

A black rectangular sign with rounded corners, hanging from a chain. The text "BIBLE FUN FACTORY" is written in colorful, stylized letters: "BIBLE" in blue, "FUN" in pink, and "FACTORY" in yellow. A yellow cross is positioned to the right of the word "FUN".

**BIBLE
FUN
FACTORY**

BIBLE LESSONS FOR KIDS | Volume 1



GENESIS 1-24

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BIBLE FUN FACTORY

BIBLE LESSONS FOR KIDS

GENESIS 1-24

Welcome to this series of Bible lessons for students in preschool through sixth grade. These lessons introduce characters in the book of Genesis and help children make a personal connection by putting the characters problems into a modern day context. The lessons introduce principles students can use every day at school, at home, and in the neighborhood, while growing in Christ.

As we explore Genesis, we find out that **God is creative** and he appreciates when we are creative as well. We see **God's protection** in the story of Noah and the Great Flood. How **God keeps His promises** is seen most dramatically through Father Abraham. Abraham and Sara conceive Isaac, showing how **miracles attest to God's existence**. Isaac & Rebekah introduce children to the importance of **learning to hear God's voice**.

These lessons will teach important principles to your students that they will long remember.

Lessons Included:

- Lesson 1: God's Creation
- Lesson 2: Noah & the Great Flood
- Lesson 3: God's Promise to Abraham
- Lesson 4: Abraham & Sarah Have a Baby
- Lesson 5: Isaac & Rebekah Find Each Other

A couple notes before you “dig in” to the lesson plans:

We provide more than enough activities to fill a 60 minute class so you can be selective and choose the activities that appeal to you or opt for the activities that match the supplies you have on hand.

The sections written in **BOLD** font type are meant to be a rough “teaching script” for you to use while you are teaching each section. Follow these scripts verbatim or change them to suit your needs!

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GOD'S CREATION

All children love to draw, paint, play with clay, build and design things. In this way they can relate to the creative side of God. They can understand through their own creations how much fun God must have had creating the heavens and the earth.

In this lesson they learn that **when they are being creative, they are imitating God and their creations are pleasing to Him.**

MATERIALS LIST

Lesson

- Clay or Play-Doh, enough for each child to have a fist-sized portion
- Many circles of blue and brown paper made by a hole punch
- Snippets of yarn, long and short in the colors of hair (yellow, brown, black)
- Doll from home
- Pictures of beautiful animals, fish and landscapes from books, magazines or printed from the internet

Intro Activity for Younger Children

- Crayons
- Coloring sheets

Intro Activity for Older Children

- 1 piece of lined paper for each child

Activity, Younger Children

- Styrofoam or foam board, one foot by one foot square
- Styrofoam cups, one for every child
- Brown bag type of paper, cut in one-foot by one-foot square sheets
- Dried flowers, enough for each child to have approximately 12

- Dried grass
- Foam square stenciled with fish for children to cut out
- Foam square stenciled with wing spans for children to cut out
- Stones or rocks (from the back yard)
- Scissors
- Pipe cleaners
- Animal crackers
- Clothes pins
- Markers
- Masking tape

Activity, Older Children

- Easy-to-read picture book that has the author's name on the cover

Game, Younger Children

- Cardboard tubes from toilet rolls or paper towel rolls

Game, Older Children

- List of the seven days of creation (one is with the game)

BIBLE READING / STORY:

GENESIS 1: GOD MADE THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH

1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

2 Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

3 And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. 4 God saw that the light was good, and He separated the light from the darkness. 5 God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day.

6 And God said, "Let there be an expanse between the waters to separate water from water." 7 So God made the expanse and separated the water under the expanse from the water above it. And it was so. 8 God called the expanse "sky." And there was evening, and there was morning—the second day.

9 And God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear." And it was so. 10 God called the dry ground "land," and the gathered waters he called "seas." And God saw that it was good.

11 Then God said, "Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds." And it was so. 12 The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. 13 And there was evening, and there was morning—the third day.

14 And God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark seasons and days and years, 15 and let them be lights in the expanse of the sky to give light on the earth." And it was so. 16 God made two great lights—the greater light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night. He also made the stars. 17 God set them in the expanse of the sky to give light on the earth, 18 to govern the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that it was good. 19 And there was evening, and there was morning—the fourth day.

20 And God said, "Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the sky." 21 So God created the great creatures of the sea and every

living and moving thing with which the water teems, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. 22 God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth." 23 And there was evening, and there was morning—the fifth day.

24 And God said, "Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: livestock, creatures that move along the ground, and wild animals, each according to its kind." And it was so. 25 God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.

26 Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

27 So God created man in his own image,
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them.

28 God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

29 Then God said, "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. 30 And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds of the air and all the creatures that move on the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food." And it was so.

31 God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.

LESSON (TEACHER WORDS IN BOLD):

GOD IS CREATIVE

Today we're going to talk about how God created the world and how much fun He had. On the sixth day, the Bible says that God created man and animals. That must have been fun, but do you wonder how He did that?

God enjoys when we imitate Him. So today we're going to create little boys and girls in our own likeness!

Give each child a portion of clay or Play-Doh. Have them shape something that resembles themselves.

We need our little likenesses to have faces and hair!

Pass out circles punched out of blue or brown paper. Have them press these on to make eyes, noses and mouths. Use the short snips of yarn for hair.

Did you know that some people don't believe that God created the world? They think it appeared here by itself. They want proof of God. It gets challenging for some people to believe in a God they can't touch, hear or see. How can we prove God created you and me?

Allow some answers.

I have an idea of my own. Let's try an experiment while we're finishing our likenesses. I've brought a doll from home.

Bring out doll and show everyone.

This is Mitzi the Doll. If I was to ask God to breathe the breath of life into Mitzi and turn her into a real little girl and He did it, wouldn't that prove that God could create little girls?

Some children will express skepticism, some belief, depending on ages; all answers are fine.

Hold up the doll and bow your head.

God, I want to see you breathe the breath of life and create a real little girl out of Mitzi. That way, I will believe you create girls in your likeness. Amen.

Put Mitzi under a blanket and imply that maybe God will do this if they go back to work on their own likenesses and be patient.

How many of you have had a pet? After you got that pet, what was one of the first things you did for the pet? Give it a name.

Let's everyone give your likeness a name now. It can be your name or it can be the name you always wanted, or it can be a silly name!

Let the children think of silly or cute names. Have them make a belt out of a piece of masking tape and write the name on the belt.

Now, how do we get this likeness to turn into a real person?

There's no way to.

Why can't we turn this likeness into a real person?

We're not God.

But how do we know that God really made man and it wasn't just an accident? Were you there? Was anybody there?

No.

I want proof that God can create a real little girl! God, did you change Mitzi yet? Pull the blanket off Mitzi and be horrified at the lack of change.

Older children will think this is very zany and will make jokes, which is perfectly fine.

Let's all pray really hard together. God, please change Mitzi into a real little girl so I'll know that you can create little girls. I need proof!

Keep repeating this chant. Older Children will be very annoyed by this point.

Take the hands of the child on either side of you and study their hands.

Wait a minute! Why am I asking God to make Mitzi into a real little girl to prove that He makes girls?

Touch faces, hair, shoulders, your own face.

I've got the evidence right here. People who don't believe God made the heavens, the earth, the animals and the people don't realize that the proof is right in front of them every day. They're missing the point; they're missing the proof.

The Bible says in Romans 1:20, "For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made."

Hold up pictures of funny and/or beautiful animals, scenery and flowers.

Keep asking, **Could this be an accident? Or this? How about this?**

Take hold of a child and stand him in front of the class. Ask him, **Are you an accident? No. Did God make you? Yes. How come?** Some interesting answers should follow. Answer: Because He felt creative. Because it was fun. Because He enjoyed it.

