *Have King Solomon give a thumbs-up.* As Solomon went to worship God, God appeared to him in a dream. God asked Solomon a big question. *Stretch your arms out wide.*

Say: God asked Solomon what he wanted and promised that He would give it to him. Wow! Can you imagine God asking you what you wanted and giving it to you? Close your eyes and think about what you might ask for. Open your eyes once you have thought of it!
Show teaching illustration: Solomon (Image 07).

Say: Maybe you would ask God for a toy or for help with something or maybe ice cream every day! But Solomon asked God for something that he knew only God could give him. Let's do a drumroll to see what Solomon asked God for! Ready, set, go! *Drum your hands on your legs or the floor along with the kids.*

Say: Solomon asked God for ... *have King Solomon shout out, "Wisdom!"* Yes, **wisdom**! Solomon asked God to help him understand right from wrong so he could be a good king over Israel. When you hear the word **wisdom** in the rest of the Bible story, point to your head.

Say: God was very happy with Solomon's answer. Everyone show me your biggest smile! *Smile big for the kids.* God gave Solomon **wisdom** and understanding! God also gave him riches and **honor**, which means high respect. No other king would be like Solomon.

Say: God encouraged Solomon to always follow Him and His ways. God's ways are the best way to live. Solomon became known for his **wisdom** as many people came to hear him teach. Solomon's wise sayings, or words of **wisdom**, were even written down as part of the Bible! We can read them today in the books of the Bible called Proverbs and Ecclesiastes. *Thank the kid who played Solomon and have them sit back down.*
Show teaching illustration: Solomon Teaching (Image 08).



POINT TO JESUS:

Say: Solomon's wisdom points to the One who is the wisest and greatest—Jesus! Jesus would come from Solomon's family, keeping God's promise to David's family since Jesus is the forever King.

Say: Let's close in prayer as we wrap up our Bible story time together. Reach your hands up really high.

Reach hands up high.

Say: Now clap them together like this.

Clap hands together.

Say: Let's pray.

Pray: Dear God, thank You for giving wisdom. Help us to follow You and remember that no one is greater or wiser than You. Amen.



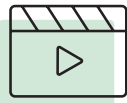
BIG QUESTION

Say: Now it's time to answer our Big Question. Can you all help me do a drumroll?
Ready? One, two, three... drumroll!

Show the Big Question Teaching Image.

Say: Is anyone or anything wiser than God? No!

Say: That's right! The Bible teaches us that while God gave Solomon wisdom, God is still the wisest and greatest!



VERSE VIDEO

*Play Memory Verse
Motion Video after the
verse is read.*

MEMORY VERSE MOTIONS:

Help kids recite and retain the memory verse by teaching it with motions. Before you teach the verse, be sure to explain what it means.

- God is (point up to the sky)
- a very present (turn around in a circle)
- help. (extend a hand as if helping someone stand up)
- Psalm 46:1 (open hands like opening a book)



MONTHLY Memory Verse

God is a very present help.
(PSALM 46:1)



REVIEW:

Say: It's been so great being with you today, friends! Before we end our teaching time, let's review what we have learned. Let's all point up really high and say, "Good gifts come from God."

Have the kids point up and say, "Good gifts come from God."

Say: Now let's reach our hands out to the side and say, "God gives us good gifts."

Have the kids reach out and say, "God gives us good gifts."

Say: Now let's point to ourselves and say, "God gives me good gifts."

Have the kids point to themselves and say, "God gives me good gifts."



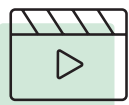
Good gifts come from God.



God gives us good gifts.



God gives me good gifts.



* Consider showing the Bible Review Video as kids eat snack, are waiting for pick-up, or another time that fits your church's schedule.



WISDOM

SUPPLIES:

Printable Page

PREP:

Print the Printable Page



INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Say:** Today we learned about King Solomon and how he asked God for wisdom. Now we will make our very own craft to remind us that God gives us wisdom when we ask Him!
2. Give each kid a 'God gives wisdom sheet'.
3. Encourage kids to decorate the word *Wisdom* with stickers and coloring supplies
4. Write each kid's name on their craft and set aside for parent pickup.
5. **Say:** Just like Solomon asked God for wisdom, we can ask God to help us make good choices every day. Your craft will remind you of that!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Who was Solomon? What was he chosen for?
- What did Solomon ask God for?
- What is wisdom?
- How can we ask God for wisdom in our own lives?



PRAY TOGETHER:

Dear God, thank You for always helping us when we need it. Please give us the wisdom to follow You and always come to You for help. Amen.



FIND THE GIFT

SUPPLIES:

Take-Home page, coloring supplies, gift box

PREP:

Print the Take-Home page (1 per kid).

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Say:** The Bible teaches us that every good gift comes from God. Let's play a game called "Find the Gift" where we work together to search for a hidden gift. Then you'll take turns hiding it for one another!
2. **Say:** One person will hide the gift somewhere in our space while everyone else closes their eyes. Then we'll all look for it together!
3. *Choose one kid to hide the gift first. Have everyone close their eyes while the hider places the gift in a secret spot. Once the gift is hidden, have kids open their eyes. Encourage kids to work together to find the gift.*
4. **Say:** Great job! Now it's someone else's turn to hide the gift.
5. **Say:** This game reminds us that every good gift comes from God. He loves to give us gifts, like His love, His help and His Son, Jesus!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Who was Solomon? What was he chosen for?
- What did Solomon ask God for?
- What is wisdom?
- How can we ask God for wisdom in our own lives?

PRAY TOGETHER:

Dear God, thank You for always helping us when we need it. Please give us the wisdom to follow You and always come to You for help. Amen.

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

Give each kid a Take-Home page. With remaining time, kids can play in centers or color the Take-Home page.



SOLOMON BUILDS THE TEMPLE

BIBLE PASSAGE 1 KINGS 5-8

Summary: The Israelites worshipped God through sacrifices at the tabernacle. King David wanted to build a temple but was told by God that David's son, Solomon, would fulfill this task. Solomon began construction. The temple's design included the Holy Place and housed the ark of the covenant in the Most Holy Place.

God's glory filled the temple. Solomon prayed and thanked God for His presence and acknowledged that He couldn't be contained in a building.

Today's Brite Idea is: God is present.



MONTHLY
Memory Verse

God is a very present help.
(PSALM 46:1)



BIG QUESTION

Is anyone or anything
wiser than God? No!



LEADER TRAINING: SAY THEIR NAME

When someone remembers your name, it makes you feel known and special. Kids are no different, so make a point of knowing and saying the kids' names in your group to help create a sense of belonging. As you prepare for the lesson, keep a group list handy and pray for the kids by name each week. Greet kids by saying their names as they walk through the door. It helps to know the parents' names, too. Help families know they are seen and cared for even during busy check-in times. Share how God and Jesus called people by their names in the Bible. There's an amazing sense of love and belonging in knowing that not only does your leader know your name, but God does too.

NAVIGATING A BROKEN WORLD: IS CHURCH IMPORTANT?

Sixty-six percent of Gen Z and millennials who claim to be believers do not attend church even once a month.* With a society that has become more divided, the church has lost popularity in the culture. Kids will range from families who are extremely involved and some who barely attend. Be aware that some kids do not know or understand why church is important. If church is not emphasized in their family, the kids won't know why it should be important to them, too. In today's lesson, Solomon builds a temple for God.

Encourage the kids in your group to discover more about God and His presence and why we should seek to learn about Him and make God important in our lives.