The Bible says that the beauty around us every day is our evidence of God's creativity.

God loves us to be creative and imitate Him. That's why we made our own likenesses. He is very happy with your artwork, even though...

Take hold of a real child.

...nobody can create like He can create.

INTRO ACTIVITY, YOUNGER CHILDREN: COLORING FLOWERS, IMITATING GOD

Put a silk flower or flowers in the middle of the table in a vase. As children arrive, direct them to a table with crayons and paper.

God created flowers. Now I would like you to create a flower.

Have the children draw the flowers in the vase. Have them hold up their drawings when they are finished.

These are all beautiful drawings but none of us are quite as good at creating as God, are we? But He loves it when we imitate Him. Therefore, He is very happy today with every flower that was made at this table.

INTRO ACTIVITY, OLDER CHILDREN: IN THE BEGINNING: LETTER SCRAMBLE

If you take some of the letters from the phrase "IN THE BEGINNING," you can create 28 three-letter words, 18 four-letter words, 21 five-letter words, and 3 six-letter words. See how many of these words you can create.

You can only repeat a letter that is repeated in the original phrase. For example, “IN THE BEGINNING” contains four N’s. Therefore you can use the letter ‘N’ up to four times in one word.

Here are three words to get you started: inn, thin, and tinge.

Answer Key:

inn	nit	nib	nth	net	tin
tie	the	ten	tee	hit	hie
hen	eng	egg	bin	bit	big
ben	bet	bee	beg	gin	gig
gte	gen	get	gee	inti	inge
nigh	nine	tine	ting	thin	then
thee	teen	hint	hebe	eben	bite
bent	beth	been	beet	gibe	gent
gene	night	ninth	neigh	tinge	thine
thing	hinge	heine	eight	binge	bight
being	beige	benin	benet	bethe	begin
beget	ghent	genie	genii genet	inning	
ignite	benign				

ACTIVITY, YOUNGER CHILDREN: CREATING YOUR OWN EARTH

After God created the earth and the air we breathe, here are some other things He created on the earth. Hold up the pieces as you say them:

Dry land Styrofoam or foam board

Water Styrofoam cup

Plants dried flowers

Fish foam square stenciled with fish

Birds foam square stenciled with wing spans

Animals animal crackers

Man clothes pins

We're going to create our own little piece of earth. Using 12" x 12" pieces of Styrofoam, have the students add the following:

Dry Land—Brown paper bag material & stones

Have them trace around a Styrofoam cup, cut out the circle, and glue the rest on top of the Styrofoam square to make land. The hole in the paper can be anywhere— in the center or towards one side.

Have them glue stones anywhere.

Water—Styrofoam cup. Have them cut half the height off the cup and color it blue with markers or paint. (They can fill them at home). They should glue the cup down on top of the circle cutout.

Plants—Dried flowers and dried grass. They can create holes in the bag with pencil points and stick the dried flowers in anywhere they please. Dried grass can be glued down also.

Fish—Craft foam sheets. Either stencil or draw on shapes of fish. Give each student a strip of four to cut out and place in the water cup.

Birds—Craft foam and a pipe cleaner. Either stencil or draw birds in flight. Give each student a strip of four to cut out. The pipe cleaners attach to the birds and then can be stuck in the ground (to help them fly).

Animals—Animal crackers. Children can help themselves to some as a snack, and the others can be laid into the flowers and rocks.

Adam & Eve—Clothes pins. Paint or use markers to draw on faces. Then they can be glued or left to walk about the creation.

ACTIVITY, OLDER CHILDREN:

DISCUSSION: FIND THE AUTHORS IN THE CREATIONS

Hold up a very easy-to-read book for young children that has the author's name on the jacket or cover.

Who wrote this book? Author's name.

Let's see if we can find the author inside the story somewhere.

Read through a few pages.

Did anyone see the author's name in the story itself? Did anyone see a picture of the author in the story itself? Did anyone see a drawing of the author in the story itself? No, no, no.

Pass the book around and ask children to look carefully on each page and see if the author is anywhere in the story.

Why are we looking for the author in the story? The author writes the story. The author isn't usually in the story.

When people want "evidence" that God created the universe, they mean they want to see Him or see His footprints or have Him show up in scientific data. They are looking for God, the author of the universe, in the story. It's as if they want Him to show up as a character.

Take the book again and hold it up. **What evidence of the author did you see in this story? How do we know somebody wrote it and it didn't write itself? The words are there... the artwork is there... it looks like his artwork from other books that he has written..."**

The evidence of the author is all over the place, isn't it? It's the same with creation. The evidence of God's story is all around us. We should not expect the author to show up as a character.

Repeat after me, and let's remember to tell others who don't believe that God is in charge:

God is the author.

He's not going to show up in the story.

God is the author.

He's not going to show up in the story.

You can repeat this exercise with a stuffed toy with a slight tear. Ask the children who designed the stuffed toy. (Mattel) Tell them to reach their finger into the tear and see if they can feel Mattel in there.

Repetition to share:

God is the designer.

He's not going to show up inside the fabric.

It works also with a sneaker. Ask children to reach in and see if they can find Mr. Reebok in there.

God is like Reebok.

He's not going to say "ouch" when you stick your foot in your shoe.

GAME, YOUNGER CHILDREN: CARDBOARD TUBES TO CELEBRATE GOD'S CREATION OF MAN

Tell every child to pick a partner. Give every child a cardboard tube from a toilet paper roll or paper towel roll. Tell them to hold it up to the left side of their partner's chest and listen to that his or her heart.

God created that human heart beat you hear.

Tell the Children to jump up and down twenty times. Each child should listen to his partner's heart again.

What happened to the person's heart beat? It got faster.

God created the human heart to beat fast when it is excited.

Tell everyone to lie down on the floor and be perfectly still for two minutes, breathing in and out slowly. Time them with a watch.

Tell the children to listen to their partner's heartbeat again.

What happened to the person's heart beat? It got slower again.

God makes hearts to rest, like on the seventh day, HE rested.

Tell the children to stick the tube to their partner's ear. Tell them to whisper what day of the week today is.

God made voices to whisper secrets and pretty things.

Tell the children who were partners to stick the tube to their partner's ear and say in a normal voice what day of the week it is.

God made voices to give us information.

Tell everyone to put their tubes down and sing along to "Jesus Loves Me."

God made voices to rejoice in Him.

GAME, OLDER CHILDREN: DISCUSSION: BIBLICAL SCIENCE

Some people are confused because the Bible describes the Creation Story in days, like this:

Day 1 - God created earth, space, time and light.

Day 2 - God created the atmosphere.

Day 3 - God created dry land and plants.

Day 4 - God created the sun, moon, and stars.

Day 5 - God created sea creatures and birds.

Day 6 - God created land animals and man.

They say nothing so big and vast could happen in a day. What does God mean by a “day” before there was a sun to rise and set?

Discussion leads to how God could mean millions of years. He obviously means “some period of time.”

We don’t know all the details about how the world began, because:

The Bible is not a scientific journal. It is a historic record for people who truly want to understand it.

No one was there!

Look at the Creation Game on the following page. It will help kids learn the six “days” of creation by acting them out (think charades)!

CREATION GAME

Hang a copy of the six days of creation on the wall:

Day 1: The heavens, the earth, light and darkness.

Day 2: The sky.

Day 3: Dry land, the seas, and vegetation.

Day 4: The sun, the moon and the stars.

Day 5: Living creatures in the water, birds in the air.

Day 6: Land animals and people.

Day 7: God "rested."

Have students take turns acting out a day of Creation and letting the other classmates guess which day it is. As some days are easier to mime than others, don't allow students to repeat a day more than twice.

As a "Part 2" of the game, take the list off the wall and ask students to repeat what God created on "Day 1," "Day 2," etc. Then, mix up the days so they are out of order. At the very end, ask everyone to repeat what God created in order of days one through seven.

CLOSING PRAYER

Dear Lord: Help us to remember that when we are creative, we are imitating You and that pleases you. Help us to remember to look for the evidence of You in all your artwork, which is nature, and to know You are real. Help us to know You are writing our story, even if You don't show up in the pages.

Amen.

GOD PROTECTS US FROM HARM & GIVES US COURAGE

Kids love boats, and kids love animals. Noah and the great flood is the ultimate story that combines both. The story has remained a Bible favorite with kids throughout history, likely because the imagery of animals going onto a boat to live together with people for 40 days and nights is awesome! It's better than a camping trip!

Kids and their teachers can have a lot of fun with this story, but it's important not to lose sight of the great message: **God protects people who love Him. God's protection is so great that He would protect one family in a flood that was big enough to cover the whole earth.**

MATERIALS LIST

Lesson

- 12 small children's building blocks
- 1 blindfold
- 1 noise maker or party horn

Intro Activity for Younger Children

- Animal crackers (enough for snack and art project)
- 24 small sandwich bags
- Bowl

Intro Activity for Older Children

- Paper and pencil for each child
- Bible

Activity, Younger Children

- Standard sized construction sheets for everyone with two, equally

spaced lines, drawn across the width, creating the three levels of the ark

- Strips of paper of different colors (8 ½ inches wide, 1 inch tall)
- Animal crackers
- Glue or stapler

Activity, Older Children

- No materials necessary

Game, Younger Children

- Tablecloth or sheet

Game, Older Children

- Blindfolds for all (made out of cut stockings, old neckties, or bandanas)
- Pieces of 12 inch string, one for each child

BIBLE READING / STORY: GENESIS 6-8

Genesis 6:

Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked with God.
10

11 Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight and was full of violence. 12 God saw how corrupt the earth had become, for all the people on earth had corrupted their ways. 13 So God said to Noah, "I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. I am surely going to destroy both them and the earth. 14 So make yourself an ark of cypress wood; make rooms in it and coat it with pitch inside and out. 15 This is how you are to build it: The ark is to be 450 feet long, 75 feet wide and 45 feet high. 16 Make a roof for it and finish the ark to within 18 inches of the top. Put a door in the side of the ark and make lower, middle and upper decks. 17 I am going to bring floodwaters on the earth to destroy all life under the heavens, every creature that has the breath of life in it. Everything on earth will perish. 18 But I will establish my covenant with you, and you will enter the ark—you and your sons and your wife and your sons' wives with you. 19 You are to bring into the ark two of all living creatures, male and female, to keep them alive with you. 20 Two of every kind of bird, of every kind of animal and of every kind of creature that moves along the ground will come to you to be kept alive. 21 You are to take every kind of food that is to be eaten and store it away as food for you and for them."

22 Noah did everything just as God commanded him.

Genesis 7:

1 The LORD then said to Noah, "Go into the ark, you and your whole family, because I have found you righteous in this generation. 2 Take with you seven of every kind of clean animal, a male and its mate, and two of every kind of unclean animal, a male and its mate, 3 and also seven of every kind of bird, male and female, to keep their various kinds alive throughout the earth. 4 Seven days from now I will send rain on the earth for forty days and forty nights, and I will wipe from the face of the earth every living creature I have made."

5 And Noah did all that the LORD commanded him.

13 On that very day Noah and his sons, Shem, Ham and Japheth, together with his wife and the wives of his three sons, entered the ark.

17 For forty days the flood kept coming on the earth, and as the waters increased they lifted the ark high above the earth. 18 The waters rose and increased greatly on the earth, and the ark floated on the surface of the water. 19 They rose greatly on the earth, and all the high mountains under the entire heavens were covered. 20 The waters rose and covered the mountains to a depth of more than twenty feet.

24 The waters flooded the earth for a hundred and fifty days.

Genesis 8:

5 The waters continued to recede until the tenth month, and on the first day of the tenth month the tops of the mountains became visible.

6 After forty days Noah opened the window he had made in the ark 7 and sent out a raven, and it kept flying back and forth until the water had dried up from the earth. 8 Then he sent out a dove to see if the water had receded from the surface of the ground. 9 But the dove could find no place to set its feet because there was water over all the surface of the earth; so it returned to Noah in the ark. He reached out his hand and took the dove and brought it back to himself in the ark. 10 He waited seven more days and again sent out the dove from the ark. 11 When the dove returned to him in the evening, there in its beak was a freshly plucked olive leaf! Then Noah knew that the water had receded from the earth. 12 He waited seven more days and sent the dove out again, but this time it did not return to him.

15 Then God said to Noah, 16 "Come out of the ark, you and your wife and your sons and their wives. 17 Bring out every kind of living creature that is with you—the birds, the animals, and all the creatures that move along the ground—so they can multiply on the earth and be fruitful and increase in number upon it."

20 Then Noah built an altar to the LORD and, taking some of all the clean animals and clean birds, he sacrificed burnt offerings on it.

LESSON (TEACHER WORDS IN BOLD): GOD PROTECTS THOSE WHO LOVE HIM

As students take their seats, scatter 12 children's building blocks on the floor. You should end up with approximately a foot of space around every block.

Tell the students to remain seated while you explain the activity:

Let's pretend these blocks are bombs. And let's pretend that if anyone were to accidentally kick the giant bomb, it would explode!

How many of you think that if you walked blindfolded through the bomb field that you could make it through without accidentally kicking one? That would be very hard, wouldn't it?

Let's have two volunteers. One student will walk around the bomb field blindfolded. The other student will blow a party horn, making a bomb noise, if the first student steps on or kicks a bomb. If the blindfolded student walks off the rug (out of the bomb area), the student with the bomb noise will blow as well. Everybody else keeps score.

Depending on how many students you have, let half take turns wearing the blindfold and the other half take turns blowing the bomb horn. If some are particularly good at this, spin them before their journey, as is done in Pin the Tail on the Donkey. Many will either step on or kick a bomb.

Ask students after the exercise:

How did you feel, being blindfolded and trying not to kick a bomb?

Did you think you were going to step on a bomb?

Was it hard not to step on a bomb?

Have students discuss how it felt. Even those who may not have stepped on a bomb should have experienced some anxiety about doing so.

This bomb field is sort of like life. We don't know when something is going to go wrong or something scary can happen right near us. We try to be as careful as we can, but since

we can't see what will happen tomorrow, it's kind of like being blindfolded. What are some scary things that could happen to us?

For example: We could get hit by a car. What other possibilities scare us? (Triggers: House could burn down, car accident, boating accident)

What do you guys think will happen to you tomorrow? (Have them name some good and bad things).

But the truth is...you don't really know, do you? Guessing what will happen tomorrow is a little like wearing this blindfold.

How did God protect Noah in the flood? He gave great instructions on how Noah should build the ark so it would remain safe. He kept the ark afloat on water that got very, very deep.

Since I'm the teacher, let's pretend I'm God. How many of you think that if you were blindfolded and sent back into the bomb field, that I could keep you from stepping on a bomb? Without picking you up and carrying you of course!

Take yes and no answers from students. Remain confident no matter what they say.

Noah still had to build the ark—God didn't build it for him. God is able to protect us from harm, but we have to do the work. We still have to walk through the mine field—we still have to live our lives every day--and trust God to keep us away from the bombs. Who wants to try it with me pretending to be God and protecting you from stepping on the bombs?

Blindfold the volunteer and place your hands on her shoulders. Tell her which direction to head and to take baby steps.