*For more resources on this topic, check out: <https://pin.it/1NWHmdCm8>

PRESCHOOL GLOSSARY:

Curtain: a piece of cloth that covers something or separates something

Presence: to be with

Temple: a structure built for people to gather to worship God



GOD IS PRESENT

SUPPLIES:

None

PREP:

None

LEADER TIP:

Add hand motions to the song (e.g., pointing up to represent God, making praying hands for "pray," etc.) to keep preschoolers engaged and help them remember the words.

ACTIVITY INTRO:

Welcome, everyone! My name is _____. Can each of you tell us your name? *Welcome each kid by name and welcome any new kids to the group.*

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Say:** I'm so glad you're here! Today we're learning how God is always with us.
2. **Say:** Let's sing a song to remind us that God is always present! It goes to the tune of "Jesus Loves Me." I'll sing it first, and you can join in when you're ready!
3. *Sing the first verse slowly and clearly for the kids to hear.*
God is present, this we know,
In the temple long ago.
Now He's with us every day,
Here to listen when we pray.
4. *Encourage kids to sing along with you. Sing the song a couple of times together.*
5. **Say:** That was beautiful! Let's sing it again, and this time, let's add hand motions!
6. *Teach the hand motions:*
 - God is present (*point up to the sky*)
 - this we know (*open your hands like a book*)
 - In the temple long ago.
 - Now He's with us every day (*spread your arms out wide*)
 - Here to listen when we pray (*put hands together like you're praying*)
7. *Sing the song again with the hand motions.*
8. **Say:** Today we are learning how God is present. He is with us no matter what!

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

You did such a great job singing! Remember, just like God was with Solomon when he built the temple, God is always with us too.



FOLLOW THE LEADER

SUPPLIES:

None

PREP:

None

LEADER TIP:

Use props, if available, such as a robe or a crown to act out King Solomon.

ACTIVITY INTRO:

The Bible teaches us true stories about God. Today we learned about King Solomon, who built a beautiful temple to worship God. Solomon wanted to honor God with a place to worship Him. We can worship God too!

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Say:** Let's pretend that we're King Solomon! Follow me and do what I do as I walk to the temple to worship God. Are you ready?
2. *If using props, put on your pretend crown or robe to act like Solomon and lead the way.*
3. **Say:** I will walk like Solomon, and I want you to follow me. Let's walk carefully and pretend that we're going to the temple to worship God.
4. *Line kids up in a single file line behind you. Start walking around your space, encouraging kids to follow you. Change up the movement by adding different actions such as walking slowly, hopping, tiptoeing, marching or making animal sounds as you go.*
5. **Say:** Great job following me! Now, let's pretend we're getting closer to the temple. Let's walk carefully, and when we arrive, we can stop and worship God!
6. *Pause the activity at different points and encourage the kids to stop and "worship" by raising their hands, clapping or bowing their heads as if they are praying.*
7. **Ask:** What do you think it would be like to worship God in a big, beautiful temple?
8. **Ask:** What are some ways you can worship God today?

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

Wow, you did such a great job following me to the temple! And guess what? We can worship God anywhere because He is with us all the time. Just like Solomon wanted a special place to worship God, we can always worship Him too!

INTRO:

Play Countdown Video and guide kids to sit together for large group teaching time.

WELCOME:

Say: Welcome, everyone! I am so excited to see you today! We have been learning so much about the Bible together.

RECAP FROM *Last Week*

Say: Last week we learned about King David's son Solomon being chosen as the next king of Israel. God told Solomon he could have anything he asked for. Solomon asked God for wisdom! Solomon was very wise and followed God's ways. Show teaching illustration: Solomon Teaching (Image 06).

Say: Today we will learn a true story from the Bible about something that King Solomon built. I wonder what it was!

Say: Let's take a look at this month's Big Question. Can you help me do a drumroll? Ready? One, two, three ... drumroll!



BIG QUESTION

Show the Big Question Teaching Image.

Say: Is anyone or anything wiser than God? Let's find out more about this in today's Bible story!



PLAY FIND IT IN THE *Bible Song*

Play the "Find It in the Bible" song.

Hold up a Bible.

Say: Who can tell me the name of this book? Allow kids to respond.

SUPPLIES:

Bible, teaching slides, teaching pictures (printed/shown from teaching slides), video player, music player, printable page

PREP:

Print the printable page.

LEADER TIP:

Help kids visualize the design of the temple by showing the large group printable page. Share how big the temple was and why it was so important.

Say: Yes! This book is called the Bible. The Bible is the most important book of all. The Bible is full of true stories about how God takes care of His people and loves them. Today we will hear a story from the Old Testament in the book of 1 Kings. The Old Testament is filled with lots of stories about the very beginning, God's promises to His people, and the promised Savior to come.

SOLOMON BUILDS THE TEMPLE

1 KINGS 5-8

Say: Have you ever wanted to do something important, but it took a long time? That's exactly what happened in today's Bible story. When David was king, he wanted to build a **temple**—a place for people to worship God. David thought this was really important, but God had other plans! God told David he would not build the **temple**. Instead, David's son Solomon would.

Say: Now that Solomon was king, it was finally time for the **temple** to be built! *Hold up the large group printable page.* This is a blueprint or a map of how the **temple** was supposed to be built. The **temple** was not just a regular building; it was a place for worship and for God to be with His people. Everyone point as high as you can up to the sky! *Demonstrate pointing up super-high.*

Say: The **temple** was to be 90 feet long. That's about three school buses lined up! Then the **temple** was to be 30 feet wide. And the **temple** was to be 45 feet high.

Say: Is the **temple** bigger than you thought it would be? *Allow kids to respond.* This **temple** was going to be a lot of work to build! There were also very important and special parts inside the **temple**. These were places where only the priests could go to offer sacrifices to God. There was a spot called the Holy Place where a huge **curtain** separated it from the Most Holy Place. The ark of the covenant was in the Most Holy Place.
Show teaching illustration: Temple Construction (Image 07).

Say: When the **temple** was finally done, God filled the place with His **presence**. Solomon prayed to God and worshipped God! God was good to keep His promises. God is much bigger and greater than the **temple**, but God came to be in the **temple** to be with His people.
Show teaching illustration: Solomon Praising God (Image 08).



POINT TO JESUS:

Say: When Jesus went to the cross and died, the curtain that separated the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place was ripped into two. Jesus made a way for us to be forgiven and be with God forever when we believe in Him. God is always with us and always present.

Say: Let's close in prayer as we wrap up our Bible story time together. Reach your hands up really high.

Reach hands up high.

Say: Now clap them together like this.

Clap hands together.

Say: Let's pray.

Pray: Dear God, You are so good! Thank You for always being with us. Help us to always follow and trust in You. Amen.



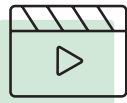
BIG QUESTION

Say: Now it's time to answer our Big Question. Can you all help me do a drumroll? Ready? One, two, three... drumroll!

Show the Big Question Teaching Image.

Say: Is anyone or anything wiser than God? No!

Say: That's right! The Bible teaches us that no one or thing is wiser than God.



VERSE VIDEO

*Play Memory Verse
Motion Video after the
verse is read.*

MEMORY VERSE MOTIONS:

Help kids recite and retain the memory verse by teaching it with motions. Before you teach the verse, be sure to explain what it means.

- God is (point up to the sky)
- a very present (turn around in a circle)
- help. (extend a hand as if helping someone stand up)
- Psalm 46:1 (open hands like opening a book)



MONTHLY Memory Verse

God is a very present help.
(PSALM 46:1)



REVIEW:

Say: It's been so great being with you today, friends! Before we end our teaching time, let's review what we have learned. Let's all point up really high and say, "God is present."

Have the kids point up and say, "God is present."

Say: Now let's reach our hands out to the side and say, "God is with us."

Have the kids reach out and say, "God is with us."

Say: Now let's point to ourselves and say, "God is with me."

Have the kids point to themselves and say, "God is with me."



God is present.



God is with us.



God is with me.



* Consider showing the Bible Review Video as kids eat snack, are waiting for pick-up, or another time that fits your church's schedule.



TEMPLE CLOUD

SUPPLIES:

Printable page, coloring supplies, glue, cotton balls (4 per kid)

PREP:

Print the printable page onto cardstock (1 per kid).



LEADER TIP:

Use different-colored crayons to encourage creativity in decorating the temple before adding the clouds.

OPTIONAL ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS:

Some kids have a hard time feeling messy. Have baby wipes available for kids to wipe glue off their hands.



INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Say:** Today we will make our own special temple with clouds! This will help us remember that God's presence filled the temple after Solomon built it.
2. *Give each kid a printable page and coloring supplies.*
3. *Let them color in the temple and the sky with the coloring supplies. Encourage them to use bright colors to decorate!*
4. *Once they've finished coloring, pass out the cotton balls and show them how to gently pull apart the cotton balls to create fluffy cloud shapes.*
5. *Place glue onto the sky portion of the page and help kids press their cotton balls onto the glue.*
6. *Write each kid's name on their paper and set it aside for parent pickup.*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Who was the first king who wanted to build God's big temple, David or Solomon?
- How big do you think the temple was? Was it bigger than your house?
- Who filled the special room in the temple with His presence?
- What are some ways we can show God that we love Him?



PRAY TOGETHER:

Dear God, thank You for being with us always. We know You are present everywhere, and we can worship You anywhere. Amen.



TEMPLE BUILDERS

SUPPLIES:

Take-Home page, coloring supplies, building supplies (blocks, cardboard boxes, plastic cups)

PREP:

Print the Take-Home page (1 per kid).



LEADER TIP:

Encourage kids to work together and help each other as they build. Emphasize that building the temple was a team effort, just like their temple!

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Say:** In our Bible story today, we learned that God wanted His people to build a very special temple. Solomon and the people worked together to build it! Today, we will be temple builders too!
2. *Encourage the kids to work together to build a temple using the materials provided. If needed, guide them to create a structure, but allow them to be creative.*
3. **Say:** Let's make the temple tall like it was in the Bible story.
4. *As the kids build, continue to encourage teamwork and guide them to add special features to their temple, such as a special "holy place" or a spot for worship.*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Who was the first king who wanted to build God's big temple, David or Solomon?
- How big do you think the temple was? Was it bigger than your house?
- Who filled the special room in the temple with His presence?
- What are some ways we can show God that we love Him?



PRAY TOGETHER:

Dear God, thank You for being with us always. We know You are present everywhere, and we can worship You anywhere. Amen.

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

Give each kid a Take-Home page. With remaining time, kids can play in centers or color the Take-Home page.



THE KINGDOM DIVIDES

BIBLE PASSAGE 1 KINGS 11-12

Summary: King Solomon was led to worship other gods, despite God's warnings. God told Solomon He would divide the kingdom, leaving only a portion for his family because of the promise He made to David. Solomon's son, Rehoboam, ignored wise counsel and made the people's burdens heavier, leading to rebellion

and the division of Israel. God promised a future King who would unite His people.

Today's Brite Idea is: God never gives up on us.



MONTHLY
Memory Verse

God is a very present help.
(PSALM 46:1)



BIG QUESTION

Is anyone or anything
wiser than God? No!



LEADER TRAINING: MAKE IT PERSONAL

God's Word applies to our lives today. Help preschoolers discover that they can apply God's truths to their everyday lives. Review the He, We, Me questions with the kids. This will help them remember the focus of the Bible story and how it applies to their lives. Encourage the kids in your group to pray to God throughout the week and ask questions about the Bible. Make it a priority to share how each Bible story points to Jesus and what He did for us by dying on the cross to save us from our sins.

NAVIGATING A BROKEN WORLD: PEER PRESSURE

Peer pressure among preschoolers often results when kids begin to mimic the behaviors, actions, or preferences of their peers to fit in. At this age, they are highly impressionable and may adopt certain toys, activities, or words of others. This can lead to situations where kids feel they need to act a certain way to be included. Leaders can help mitigate this by creating a safe and inclusive environment where everyone is welcome. Lead kids to make independent choices when faced with peer influence and remind them that they are created in God's image, wonderfully and beautifully made, and loved by God.

PRESCHOOL GLOSSARY:

Prophet: a person who gives God's messages to His people

Wise: making decisions based on what God says is good and bad

*For more resources on this topic, check out: <https://pin.it/7kS5nFju>



NEVER-ENDING STRING

SUPPLIES:

Ball of yarn

PREP:

None

LEADER TIP:

Keep the pace slow and intentional. Encourage kids to think about God's love as the yarn unravels—use simple language and imagery to help them connect to the idea.

ACTIVITY INTRO:

Welcome, everyone! My name is _____. Can each of you tell us your name? *Welcome each kid by name and welcome any new kids to the group.*

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Say:** I'm so happy to be here with all of you today! Today we will learn about something amazing—God's love that never ends!
2. *Gather kids to sit in a circle.*
3. **Say:** Did you know that God's love never ends? It keeps going and going and going ... just like this yarn!
4. *Hold up the ball of yarn for kids to see.*
5. **Say:** I will start unrolling this yarn. As I do, think about how God's love never stops. It's always with us, and it will keep going no matter what!
6. *Start unrolling the yarn slowly, calling up different kids to help you unravel it.*
7. **Say:** As we watch the yarn unroll, we can remember that God's love keeps going, no matter what happens! It doesn't stop. It's always there for us, no matter where we go or what we do!
8. **Ask:** How does it make you feel to know that God's love is always there for you?



ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

Look how long the yarn is! Just like the yarn keeps going, God's love never stops. God loves us forever, no matter what! His love is always with us, just like this yarn!



THIS OR THAT?

SUPPLIES:

None

PREP:

Clear out space for the kids to run around and be active.

LEADER TIP:

If your space doesn't have a lot of room, use painter's tape to mark on the floor two spots for kids to move to.

ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS:

Have pictures of the two choices or a picture of an arrow for kids with physical limitations to hold in the air for their choice.

ACTIVITY INTRO:

Welcome, everyone! My name is _____. Can each of you tell us your name? *Welcome each kid by name and welcome any new kids to the group.*

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Say:** Today we will play a game called "This or That?"
2. *Point to one side of your space and say, "This side is for This!"*
3. *Point to the other side of your space and say, "This side is for That!"*
4. **Say:** I'll ask you a question, and you get to pick which one you like better by moving to "This!" side or "That!" side!
5. **Ask:** Do you like apples or bananas?
6. *Kids move to either "This!" or "That!" side.*
7. *Ask more "This or That" questions such as:*
 - Do you like playing outside OR inside?
 - Do you like blue OR red?
 - Do you like to sing OR dance?
 - Do you like morning OR night?

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

You did such a great job picking between the different options. There were no right or wrong choices in the game we just played. We were just choosing things that you prefer. However, sometimes we make wrong choices that disobey God. In today's Bible story, we will learn how Solomon made a wrong choice and how it led to bad things happening. Let's find out what happened.

INTRO:

Play Countdown Video and guide kids to sit together for large group teaching time.