As the two of you approach a bomb, stand on top of it, covering it with your shoe, so it's impossible for the student to step on it or kick it.

This is how great God's protection can be. That's how Noah survived a huge, enormous flood that killed the biggest animals out there—elephants and giraffes! Yet the flood couldn't hurt Noah or his family—or any of the animals he took on the ark. God promised to protect Noah, and He did.

God can protect us too.

INTRO ACTIVITY, YOUNGER CHILDREN: “CALL TO THE ARK” TREASURE HUNT

Before class, hide animal crackers in sandwich bags all around the room—two in a bag (they don't have to match up). Depending on how many children you expect, hide enough bags so that each kid can find approximately four bags.

Tell the children as they enter class that the animals that will go on Noah's ark need to be called out of the wilderness. Tell each child that he may find only four bags (and don't open them yet!) After he has done so, he can help another child or take a seat. (Again: “We mustn't eat the animals!” The bag will help prevent that.)

When all the bags have been found, have the kids dump the cookies into a big bowl (for snack later) and give the baggies to the teacher.

INTRO ACTIVITY, OLDER CHILDREN: FIND BIBLE FACTS ABOUT NOAH

As children come into class say, **Noah was really old when he built the ark. And he had three sons. Look in Genesis 5 to find out how old Noah was and what the names of his three sons were! Write them down without misspelling or getting the ages wrong.**

ACTIVITY, YOUNGER CHILDREN: CREATE AN ARK

Three strips of paper should be pasted or stapled onto the construction sheet, lining up with the first panned line, the second panned line, and the bottom of the sheet.

A thin line of glue should be used around the sides and bottom. The top should be free of glue. This will create three “pockets.”

As the glue is drying, have the kids draw Noah and his family members on the page.

After the glue dries, the animal crackers can be placed in the “pockets” created by the strips glued or stapled to the sheet.

ACTIVITY, OLDER CHILDREN: DISCUSSION

Generate a discussion about the Genesis Flood and handling ridicule from peers, as Noah must have experienced. Here are some questions to start the conversation:

We all experience peer pressure in school. How do you think the people responded to Noah when they saw this huge ark being erected in his backyard?

Have you ever been laughed at for standing up for something you believe in? Tell us about it.

What happened to the people who laughed at Noah? What happened to Noah?

If we stand up for what's right, what can we expect to happen?

Does it always happen right away?

Can you think of a time you had to wait for your reward to come from God, and you started to think you might never get it?

Think of a situation that might come up at school next week, where you might have to do the right thing and someone might laugh or be mean (i.e. you might have to 'turn the other cheek' or keep being nice when somebody else is being mean to you).

Let's start planning ahead and think about how we can handle a situation like that.

GAME, YOUNGER CHILDREN: PRETEND ARK

Put a table cloth over one or two tables. Tell the kids it's the ark and that they are going inside. Tell them to bring an imaginary animal.

You can spark their imagination by saying, **"This is my tall, tall giraffe I'm bringing. Look I'm pretending to stroke his back."**

Once in the ark, have each child introduce his or her animal.

Pretend to feel the rain. Pretend to rock in the boat.

Tell everyone to hold on tight to their animals.

Pretend to send out the doves. Pretend to see the rainbow.

Everyone emerges.

Everyone pretends to feed the animals (and themselves) from a bowl of animal crackers.

GAME, OLDER CHILDREN: MAKE-A-SQUARE GAME

(Showing God's Guidance and Protection)

Have everyone take a seat in a circle on the floor. Blindfold each child. Give each child a piece of string. Tell the class that, without seeing, they are going to make a giant square with their pieces of string. Don't let anyone peek. Let the students do their best to make the square.

When they feel they have done the best job they can making the square, allow them to remove their blindfolds.

Repeat the game, this time without the blindfolds.

Questions:

What were some of the problems you ran into when you tried to create a square while wearing the blindfolds?

How much easier was it to create the square without the blindfolds?

If we have God in our lives and we ask for His protection, then we can "see." We should remember to ask God for His protection every morning and thank Him for it whenever we realize He has provided it during the day, and again at the end of every night. This will make all of our tasks easier.

CLOSING PRAYER

Dear Lord: Help us this week to remember how well You protected Noah, and how well You can protect us. Put it in our hearts to ask for Your help every morning and reflect on how You helped us every night.

Amen.

GOD'S PROMISE TO ABRAHAM

Many children have moved at least once. Sometimes moving can be very exciting and sometimes it is simply stressful. There may be new schools, new neighbors and the loss of old friends whom they miss.

It is in this way that most kids can relate to Father Abraham. He had to leave his home and travel where he had never been before to receive God's promises of becoming the father to the nation of Israel.

Kids will relate to his nervousness and can be taught through this story that the journey to God's promises is not always easy, but it is always rewarding, **and God always keeps His promises.**

MATERIALS LIST

Lesson

- Two water bottles for each child, one filled with an inch of water and one filled all the way (can be used bottles, washed and refilled at tap)
- Blindfold
- Intro Activity for Younger Children:
- Drawing Paper
- Crayons

Intro Activity for Younger Children

- Paper and Crayons

Intro Activity for Older Children

- Paper and pencils

Activity, Younger Children AND Older Children

- Standard sized construction sheets one for each child

- Plenty of magazine pages of clothes, furniture, gardens, toys...whatever families might want to buy for a new house
- Paste or Glue
- Stapler

Game, Younger Children

- Clay or Play-Doh

Game, Older Children

- Blindfolds (enough for half the students)
- Piece of construction paper
- Sharpie or marker
- Scotch tape

BIBLE READING / STORY: GENESIS 12-13

Genesis 12:

1 The LORD had said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people, and your father's household and go to the land I will show you.

2 "I will make you into a great nation
and I will bless you;
I will make your name great,
and you will be a blessing.

3 I will bless those who bless you,
and whoever curses you I will curse;
and all peoples on earth
will be blessed through you."

4 So Abram left, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Haran. 5 He took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated and the people they had acquired in Haran, and they set out for the land of Canaan, and they arrived there.

6 Abram traveled through the land as far as the site of the great tree of Moreh at Shechem. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. 7 The LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built an altar there to the LORD, who had appeared to him.

8 From there he went on toward the hills east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. There he built an altar to the LORD and called on the name of the LORD. 9 Then Abram set out and continued toward the Negev.

Genesis 13

14 The LORD said to Abram after Lot had parted from him, "Lift up your eyes from where you are and look north and south, east and west. 15 All the land that you see I will give to you and your offspring forever. 16 I will make your offspring like the dust of the earth, so that if anyone could count the dust, then your offspring could be counted. 17 Go, walk through the length and breadth of the land, for I am giving it to you."

18 So Abram moved his tents and went to live near the great trees of Mamre at Hebron, where he built an altar to the LORD.

LESSON (TEACHER WORDS IN BOLD): GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES

We are going to discuss how God keeps His promises.

Hand out a bottle filled with an inch or two of water. Place one in front of each child.

Let's start with a prayer: Heavenly Father, we thank you for this water. We thank you that it is your will and your promise that your people should not be without enough to drink. We pray that you will always give us enough to drink. Amen.

How much water is in this bottle?

Let children answer. They may answer in inches, ounces, or may simply say "not a lot."

Gee, I'm really thirsty. Is anyone else really thirsty? I'm going to drink my water now. Does anyone else want theirs?

Drink all of your water and many children will also.

Gee, I'm still thirsty. How many of you are still thirsty?

Some will play along and say they are still thirsty.

God promised us we would have enough water today. I need more. I know, let's put the bottles under this blanket and wait for Him to refill them. If God is capable of all things, then there's no reason He wouldn't refill our water bottles, right?

While we are waiting, let's play the 'Trust in God' Game.

Have all the children form a big circle for this variation of "Blind Man's Bluff." In the center, put one child who is blindfolded and one who is not. The one who isn't blindfolded is The Voice of the Lord.

Have the Voice of the Lord say, "I keep my promises."

The blindfolded child must move toward the voice and try to tag that person. Once a student tags the Voice of the Lord, he or she becomes the Voice. Another child is blindfolded, and the former joins the circle.

The children forming the circle should prevent either party from moving out of it.

Suggestion: The child who finds the Voice of the Lord the fastest gets a bottle of water.

Bring everyone back to their seats.

God always keeps His promises, but sometimes the voice of the Lord is hard to hear, isn't it? Sometimes it sounds like He's over here, when He's really over there. Sometimes we have trouble getting "in touch" with God's voice, right?

Think of a time when you asked God for something and you got it. Who can give an example of a time this has happened to you or someone you know?

(Examples: Recovering from a sickness, receiving a toy, or becoming a better sports player.)

Let's say that you pray for something and you still haven't gotten it. Does that mean God didn't hear you? (Some discussion of what this means will follow.)

Does that mean He doesn't love you? (Some discussion of what this means will follow.)

Sometimes we ask God for something and we don't get it right away. We have to wait. Can you think of a time when you prayed really hard for something and then had to wait for it?

(Examples: Recovering from a sickness, receiving a toy, or becoming a better sports player.)

Does God promise to always give us what we want? No.

Why not? He promises to give us what will be best for us in the long run. He doesn't want us to get spoiled. He wants us to think of others as well as ourselves.

Do you think God wants you to have enough to drink? I'm still really thirsty. Shall we look and see if God refilled the water bottles yet?

Pull the blanket off and the water bottles will still be empty.

Oh my! What could this mean? Does it mean God doesn't want us to have enough water?

Does it mean God doesn't hear our prayers?

Does it mean He doesn't love us? No, and most children will provide some insightful answers to why prayers don't get answered right away.

However, God always keeps His promises. Today, we asked Him to provide for our thirst. Sometimes we have to be open to God answering our prayers in a way that might be different than the one we were expecting. He can always answer better than we think He's going to.

Go to a hiding place like a cupboard or a closed cardboard box. It should be filled with water bottles filled all the way to the top with water.

As you pass out a water bottle to each child, tell the Abraham story:

God made promises to Abraham that he would be the father of a great people and that he would own land from one horizon to the other. God promised that Abraham and his descendants would not be hungry or thirsty.

But to get that promise, Abraham had to move far away from home. He had to go somewhere that he had never been before and meet new people, some of whom were very scary.

God did not simply drop all the good things in his lap.

So it is with God's promises. We have to do what He wants us to do and be courageous.

Sometimes we have to wait, but God always keeps His promises.

INTRO ACTIVITY, YOUNGER CHILDREN: COLORING: IF YOU HAD TO MOVE

Hand out sheets of construction paper and crayons. As they arrive, ask the kids the following question:

Let's say you had to move to the other side of the world with your parents. They told you that you can only bring five of your toys. Which toys would you bring?

Ask the kids to draw a picture of those five toys.

Note: This can be a disconcerting exercise for some personality types as the questions arise of what will be left behind. Remind them that in new places and new situations, great things can happen! Be confident.

INTRO ACTIVITY, OLDER CHILDREN: IF YOU HAD TO MOVE LIST

Hand out sheets of paper and pencils. As they arrive, ask the kids the following question:

Let's say you had to move to the other side of the world with your parents. They told you that you can only bring five of your toys, games or forms of entertainment. What would they be? (Include cell phones, iPods, computer games, television and computer in these.)

Have kids split the paper in half. On one side of the page, write down the five things they would bring. On the other side of the page, list some special things they would have to leave behind.

Discuss what they would take, what they would be forced to leave and how and why they made their decisions.

ACTIVITY, YOUNGER & OLDER CHILDREN: NEW HOUSE COLLAGE

Bring in pages from catalogues and magazines of toys, clothes, electronics, bedroom furniture and any other visuals of things that kids might want to own.

Give each student a piece of construction paper.

Tell them to pretend they just arrived at their new home (from the Intro Activity). The one in which they could only bring five things.

Tell them that now they may cut out ANYTHING from the magazines that they might want at their new house.

They can paste the cutouts into a collage.

At the end staple the two pictures together— the drawing of list of the five objects from the Intro Activity and the collage of everything they've chosen for their new house.

When God takes something away, such as an old home, He provides something better. He asks us to seek His voice and have patience.

GAME, YOUNGER CHILDREN: PROMISES OF GOD MADE WITH CLAY

Using Play-Doh or clay, have students mold something they would like to have in a new house if they had to move. Upon completion, the student to the right has to guess what that thing is.

Suggestion: Make sure to compliment each work of art individually before the guesses begin. That way, if other students can't guess, there aren't hurt feelings.

Sometimes with God's promises, we have to wait. And sometimes things happen that we didn't plan for. Everyone take the item you made of clay and make a pancake out of it. Flatten it.

Once students have a mound of clay again, talk about patience.

Sometimes it looks like our prayers will never be answered. Sometimes it looks like we have to start all over again. Everyone take your clay glob and remake the thing you're hoping for. Or, if you thought of something different you'd like, make that instead!

Everyone either makes a new thing or remakes their old thing. Point out the new things.

Sometimes God doesn't give us what we want because we really don't need it! He knows there is something better for us. Sometimes it's good that we have to start with a new dream.

Everyone can keep these latest formations to take home.

GAME, OLDER CHILDREN: FINDING OUR OWN CANAAN

Write the word CANAAN on a sheet of construction paper. Have students form teams of two. Have one student on each team put on a blindfold. Tape the CANAAN word to the wall somewhere in the room. When you say, "Go," the teammate who can see must direct his blindfolded teammate to the word by saying "front," "back," "left," and "right."

The team that gets the word CANAAN off the wall first wins.

Again, listening for your teammate is a little like listening for the voice of the Lord. That's what Abram had to do to fulfill God's will and receive all the promises from God for future generations. It can be confusing, trying to hear God's voice. There is a lot of noise in life—a lot of other people trying to get their way or get to their own places. You have to listen through all of that "noise" to hear God's voice, just like you had to listen through the other teams. We need to try to listen to God's voice, ignoring all of the other noise around us, so that we can follow His will and receive His promises for us!

CLOSING PRAYER

Dear Lord: Help us this week to remember how You love to make promises to mankind and keep them. Help us to know You better so that we can always hear Your voice and find Your promises especially for us.

Amen.

ABRAHAM AND SARAH HAVE A BABY

One of the first miracles of recorded history is Sarah conceiving Isaac at the age of ninety. Children will hear daily, in schools or in their neighborhoods, that God is either not capable of performing miracles or is not interested enough in our lives to perform them. **Hence, instilling the belief in the miraculous is to instill a belief in the caring nature of God the Father. Miracles are one signature of His existence, one proof that He cares for us.**

MATERIALS LIST

Lesson

- One pencil (For the magnetic pencil trick. If you want to embellish the trick, as some clips show online, use two pencils and either a watch band or a rubber band)

Intro Activity for Younger Children

- Small baby doll as Baby Isaac wrapped in a blanket

Intro Activity for Older Children

- Three bottle caps, one with an “X” marked underneath the cap with a marker

Activity, Younger Children

- Two clothes pins for each child, the kind that “pinch” and have the little metal pincher near the center
- Little swatches of cloth or felt (pre-cut)
- Markers
- Six 1” strands of brown yarn for each child
- Six 3” strands of brown yarn for each child
- Six 3” strands of yellow or black yarn for each child
- One pencil eraser for each child (the kind that fits over top of a pencil’s real eraser)
- One tiny strip of material that will fit around the skinny part of the eraser for each child

- Two 2” pieces of pipe cleaner for each child
- Glue sticks

Activity, Older Children

- Water bottles, one for each child
- Orange tissue paper
- Quarters, one for each child
- Black and blue Sharpie pens
- Scotch tape
- Scissors

Game, Younger Children

- Masking tape
- Paper
- Crayons

Game, Older Children

- Masking tape (thick roll, 2” if possible)
- Two 12” pieces of ribbon

BIBLE READING / STORY:

GENESIS 17

1 When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said, "I am God Almighty; walk before me and be blameless. 2 I will confirm my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers."