WELCOME:

Say: Welcome, everyone! I am so excited to see you today! We have been learning so much about the Bible together.

RECAP FROM *Last Week*

Say: First we learned about King David's son Solomon being chosen as the next king of Israel. God told Solomon he could have anything he asked for, and he asked God for wisdom! Solomon was very wise and followed God's ways.

Show teaching illustration: *Solomon Teaching (Image 06)*.

Say: Then we learned how Solomon built the temple and praised and worshipped God. God's glory and presence filled the temple!

Show teaching illustration: *Temple Construction (Image 07)*.

Say: Today we will learn a true story from the Bible about how the kingdom of Israel divided. Even when Solomon didn't follow God's ways, God never gave up on him.

Say: Let's take a look at this month's Big Question. Can you help me do a drumroll? Ready? One, two, three ... drumroll!

? BIG QUESTION



PLAY FIND IT IN THE
Bible Song

Show the Big Question Teaching Image.

Say: Is anyone or anything wiser than God? What do you think? We'll learn more about this question in today's Bible story!

Play the "Find It in the Bible" song.

Hold up a Bible.

Say: Who can tell me the name of this book? Allow kids to respond.

SUPPLIES:

Bible, teaching slides, teaching pictures (printed/shown from teaching slides), video player, music player, 2 pieces of paper

PREP:

None

LEADER TIP:

Make sure the pieces of paper can easily be ripped into 12 pieces. This will represent the parts of the divided kingdom.

Say: Yes! This book is called the Bible. The Bible is the most important book of all. The Bible is full of true stories about how God takes care of His people and loves them. Today we will hear a story from the Old Testament in the book of 1 Kings. The Old Testament is filled with lots of stories about the very beginning, God's promises to His people, and the promised Savior to come.

THE KINGDOM DIVIDES

1 KINGS 11-12

Say: Today's Bible story is sad and disappointing. We have learned about King Solomon and all the great things he did. He followed God and God's ways at first.

Say: But Solomon made a big mistake. He broke his promise to God, and even though he was known for being very rich and **wise**, he made a very unwise choice. God had warned Solomon about not worshipping other gods, but Solomon let others around him worship other gods and eventually he did too.

Say: How do you think this made God feel? *Call on a few kids to answer.* God was angry about Solomon's choice. Solomon had turned away from God! Everyone say, "Oh no!" Because of what Solomon had done, his big, amazing kingdom would be divided. God would keep His promise and keep part of the kingdom for Solomon's son. But the rest of the kingdom would not be Solomon's family's anymore.

Say: Solomon put a man named Jeroboam in charge of all of the kingdom's workers. As Jeroboam was walking along the road, he was stopped by a **prophet**. The **prophet** did something surprising. The **prophet** tore his coat into twelve pieces and gave 10 to Jeroboam! What did this mean? The pieces represented the parts of the kingdom that would be taken away from Solomon's family. Solomon's family would only have the smallest piece, the two remaining parts of the kingdom.

Hold up the 12 pieces of ripped paper. Then count out 10 of the pieces with the kids and place them into one pile.

Show teaching illustration: The Prophet (Image 08).

Say: When Solomon died, his son Rehoboam became king. Rehoboam did not care about the people. Instead, he made them work even harder than his father had and was mean to them. The people rebelled and the kingdom of Israel divided. Rehoboam ruled over two parts, while Jeroboam ruled over the other ten parts. This is exactly what the **prophet** said would happen! *Show teaching illustration: Divided Kingdom (Image 09).*

Say: Solomon's choice to worship other gods caused a huge divide and bad things. But God was still faithful and kept His promise. God never gave up on loving His people. He promised a forever, perfect King would come.



POINT TO JESUS:

Say: Solomon, the wisest person, sinned and disobeyed God. Jesus came to make us right with God again. Sin separates us from God, but Jesus died on the cross and rose again so we can be forgiven of our sins and be close to God again.

Say: Let's close in prayer as we wrap up our Bible story time together. Reach your hands up really high.

Reach hands up high.

Say: Now clap them together like this.

Clap hands together.

Say: Let's pray.

Pray: Dear God, thank You for never giving up on us even when we mess up. Help us to ask You for forgiveness when we sin and always come back to You. Amen.



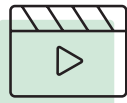
BIG QUESTION

Say: Now it's time to answer our Big Question. Can you all help me do a drumroll? Ready? One, two, three... drumroll!

Show the Big Question Teaching Image.

Say: Is anyone or anything wiser than God? No!

Say: That's right! The Bible teaches us that nothing or noone is wiser or better than God. Mark 10:18 says: *No one is good except God alone.*



VERSE VIDEO

*Play Memory Verse
Motion Video after the
verse is read.*

MEMORY VERSE MOTIONS:

Help kids recite and retain the memory verse by teaching it with motions. Before you teach the verse, be sure to explain what it means.

- God is (point up to the sky)
- a very present (turn around in a circle)
- help. (extend a hand as if helping someone stand up)
- Psalm 46:1 (open hands like opening a book)



MONTHLY Memory Verse

God is a very present help.
(PSALM 46:1)



REVIEW:

Say: It's been so great being with you today, friends! Before we end our teaching time, let's review what we have learned. Let's all point up really high and say, "God never gives up."

Have the kids point up and say, "God never gives up."

Say: Now let's reach our hands out to the side and say, "God never gives up on us."

Have the kids reach out and say, "God never gives up on us."

Say: Now let's point to ourselves and say, "God never gives up on me."

Have the kids point to themselves and say, "God never gives up on me."



God never gives up.



God never gives up on us.



God never gives up on me.



* Consider showing the Bible Review Video as kids eat snack, are waiting for pick-up, or another time that fits your church's schedule.



GOD NEVER GIVES UP FRAME

SUPPLIES:

Craft sticks (4 per kid), glue sticks, construction paper (1 per kid), washable stamp pads, baby wipes, coloring supplies, labels

PREP:

Prepare pre-printed labels that say "God never gives up on me" or write it on the top of each construction paper.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Say:** Today we will make a special picture frame to remind us that God never gives up on us!
2. Give each kid four craft sticks and construction paper to create a frame.
3. Help kids glue the craft sticks together to make a square frame on the construction paper.
4. **Say:** Now let's decorate our frames!
5. Pass out the washable stamp pads. Encourage kids to press their finger into it and make fingerprints on their picture frame.
6. Hand out the label and help them place it on the frame. If writing the phrase, do it for them or let them scribble while you write.
7. Write the kid's name on the craft and set it aside for drying and parent pickup.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- How do you think Solomon felt when he made the wrong choice?
- How do you think God felt when Solomon stopped following Him?
- What happened to Solomon's kingdom after he made the wrong choice?
- Why is it important to follow God?



PRAY TOGETHER:

Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus to forgive our sins. Help us to follow You every day and come to You even when we disobey You. Amen.



GOD NEVER GIVES UP ON US

SUPPLIES:

Take-Home page, coloring supplies

PREP:

Print the Take-Home page (1 per kid).



LEADER TIP:

Use simple, fun rhythms to keep preschoolers engaged. Adjust the speed of the rhythm to match their energy level!