3 Abram fell facedown, and God said to him, 4 "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations. 5 No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations. 6 I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you. 7 I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you. 8 The whole land of Canaan, where you are now an alien, I will give as an everlasting possession to you and your descendants after you; and I will be their God."

9 Then God said to Abraham, "As for you, you must keep my covenant, you and your descendants after you for the generations to come. 10 This is my covenant with you and your descendants after you, the covenant you are to keep: Every male among you shall be circumcised. 11 You are to undergo circumcision, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and you. 12 For the generations to come every male among you who is eight days old must be circumcised, including those born in your household or bought with money from a foreigner—those who are not your offspring. 13 Whether born in your household or bought with your money, they must be circumcised. My covenant in your flesh is to be an everlasting covenant. 14 Any uncircumcised male, who has not been circumcised in the flesh, will be cut off from his people; he has broken my covenant."

15 God also said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you are no longer to call her Sarai; her name will be Sarah. 16 I will bless her and will surely give you a son by her. I will bless her so that she will be the mother of nations; kings of peoples will come from her."

17 Abraham fell facedown; he laughed and said to himself, "Will a son be born to a man a hundred years old? Will Sarah bear a child at the age of ninety?" 18 And Abraham said to God, "If only Ishmael might live under your blessing!"

19 Then God said, "Yes, but your wife Sarah will bear you a son, and you will call him Isaac. I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his descendants after him. 20 And as for Ishmael, I have heard you: I will surely bless him; I will make him fruitful and will greatly increase his numbers. He will be the father of twelve rulers, and I will make him into a great nation. 21 But my covenant I will establish with Isaac, whom Sarah will bear to you by this time next year." 22 When he had finished speaking with Abraham, God went up from him.

LESSON (TEACHER WORDS IN BOLD): ABRAHAM & SARAH HAVE A BABY

What is a miracle? Let children answer.

Why is it a miracle that Abraham and Sarah had baby Isaac? Because Abraham was a hundred years old and Sarah was ninety.

That's old, isn't it? Do you know how old your grandparents are? Answers should be around 50-70. **Abraham and Sarah were old enough to be your grandparents' parents! So, we know that God is surely able to perform miracles—if He wants to.**

So why doesn't God perform miracles all the time? Why doesn't God just find the car that I want most and drop it in my driveway? Allow them to answer in their own ways; it should be interesting. Some might say because he wants you to earn it.

If I got the car I wanted, then I might ask for a mansion. God doesn't want us to be greedy about material things, does He?

There's another good reason God doesn't perform miracles all the time—especially when it comes to people who say, "Let God prove Himself if He's real!" Listen to this scripture from Matthew 16: The Pharisees and Sadducees came to Jesus and tested him by asking him to show them a sign from heaven. He replied... "A wicked and adulterous generation looks for a miraculous sign, but none will be given it..."

God did so many miracles in the Bible. When people ask for more miracles so that He can prove Himself...how does He feel? Frustrated and angry.

He wants us to believe Him the first time. We can demonstrate with this magic trick I'm going to show you.

You're going to do the very easy "magnetic pencil trick." Turn left, with your right shoulder to the children. Take a pencil and hold it in your right fist in front of you, so the children can only see the back of your fist. Your fingers should face away from them.

Watch. When I grip my wrist, the pencil will stick. When I let go, the pencil will drop.

Wrap your left hand around your right wrist, but use your index finger to the pencil in place. Spread the fingers on your right hand. The index finger from your left hand will be holding the pencil in place. Let go of your wrist, the pencil will drop. Do it quickly, so the children can't study it too carefully.

For stronger variations, simply Google "magnetic pencil trick," and you will find video clips and diagrams.

Would you like to see it again? Yes. If some guess how you did it, don't confess, but repeat the question.

Why? I already did it once. It is a trick. It is not a miracle. You all saw me do it. You believe now that I can do the "magnetic pencil trick," right? Yes, but we want you to do it again.

See, this is what God goes through when He performs a miracle. People want to see it again. They want to dissect it and look at it closely. They want to explain it.

GOD JUST WANTS YOU TO BELIEVE IN HIM BECAUSE OF IT. ASKING HIM TO REPEAT HIS MIRACLES OVER AND OVER SHOWS A LACK OF FAITH, and that's why He got mad at those Scribes and Pharisees.

We're supposed to believe the miracles of the Bible, according to Jesus. God should not have to prove Himself to us now after all He did then.

INTRO ACTIVITY, YOUNGER CHILDREN: FIND THE BABY ISAAC

Have a very small baby doll on hand, dressed up to look like the baby Isaac.

Today we are going to learn a magic trick to help us understand why God performs miracles. Why don't we try to become magical ourselves? See if there's enough magic in your minds to help you locate the baby Isaac in this room.

Have kids put their heads down on the table while you hide the baby Isaac. They can try to find him, similar to a game of Heads Up 7-Up.

Keep hiding him and letting the students find him until all have arrived.

INTRO ACTIVITY, OLDER CHILDREN: FIND THE "X" GAME

Today we're going to learn a magic trick to help us understand why God performs miracles. While we're waiting for everyone to arrive, why don't we practice some magic ourselves?

Place three bottle caps on the table. One should have an "X" drawn inside the cap with a marker. The others should be plain.

When you're magical enough, you'll always know which bottle cap has the "X" under it.

Move the bottle caps into each other's places in front of you again and again. See who can keep their eye on the caps enough to know where the "X" is.

ACTIVITY, YOUNGER CHILDREN: ABRAHAM AND SARAH CLOTHES PIN PUPPETS

Have the children design Sarah and Abraham out of clothes pins. The end that clamps together is the top of the puppet. Pass out the items from the Materials List.

Students should:

1. Glue the precut outfits onto the clothes pin just below the metal clip.
2. Draw the eyes, nose and mouth on above the metal clip.
3. Find the center of the pipe cleaner. Dab it with stick glue.
4. Open the clamp and place the pipe cleaner down into the mouth as far as it can go, close to the metal clip. Once the clamp is closed, the pipe cleaner should work like arms.
5. Run the glue stick along the inside of the clamp, and clamp the strands of yarn hair in the very center, so the yarn hangs down fairly evenly on both sides.
6. Run the glue stick just above the metal clamp on Abraham's face and lay six tiny strands of yarn down for his beard.
7. On the fat part of the pencil eraser, paint the eyes, nose and mouth of baby Isaac.
8. Across the skinny part of the pencil eraser, glue the tiny strip of material that will be either a baby outfit or baby blanket.
9. Wrap Sarah's pipe cleaner arms around the baby. Abraham can hold him too.
10. Both puppets should be able to stand up by themselves upon completion.

ACTIVITY, OLDER CHILDREN: FISH WITH THE TAX COIN IN HIS MOUTH!

Kids will have fun making this fish out of a water bottle in commemoration of Matthew 17:24-27. With this miracle, Jesus got money for the temple tax by sending the disciples to look in a fish's mouth. It's easy, with the economy being strained, for people to become convinced that God doesn't care about finances. This elaborate miracle will reinforce that God is always there to help their parents provide for them.

1. Be sure the water bottles are dry on the inside.

2. Have kids stuff them with fluffy pieces of orange tissue paper.
3. Have them use more tissue to cut out fins and a tail and apply them with scotch tape.
4. They can draw faces on the fish with the Sharpies and also add little scales.
5. Finally, they should shove the quarter sideways into the fish's mouth. On a standard water bottle, it should stay firmly.

Jesus could have brazenly told the temple tax collectors that “children of the temple should not pay tax.” He could have caused a whole scene about how he was right and they were wrong. Instead, he did a quiet miracle seen perhaps only by Simon Peter. Some of Jesus’ miracles were quiet, and done in a humble way, rather than blasting everyone with a lecture.

GAME, YOUNGER CHILDREN: CRIPPLED FINGERS GAME

We celebrate miracles, not only because they show God’s goodness to all who hear, but because the person who received a miracle was set free. Let’s pretend we have a crippled hand and Jesus can come to heal us.

Go around with the masking tape. Tape the four fingers of each student’s hands together. Then tape the thumb to the side of their hands. Taped, they should color a picture of Jesus healing a person with a crippled hand. When all are finished, find the ends of the masking tape and loosen each hand. Have the children place their taped hand in the air. Have them say along with you:

One, two, three...Jesus healed me! They should pull on the loose end and watch the masking tape come free.

How did it feel to have to try to do things with a crippled hand?

How must people feel when they can’t use both of their hands?

How might they feel if Jesus came along to heal them?

GAME, OLDER CHILDREN: RISE UP & WALK GAME

We celebrate miracles, not only because they show God's goodness to all who hear, but because the person who received a miracle was set free. Let's pretend we have crippled limbs and see how far we can get.

Have the children pick a partner. Have both partners stand at one end of the room. Use masking tape to tape the children's legs together at the ankles. Tape their wrists together too.

Lay two pieces of ribbon at the other end of the room.

The goal is for team members to hop to the other end of the room, pick up the ribbon, tie a bow, and hop back bringing the tied ribbon to the next child.

That next child hops up to the opposite wall, unties the ribbon, then returns with the untied ribbon and gives it to the next child.

Whichever team finishes the race first wins.

How would you feel if you had to go around crippled like that all the time?

When someone who had never walked was healed by Jesus, how do you think he felt?

How did Sarah feel when she was old enough to be a great grandmother, and God finally gave her a baby?

CLOSING PRAYER

Dear Lord: Help us to remember this week to always be fair, even if others are not being fair to us. Even though we might not always understand at the time, help us to believe that You are the one who makes everything fair in the end.

Amen.

ISAAC AND REBEKAH

The story of Isaac's servant using signs to find Isaac's bride and complete God's will is very special. It shows children how God is always willing to help us do His will. **God's will is not always easy to hear but His voice is always present**, as it was for Isaac and Rebekah. We have to listen closely, watch carefully and be willing to follow what He tells us.

MATERIALS LIST

Lesson

- Two different types of candy bar
- One box of raisins
- Two metal pot lids that can be banged together
- One pot
- Two wooden or plastic cooking spoons that can be used as "drum sticks"

Intro Activity for Younger Children

- Ball of yarn that can unroll several hundred feet

Intro Activity for Older Children

- No materials needed

Activity, Younger Children

- Yarn or string from Intro Activity (you can use all that you unwound)
- Coloring paper, one sheet for each child
- Dark colored marker pens (dark blue, black, dark brown), one for each child
- Brightly colored markers and/or crayons
- Craft glue (glue sticks won't work on this one!)

Activity, Older Children

- Yarn or string from Intro Activity (you can use all that you unwound now)
- Coloring paper, one sheet for each child
- Dark colored marker pens (dark blue, black, dark brown), one for each child
- Brightly colored markers and/or crayons
- Craft glue (glue stick won't work on this one!)

Game, Younger Children

- Pot, lid and “drums” from the Intro Activity

Game, Older Children

- Pot, lid and “drums” from the Intro Activity
- Scriptures written on index cards:
 - John 6:35 I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry...
 - 1 John 4: 7 Beloved let us love one another, for love is of God...
 - Revelation 21:8 I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End...
 - John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word. The word was with God and the word WAS God...
 - Matthew 6:33 Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness...
 - 1 Corinthians 13:4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast...
 - Exodus 20:2 I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt...

BIBLE READING / STORY: GENESIS 24; ISAAC AND REBEKAH

1 Abraham was now old and well advanced in years, and the LORD had blessed him in every way. 2 He said to the chief servant in his household, the one in charge of all that he had, "Put your hand under my thigh. 3 I want you to swear by the LORD, the God of heaven and the God of earth, that you will not get a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I am living, 4 but will go to my country and my own relatives and get a wife for my son Isaac."

5 The servant asked him, "What if the woman is unwilling to come back with me to this land? Shall I then take your son back to the country you came from?"

6 "Make sure that you do not take my son back there," Abraham said. 7 "The LORD, the God of heaven, who brought me out of my father's household and my native land and who spoke to me and promised me on oath, saying, 'To your offspring I will give this land'-he will send his angel before you so that you can get a wife for my son from there. 8 If the woman is unwilling to come back with you, then you will be released from this oath of mine. Only do not take my son back there." 9 So the servant put his hand under the thigh of his master Abraham and swore an oath to him concerning this matter.

10 Then the servant took ten of his master's camels and left, taking with him all kinds of good things from his master. He set out for Aram Naharaim and made his way to the town of Nahor. 11 He had the camels kneel down near the well outside the town; it was toward evening, the time the women go out to draw water.

12 Then he prayed, "O LORD, God of my master Abraham, give me success today, and show kindness to my master Abraham. 13 See, I am standing beside this spring, and the daughters of the townspeople are coming out to draw water. 14 May it be that when I say to a girl, 'Please let down your jar that I may have a drink,' and she says, 'Drink, and I'll water your camels too'-let her be the one you have chosen for your servant Isaac. By this I will know that you have shown kindness to my master."

15 Before he had finished praying, Rebekah came out with her jar on her shoulder. She was the daughter of Bethuel son of Milcah, who was the wife of Abraham's brother Nahor. 16 The girl was very beautiful, a virgin; no man had ever lain with her. She went down to the spring, filled her jar and came up again.

17 The servant hurried to meet her and said, "Please give me a little water from your jar."

18 "Drink, my lord," she said, and quickly lowered the jar to her hands and gave him a drink.

19 After she had given him a drink, she said, "I'll draw water for your camels too, until they have finished drinking." 20 So she quickly emptied her jar into the trough, ran back to the well to draw more water, and drew enough for all his camels. 21 Without saying a word, the man watched her closely to learn whether or not the LORD had made his journey successful.

22 When the camels had finished drinking, the man took out a gold nose ring weighing a beka and two gold bracelets weighing ten shekels. 23 Then he asked, "Whose daughter are you? Please tell me, is there room in your father's house for us to spend the night?"

24 She answered him, "I am the daughter of Bethuel, the son that Milcah bore to Nahor." 25 And she added, "We have plenty of straw and fodder, as well as room for you to spend the night."

26 Then the man bowed down and worshiped the LORD, 27 saying, "Praise be to the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who has not abandoned his kindness and faithfulness to my master. As for me, the LORD has led me on the journey to the house of my master's relatives."

28 The girl ran and told her mother's household about these things. 29 Now Rebekah had a brother named Laban, and he hurried out to the man at the spring. 30 As soon as he had seen the nose ring, and the bracelets on his sister's arms, and had heard Rebekah tell what the man said to her, he went out to the man and found him standing by the camels near the spring. 31 "Come, you who are blessed by the LORD," he said. "Why are you standing out here? I have prepared the house and a place for the camels."