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Say:** Today we learned something very important: God never gives up on us! No matter what, God's love keeps going!
2. **Say:** Let's make a fun beat to help us remember this truth!
3. *Start clapping a simple rhythm, such as: clap, clap ... pause ... clap!*
4. **Say:** Now repeat after me: "God never gives up on us!"
5. *Encourage kids to clap and say the phrase with you.*
6. **Say:** Great job! Now, let's go a little faster!
7. *Speed up the rhythm slightly and repeat the phrase together.*
8. **Say:** Next time you mess up or feel sad, you can do this beat and remember—God never gives up on you! His love keeps going, no matter what!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Who was the first king who wanted to build God's big temple, David or Solomon?
- How big do you think the temple was? Was it bigger than your house?
- Who filled the special room in the temple with His presence?
- What are some ways we can show God that we love Him?



PRAY TOGETHER:

Dear God, thank You for being with us always. We know You are present everywhere, and we can worship You anywhere. Amen.

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

Give each kid a Take-Home page. With remaining time, kids can play in centers or color the Take-Home page.



ELISHA IS SURROUNDED

BIBLE PASSAGE 2 KINGS 6:8-23

Summary: After the kingdom was divided, Israel and Judah had many kings, most of whom ignored God. The Syrian king tried to capture Elisha, sending a large army to Dothan. Elisha's servant was afraid, but Elisha prayed for God to open his eyes. The servant saw God's army in the mountains. Elisha then prayed for the Syrian

soldiers' blindness and led them to Samaria, where he advised the king to spare them and host a feast instead.

Today's Brite Idea is: God is working, even when we don't see it.



MONTHLY Memory Verse

God is a very present help.
(PSALM 46:1)



BIG QUESTION

Is anyone or anything
wiser than God? No!



LEADER TRAINING: INCLUDE EVERYONE

Jesus included everyone, even the little kids who seemed like an interruption. To help preschoolers feel like they belong, you must be intentional about including everyone. Include kids in ways in which they feel comfortable. Some preschoolers may be really shy and not want to lead the group or be in the front of the group. Help shy kids be included by partnering them with another kid or asking what they would like to help with. Help kids include one another by modeling asking questions, asking for help for an activity, or even allowing kids to be the greeter when other kids get checked in. By modeling everyone being included, preschoolers can follow your example and work toward including one another.

NAVIGATING A BROKEN WORLD: FEAR

According to recent research, the number of kids struggling with anxiety doubled following the pandemic.* More kids are struggling with social anxiety, phobias, panic attacks and generalized anxiety. Preschoolers in your group are likely struggling with fear. Preschoolers can struggle with fear of the unknown, trying something new or being dropped off and away from their parents/guardians, among other things. In today's Bible story, kids will learn that God is with us even when we are afraid. Point to Jesus and share how kids don't have to be afraid; rather, they can find hope and comfort that God is with them.

PRESCHOOL GLOSSARY:

Chariots: a carriage pulled by horses and used by soldiers

Prophet: a person who gives God's messages to His people

*For more resources on this topic, check out: <https://pin.it/6Vp6Xg5Ff>



DO YOU SEE IT?

SUPPLIES:

3 cups, small ball

PREP:

Put the ball inside one of the cups. Place all the cups upside down to hide which one has the hidden item.



LEADER TIP:

Make sure the ball fits inside the cup. If it doesn't, use another small object that fits.

OPTIONAL ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS:

Provide some small, quiet fidgets for kids who need more opportunities for movement while waiting.

ACTIVITY INTRO:

Welcome, everyone! My name is _____. Can each of you tell us your name? *Welcome each kid by name and welcome any new kids to the group.*

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Say:** Today we will learn about how God is always working even when we can't see it. I have a fun game for us to play!
2. **Say:** I have hidden a ball under one of these cups. I will mix them up and I want you to guess which one has the ball hidden underneath!
3. *Gather kids to sit around the cups. Mix up the cups, including the one with the ball hidden underneath.*
4. *Call on a kid to guess which cup has the ball. Flip over the cup. If the kid is correct, repeat the activity. If they did not find the ball, pick another kid to guess until the ball is found.*
5. *Repeat this activity as time allows.*
6. **Ask:** Could you see the ball in the cup?



ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

Just like we couldn't see which cup had the ball hidden inside of it, there are times when God is working and we just can't see it. Today we will learn about how God showed up in a big way and was there even when it seemed like He was not.



OPEN MY EYES

SUPPLIES:

None

PREP:

None

LEADER TIP:

Use blindfolds to challenge kids so they don't have to close their eyes.

ACTIVITY INTRO:

Welcome, everyone! My name is _____. Can each of you tell us your name? *Welcome each kid by name and welcome any new kids to the group.*

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Say:** Today we will learn God is always working, even when we don't see it! In our Bible story, there will be someone who sees something important.
2. **Ask:** How do we see? With our eyes! Let's play a fun game together!
3. **Say:** I will have you close your eyes. While your eyes are closed, try to guess what's around you!
4. *Choose one kid to go first. Have them close their eyes or cover them.*
5. **Say:** Can you tell me what's in front of you? What do you hear? What do you feel?
6. *After they guess, uncover their eyes or have them open their eyes.*
7. **Say:** Now open your eyes! Look around—everything was here all along, even when you couldn't see it!
8. *Repeat with a few kids, letting them experience not seeing and then seeing again.*
9. **Ask:** What was it like when your eyes were closed?



ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

In today's Bible story, we will learn about some people who really had to trust in God. When they saw what was happening, they were afraid, but God was working and was always with them. Let's find out what happens!

INTRO:

Play Countdown Video and guide kids to sit together for large group teaching time.

WELCOME:

Say: Welcome, everyone! I'm so happy to be here with you today! We have been learning this month how God is always with us.

RECAP FROM *Last Week*

Say: First we learned about King David's son Solomon being chosen as the next king of Israel. God told Solomon that he could have anything he asked for, and Solomon chose to ask God for wisdom! Solomon was very wise and followed God's ways.

Show teaching illustration: *Solomon Teaching (Image 06)*.

Say: Then we learned how Solomon built the temple and praised and worshipped God. God's glory and presence filled the temple!

Show teaching illustration: *Temple Construction (Image 07)*.

Say: After this, we learned how Solomon did not keep his promise to God and how the kingdom he ruled over was divided. Even when Solomon didn't follow God's ways, God never gave up on him.

Show teaching illustration: *Divided Kingdom (Image 08)*.

Say: Today we will learn a true story from the Bible about when Elisha needed God to show up in a big way.

Say: Let's take a look at this month's Big Question. Can you help me do a drumroll? Ready? One, two, three ... drumroll!



BIG QUESTION

Show the Big Question Teaching Image.

Say: Is anyone or anything wiser than God? We'll learn more about this question in today's Bible story.

Play the "Find It in the Bible" song.

Hold up a Bible.

SUPPLIES:

Bible, teaching slides, teaching pictures (printed/shown from teaching slides), video player, music player, 2 colors of plastic cups (10 of one color, 20 of the other color), envelope, 1 piece of paper

PREP:

Make two stacks of plastic cups by color. One color will represent the Syrian army and the other color will represent God's army. Place the paper in the envelope.

LEADER TIP:

Help kids to remember the truth that God is always with them. No matter what they might be going through, point them back to the truth that God is with them and will never leave them.

Say: Who can tell me the name of this book? *Allow kids to respond.*

Say: Yes! This book is called the Bible. The Bible is the most important book of all. The Bible is full of true stories about how God takes care of His people and loves them. Today we will hear a story from the Old Testament in the book of 2 Kings. The Old Testament is filled with lots of stories about the very beginning, God's promises to His people.

ELISHA IS SURROUNDED

2 KINGS 6:8-23

Say: Today we are going to learn about someone named Elisha. Can you say that with me? Elisha! Great job! Elisha was a **prophet**, sent to Israel to give God's people a message. Let's see what the message was! *Open up the envelope and pull out the piece of paper.*

Say: The message says to turn back to God and follow His ways! God would also warn Elisha whenever the king of Syria was going to attack Israel. Elisha would then warn the king of Israel so the king was ready when the attacks came!

Say: The king of Syria found out it was Elisha who kept ruining his plans of attack. This made him very mad. Can you show me your best mad face? *Demonstrate a mad face for the kids.* So the king of Syria told his men to find Elisha and take him.

Say: Oh no! This does not sound good for Elisha. Let's see what happens next! When they discovered where Elisha was, the king of Syria sent horses, chariots, and a big army. The place was surrounded! This means there was no way out for Elisha! Can you help me put one color of cups all around my feet? *Lead kids to surround your feet with cups.*

Show teaching illustration: Surrounded (Image 09).

Say: But even in this impossible situation, Elisha was not afraid. Can you say that with me? Elisha was not afraid! Shake your finger no from side to side. Elisha wasn't afraid, but his servant was! Elisha told his servant, "Don't be afraid. Those who are with us are more than those who are against us."

Say: Elisha's servant looked out again at the army that surrounded them, but the servant saw something else! The servant saw another army of horses and **chariots**. It was God's army! God would protect them. Let's make another circle surrounding the first cups! *Lead the kids to put the different-colored cups in a bigger circle around the other cups.*

Say: Elisha prayed that God would keep the Syrian army from being able to see, and God answered his prayer! The Syrian soldiers were not able to see anymore and couldn't fight or take Elisha. Elisha was safe!

Show teaching illustration: Never Alone (Image 10).



POINT TO JESUS:

Say: Even when Elisha was surrounded, God was still with him. God showed His great power and how we can hope in Him. God gives us hope that is greater than anything we might face. We don't have to be alone, because Jesus died on the cross to save us. God is with us and is greater than anything.

Say: Let's close in prayer as we wrap up our Bible story time together. Reach your hands up really high.

Reach hands up high.

Say: Now clap them together like this.

Clap hands together.

Say: Let's pray.

Pray: Dear God, help us to always remember that You are with us even when hard things come our way. Remind us of Your hope and power. Amen.



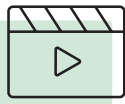
BIG QUESTION

Say: Now it's time to answer our Big Question. Can you all help me do a drumroll? Ready? One, two, three... drumroll!

Show the Big Question Teaching Image.

Say: Is anyone or anything wiser than God? No!

Say: That's right! The Bible teaches us that no one is wiser than God. Even in times when it seems impossible for God to do something, He is still there and always working even when we don't see it.



VERSE VIDEO

*Play Memory Verse
Motion Video after the
verse is read.*

MEMORY VERSE MOTIONS:

Help kids recite and retain the memory verse by teaching it with motions. Before you teach the verse, be sure to explain what it means.

- God is (point up to the sky)
- a very present (turn around in a circle)
- help. (extend a hand as if helping someone stand up)
- Psalm 46:1 (open hands like opening a book)



MONTHLY

Memory Verse

God is a very present help.
(PSALM 46:1)



REVIEW:

Say: It's been so great being with you today, friends! Before we end our teaching time, let's review what we have learned. Let's all point up really high and say, "God is greater than anything."

Have the kids point up and say, "God is greater than anything."

Say: Now let's reach our hands out to the side and say, "God is greater than anything we face."

Have the kids reach out and say, "God is greater than anything we face."

Say: Now let's point to ourselves and say, "God is greater than anything I face."

Have the kids point to themselves and say, "God is greater than anything I face."



God is greater than anything.



God is greater than anything we face.



God is greater than anything I face.



* Consider showing the Bible Review Video as kids eat snack, are waiting for pick-up, or another time that fits your church's schedule.



EYES

SUPPLIES:

Paper masks (1 per kid), coloring supplies, stickers (5 per kid), string

PREP:

None

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Give each kid a prepared paper mask, coloring supplies and stickers.
2. Lead kids to decorate their masks. Encourage them to add fun colors, shapes or designs, but remind them that the mask is to help them remember that even when we can't see, God is always working.
3. **Say:** As you decorate, think about how sometimes we can't see what God is doing, but we can trust that He is always there to help us, just like He helped Elisha!
4. Attach the string by threading the string through the holes you punched on both sides of the mask. Tie the ends of the string around the back of each kid's head, making sure it fits comfortably.
5. **Say:** Look at your awesome masks! Just like these masks cover our faces, sometimes we can't see everything God is doing. But we can trust that God is always working to help us, just like He helped Elisha!
6. Write each kid's name on their craft and set them aside for parent pickup.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Can we always believe God is working?
- Why was Elisha's servant scared?
- What did Elisha's servant see?
- Who is always with us?

PRAY TOGETHER:

Dear God, thank You that even when we can't see it, You're always working. Help me to trust You always! Amen.



ALWAYS WORKING

SUPPLIES:

Take-Home pages, coloring supplies

PREP:

Print the Take-Home page (1 per kid).

ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS:

Add a hand motion to the activity, like pointing up to the sky while saying "God is working!", to increase engagement.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Say:** We will play a game called "Trust God!" I'll say a situation where we might not see what God is doing, and you'll say, "God is working!" to remind each other that we can trust Him!
2. **Say:** When it's really dark at night and we're scared, what can we remember?
3. *Lead kids to say, "God is working!"*
4. *Continue with different scenarios:*
 - When someone we love needs help, what can we remember? (God is working!)
 - When someone says something mean to us, what can we remember? (God is working!)
 - When we feel alone, what can we remember? (God is working!)
 - When we get hurt, what can we remember? (God is working!)
5. *Add some movement to keep it fun:*
 - When we're jumping like frogs, what can we remember? (God is working!)
 - When we're spinning around like ballerinas, what can we remember? (God is working!)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Can we always believe God is working?
- Why was Elisha's servant scared?
- What did Elisha's servant see?
- Who is always with us?

PRAY TOGETHER:

Dear God, thank You that even when we can't see it, You're always working. Help me to trust You always! Amen.

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

Give each kid a Take-Home page. With remaining time, kids can play in centers or color the Take-Home page.



ESTHER

BIBLE PASSAGE ESTHER 2-8

Summary: Mordecai and his cousin Esther were Israelites who were exiled to Persia. When the king needed a new queen, Esther was chosen. Mordecai urged her to keep her Jewish identity a secret. When Haman wanted to destroy the Jews, Mordecai told Esther to help. He told her that she might be in the palace for this very reason. Though it was risky, she approached the king and revealed Haman's plan. The king was furious and punished Haman. Esther's brave act saved the Jews.

Today's Brite Idea is: God always has a plan.



MONTHLY
Memory Verse

God is a very present help.
(PSALM 46:1)



BIG QUESTION

Is anyone or anything
wiser than God? No!



LEADER TRAINING: FOLLOW-UP

Be creative in ways you can follow up with kids outside group time. Did they mention something they were looking forward to? Follow up the next time you see them and ask how it went. Write birthday cards, "we miss you" cards, and other notes to the kids in your group. Everyone loves getting mail! Tell parents highlights from your time with the kids. Reaffirm that each kid is valued and wanted in your group. Connect with kids on any of their questions or comments from the week before that need follow-up. Writing down these questions and comments will help you to remember what kids shared. This will help kids feel heard.

NAVIGATING A BROKEN WORLD: DIFFERENT RACES AND RELIGIONS

Reports indicate a 200% increase in antisemitic incidents from 2023 to 2024.* The beginning of conversations about other races and people groups are beginning younger and younger. Preschoolers often notice when kids look different than them. They also sometimes question why another kid might have a different-colored skin tone or hair texture. Encourage kids to see how God created and loves all people. Remind kids that everyone is created in the image of God regardless of their physical appearance or ability levels. In today's lesson, Esther works to prevent the destruction of the Jews in the land she was living in. Esther stood up for her people even when it was the unpopular thing to do.

PRESCHOOL GLOSSARY:

Foreign: not your own

Jew: God's people of Israel

Scepter: a jeweled staff

*For more resources on this topic, check out: <https://pin.it/sWOG36JuC>



PLAN PASS

SUPPLIES:

Beanbag, music player, upbeat kids' worship song

PREP:

None

LEADER TIP:

For larger groups, set up multiple circles with their own beanbags to keep everyone engaged and give more kids a chance to participate.

OPTIONAL ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS:

Provide noise-canceling headphones for kids who get overstimulated with noise.

ACTIVITY INTRO:

Welcome, everyone! My name is _____. Can each of you tell us your name? *Welcome each kid by name and welcome any new kids to the group.*

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. *Gather kids to sit down in a circle.*
2. **Say:** Let's play a game called "Plan Pass!" I'll play some music, and while it's playing, you'll pass the beanbag around the circle. But when the music stops, whoever is holding the beanbag gets to say, "God always has a plan!" Let's practice saying it together: *Lead kids in saying, "God always has a plan!"*
3. *Turn on the music and have the kids pass the beanbag around the circle.*
4. *After a few moments, pause the music. The kid holding the beanbag says, "God always has a plan!"*
5. **Ask:** Does anyone know a story in the Bible where God had a plan?
6. *Encourage a few kids to share.*
7. *Repeat several rounds, ensuring different kids get a chance to say the phrase.*



ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

That was so fun! And guess what? Just like we said in our game, God always has a plan, even when things seem confusing or don't go the way we expect. We can trust God no matter what! Let's say it together one more time: "God always has a plan!"



THE KING'S SCEPTER

SUPPLIES:

Toy scepter, chair

PREP:

Set up a special area for the "king's throne." Place the scepter near the throne. Mark a starting spot where kids will step forward when it's their turn.

LEADER TIP:

If a scepter isn't available, use another fun item, such as a broomstick, paper towel roll or marker.

ACTIVITY INTRO:

The Bible teaches us true stories about God. Today we learned about Esther and how God had a plan for her to be brave and help save her people.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Say:** In our Bible story, Esther had to be very brave to go before the king. The king had a special rule—he had to hold out his scepter to say it was okay to come in. If he didn't, Esther could have been in big trouble! But Esther trusted that God had a plan for her.
2. **Say:** Let's play a game where you get to be like Esther! One at a time, you will step forward and say, "God always has a plan!" The king (or leader) will then decide to hold out the scepter and welcome you to sit by the throne.
3. *Choose one kid or a leader to be the king and have them sit in the special chair while holding the scepter.*
4. *Have the first kid step forward and say, "God always has a plan!"*
5. *The king will hold out the scepter, welcoming the kid to sit nearby.*
6. *Repeat until all kids have had a turn.*
7. **Ask:** How do you think Esther felt when she stepped in front of the king? Was she scared?
8. **Say:** Esther was probably a little scared. But she trusted that God always has a plan, even when she didn't know what would happen next.

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

God had a plan for Esther, and He has a plan for us too. The best part of His plan is that He sent Jesus to make a way for us to be with Him forever!

INTRO:

Play Countdown Video and guide kids to sit together for large group teaching time.

WELCOME:

Say: Welcome, everyone! I'm so happy to be here with you today! We have been learning this month about how God is always with us.

RECAP FROM *Last Week*

Say: First we learned about King David's son Solomon being chosen as the next king of Israel. God told Solomon he could have anything he asked for, and Solomon chose to ask God for wisdom! Solomon was very wise and followed God's ways.

Show teaching illustration: *Solomon Teaching (Image 06)*.

Say: Then we learned how Solomon built the temple and praised and worshipped God. God's glory and presence filled the temple!

Show teaching illustration: *Temple Construction (Image 07)*.

Say: Next we learned about how Solomon did not keep his promise to God and how the kingdom he ruled over was divided. Even when Solomon didn't follow God's ways, God never gave up on him.

Show teaching illustration: *Kingdom Divided (Image 08)*.

Say: Then we learned about how God saved the prophet Elisha. Even when an entire army surrounded the city Elisha was in, God made a way and saved Elisha. God is greater than anything and is always working even when we don't see it.

Show teaching illustration: *Never Alone (Image 09)*.

Say: Today we will learn a true story from the Bible about a woman named Esther. She was chosen for a big purpose and would risk everything to try and save her people.

Say: Let's take a look at this month's Big Question. Can you help me do a drumroll? Ready? One, two, three ... drumroll!



BIG QUESTION

Show the Big Question Teaching Image.

Say: Is anyone or anything wiser than God? Let's find out more from today's Bible story!

SUPPLIES:

Bible, teaching slides, teaching pictures (printed/shown from teaching slides), video player, music player, whiteboard, dry-erase marker

PREP:

None

LEADER TIP:

Use the preschool glossary to help familiarize yourself with some preschool language to explain some of the words used in today's Bible story.

Play the “Find It in the Bible” song.

Hold up a Bible.

Say: Who can tell me the name of this book? *Allow kids to respond.*

Say: Yes! This book is called the Bible. The Bible is the most important book of all. The Bible is full of true stories about how God takes care of His people and loves them. Today we will hear a story from the Old Testament in the book of Esther. The Old Testament is filled with lots of stories about the very beginning, God’s promises to His people.

ESTHER

ESTHER 2–8

Say: A woman named Esther lived in Persia with her cousin, Mordecai. Mordecai was like a father to Esther as they lived in this **foreign** land. *Draw a stick figure for Esther and one for Mordecai on the whiteboard.* One day, the king of Persia decided he wanted a new queen. *Draw a third stick figure with a crown.* Esther and some other women were taken to the king’s palace to meet him. Introduce yourself to the person sitting next to you. *Demonstrate shaking another kid’s hand and saying your name.*

Say: But Esther had a secret she didn’t tell anyone. Can you say *shhh*? Esther was a **Jew**. She was a part of God’s special family, the Israelites. Out of all the different women who were brought to meet the king, guess who was chosen to be the new queen? *Allow kids to respond.* That’s right! Esther was chosen! Everyone shout, “Oh wow!!” *Draw a crown over Esther’s stick figure.*

Show teaching illustration: Esther (Image 10).

Say: While Esther’s life had just changed in a big way, Mordecai’s life was about to be in danger. *Draw a sad face.* An order came from the king for everyone to bow down to Haman, who had just been promoted to be a very powerful worker in the kingdom. But Mordecai refused to bow down to Haman. This made Haman very angry! *Draw a stick figure for Haman with an angry face.*

Say: Then something terrible happened. Haman found out Mordecai was a **Jew** and convinced the king to get rid of all the Jewish people. Now Mordecai’s life was in danger and so was everyone who was a **Jew**! *Circle Mordecai’s stick figure.*



Say: Mordecai told Esther the terrible news. Mordecai told Esther to go to the king and ask him not to get rid of the **Jews**. *Draw a question mark near Esther's stick figure.* Esther didn't know if she could do this. It was very risky and dangerous to go before the king without being invited. But Mordecai said, "What if you are in the palace for such a time as this?"

Say: Esther asked that all of God's people pray and fast. Esther went to see the king, and he held out his golden **scepter**. This meant Esther could speak to him. Esther had a plan and invited the king and Haman to two feasts. *Draw some food.* At the second feast, the king asked Esther what she wanted. *Draw more question marks near the king's stick figure.*

Say: Esther shared about Haman's plan for getting rid of all the **Jews**. She asked the king to save her and her family.

Show teaching illustration: Esther's Request (Image 11).

Say: The king was angry! But he wasn't angry at Esther; he was angry at Haman! *Draw an arrow to Haman's stick figure.* Haman was punished, and Mordecai was put in charge of everything. The king wrote a new law to protect all the **Jews**. God's people were saved! *Draw a heart.*

POINT TO JESUS:

Say: God used Esther to save His people. Esther risked her life to save her people. Many years later, Jesus gave up His life to save all people who trust Him. Jesus showed how great and mighty God is and that nothing can stop God's plan.

Say: Let's close in prayer as we wrap up our Bible story time together. Reach your hands up really high.

Reach hands up high.

Say: Now clap them together like this.

Clap hands together.

Say: Let's pray.

Pray: Dear God, thank You for today's Bible story. Help us to know that You always have a plan and are always with us. Amen.



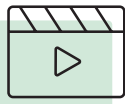
BIG QUESTION

Say: Now it's time to answer our Big Question. Can you all help me do a drumroll? Ready? One, two, three... drumroll!

Show the Big Question Teaching Image.

Say: Is anyone or anything wiser than God? No!

Say: That's right! The Bible teaches us that anyone who tries to outsmart God does not win. God is wiser and greater than anyone, any plan or anything!



VERSE VIDEO

Play Memory Verse Motion Video after the verse is read.

MEMORY VERSE MOTIONS:

Help kids recite and retain the memory verse by teaching it with motions. Before you teach the verse, be sure to explain what it means.

- God is (point up to the sky)
- a very present (turn around in a circle)
- help. (extend a hand as if helping someone stand up)
- Psalm 46:1 (open hands like opening a book)



MONTHLY

Memory Verse

God is a very present help.
(PSALM 46:1)

REVIEW:

Say: It's been so great being with you today, friends! Before we end our teaching time, let's review what we have learned. Let's all point up really high and say, "God has a plan."

Have the kids point up and say, "God has a plan."

Say: Now let's reach our hands out to the side and say, "We can trust in God's plan."

Have the kids reach out and say, "We can trust in God's plan."

Say: Now let's point to ourselves and say, "I can trust in God's plan."

Have the kids point to themselves and say, "I can trust in God's plan."



God has a plan.



We can trust in God's plan.



I can trust in God's plan.



* Consider showing the Bible Review Video as kids eat snack, are waiting for pick-up, or another time that fits your church's schedule.



SUCH A TIME AS THIS

SUPPLIES:

Take-Home pages, coloring supplies, printable page

PREP:

Print the Take-Home pages and printable page (1 per kid).

INSTRUCTIONS:



1. **Say:** Today we learned that God always has a plan! God had a special plan for Esther. God used her to save His people.
2. *Give each kid a printable page and coloring supplies.*
3. **Say:** Let's color in and decorate the four people from today's Bible story: Queen Esther, the king, Mordecai and Haman.
4. *Give kids time to color in the four people. Ask them who their favorite person was from the Bible story.*
5. **Say:** At home, ask your parent or an adult to help cut out the four people. You can retell the Bible story from today using your craft!
6. *Write each kid's name on their printable page and set aside for parent pickup.*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Who had a special plan in our Bible story today?
- Do we always know what God's plan is?
- Whom can you tell that God has a plan for them?
- What is one way you can trust God's plan this week?



PRAY TOGETHER:

Dear God, thank You for always having a plan. Thank You for loving us and knowing each of our names. Help us trust You, even when we don't know what will happen next. Amen.

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

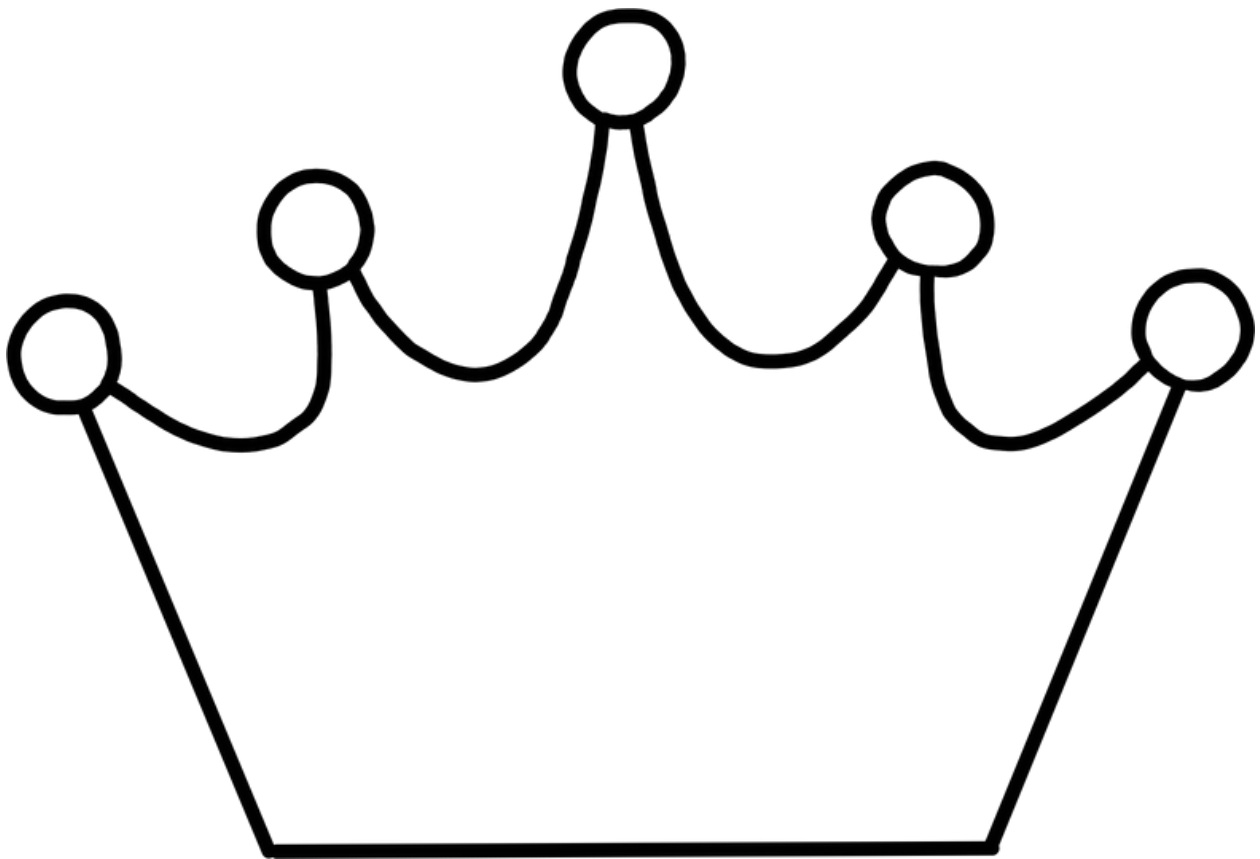
Give each kid a Take-Home page. With remaining time, kids can play in centers or color the Take-Home page.



Color and glue the crown in the middle of the paper. Decorate
the crown with stickers and pompoms

Name _____

Esther was the QUEEN!



"Who knows whether you have not come
to the kingdom for such a time as this?"

Esther 4:14