32 So the man went to the house, and the camels were unloaded. Straw and fodder were brought for the camels, and water for him and his men to wash their feet. 33 Then food was set before him, but he said, "I will not eat until I have told you what I have to say."

"Then tell us," Laban said.

34 So he said, "I am Abraham's servant. 35 The LORD has blessed my master abundantly, and he has become wealthy. He has given him sheep and cattle, silver and gold, menservants and maidservants, and camels and donkeys. 36 My master's wife Sarah has borne him a son in her old age, and he has given him everything he owns. 37 And my master made me swear an oath, and said, 'You must not get a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live, 38 but go to my father's family and to my own clan, and get a wife for my son.'

39 "Then I asked my master, 'What if the woman will not come back with me?'

40 "He replied, 'The LORD, before whom I have walked, will send his angel with you and make your journey a success, so that you can get a wife for my son from my own clan and from my father's family. 41 Then, when you go to my clan, you will be released from my oath even if they refuse to give her to you—you will be released from my oath.'

42 "When I came to the spring today, I said, 'O LORD, God of my master Abraham, if you will, please grant success to the journey on which I have come. 43 See, I am standing beside this spring; if a maiden comes out to draw water and I say to her, "Please let me drink a little water from your jar," 44 and if she says to me, "Drink, and I'll draw water for your camels too," let her be the one the LORD has chosen for my master's son.'

45 "Before I finished praying in my heart, Rebekah came out, with her jar on her shoulder. She went down to the spring and drew water, and I said to her, 'Please give me a drink.'

46 "She quickly lowered her jar from her shoulder and said, 'Drink, and I'll water your camels too.' So I drank, and she watered the camels also.

47 "I asked her, 'Whose daughter are you?'

"She said, 'The daughter of Bethuel son of Nahor, whom Milcah bore to him.'

"Then I put the ring in her nose and the bracelets on her arms, 48 and I bowed down and worshiped the LORD. I praised the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me on the right road to get the granddaughter of my master's brother for his son. 49 Now if you will show kindness and faithfulness to my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so I may know which way to turn."

50 Laban and Bethuel answered, "This is from the LORD; we can say nothing to you one way or the other. 51 Here is Rebekah; take her and go, and let her become the wife of your master's son, as the LORD has directed."

52 When Abraham's servant heard what they said, he bowed down to the ground before the LORD. 53 Then the servant brought out gold and silver jewelry and articles of clothing and gave them to Rebekah; he also gave costly gifts to her brother and to her mother. 54 Then he and the men who were with him ate and drank and spent the night there.

When they got up the next morning, he said, "Send me on my way to my master."

55 But her brother and her mother replied, "Let the girl remain with us ten days or so; then you may go."

56 But he said to them, "Do not detain me, now that the LORD has granted success to my journey. Send me on my way so I may go to my master."

57 Then they said, "Let's call the girl and ask her about it." 58 So they called Rebekah and asked her, "Will you go with this man?"

"I will go," she said.

59 So they sent their sister Rebekah on her way, along with her nurse and Abraham's servant and his men. 60 And they blessed Rebekah and said to her,

"Our sister, may you increase
to thousands upon thousands;
may your offspring possess
the gates of their enemies."

61 Then Rebekah and her maids got ready and mounted their camels and went back with the man. So the servant took Rebekah and left.

62 Now Isaac had come from Beer Lahai Roi, for he was living in the Negev. 63 He went out to the field one evening to meditate, and as he looked up, he saw camels approaching. 64 Rebekah also looked up and saw Isaac. She got down from her camel 65 and asked the servant, "Who is that man in the field coming to meet us?"

"He is my master," the servant answered. So she took her veil and covered herself.

66 Then the servant told Isaac all he had done. 67 Isaac brought her into the tent of his mother Sarah, and he married Rebekah. So she became his wife, and he loved her; and Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.

LESSON (TEACHER WORDS IN BOLD): GOD LEADS THE WAY

God did a lot of things to make sure that Isaac was introduced to a good wife whom he would love his whole life. Marriage is an important decision, isn't it?

Let's think of some important decisions we will have to make soon. Ask the children to think of something they want help with.

Some prompts:

- Which sport to play.
- Whether or not to play with a friend who isn't always well behaved.
- Whether to trust a sibling who asks to borrow something and swears she'll give it back.
- What to do with an allowance or birthday money—whether to spend or save.

Signs are gifts from God that helped bring Rebekah to Isaac. The servant asked the Lord that when he saw the right girl for Isaac, she would do something. What was that thing? If a maiden comes out to draw water and I say to her, "Please let me drink a little water from your jar," and if she says to me, "Drink, and I'll draw water for your camels too," let her be the one the LORD has chosen for my master's son.'

God wants to help show us the way in life. He also wants to build our faith. That's why we have to

- **Listen carefully**
- **Ask carefully**
- **Believe that God is leading us**

Let's start with listening carefully. Who knows what the voice of the Lord sounds like? Let them give various answers.

Bring out two different types of candy bar and a box of raisins.

Often God's voice is not loud. It's described as "a still, small voice." When you want God's help with a decision, you have to listen carefully. There are often lots of things to

distract us. Let's say we have three snacks and our friend has none, and we have to decide whether we're going to share, when we'd love to eat the whole thing.

Bring two children to the front of the room. Hand the first one two metal pot lids for her to bang together like cymbals.

Loud things that prevent us from hearing God's voice sometimes include our own selfish desires.

Instruct the child with the pot lids to bang them together and yell, "I WANT TO KEEP ALL MY STUFF TO MYSELF!! I WANT TO KEEP ALL MY STUFF TO MYSELF!! I WANT TO KEEP ALL MY STUFF TO MYSELF!!"

Other loud things can be the devil, who loves to make us think that being a Christian is no fun at all.

Give the second child the drum sticks and the pot. Instruct him to bang the pot and say, "YOU HAVE TO GIVE HER THE ONE YOU WANT MOST OR YOU ARE NOT GOOD ENOUGH FOR GOD! SO JUST FORGET THE WHOLE THING!"

Have the two of them compete against each other, banging, clanging and saying their lines, then stop them.

To hear the still, small voice of the Lord you have to listen through all of that noise and "watch" carefully, which means to watch with your heart.

Have the children clang, bang, and recite their lines again, this time with you adding in with the small, enunciated voice in between them:

Keep the one you like best. Offer your friend a choice of the other two.

Repeat the exercise several times as the children watch you carefully and listen until someone gets it.

Sometimes our desires can be very loud, and the voices of darkness can be very loud. But if you look, listen and believe that what you've heard is right; God is always there for you.

Hold one candy bar to your chest, and asked the child who first got the correct answer to pick between the other two.

INTRO ACTIVITY, YOUNGER CHILDREN: FOLLOWING THE WILL OF GOD

Before class, take a ball of yarn and wrap it around the legs of chairs, over the table and around and through any toy shelves until it is very confusing (you can cut it later).

Today we're going to practice listening for the will of God. It's like following a path that can feel all tangled up. Without pulling on it, follow this string and see if you can find the end.

You can cut the string when you're finished and pull all the pieces out.

Intro Activity, Older Children

WHISPER DOWN GOD'S LANE

When we have to make tough decisions, God's will is always available for us, but we have to pay attention. It's sort of like this game of Whisper Down the Lane...God's way. The point here is to listen carefully, be very accurate, and don't mess up when repeating what is said. Sit in a circle. Whisper a short phrase to a child. He will then turn to the next child and repeat that phrase. Each child will continue to whisper to the next until the phrase has made it all the way around the circle. The last child will say the phrase out loud and see how different it is from the original phrase!

ACTIVITY, YOUNGER CHILDREN: STRING PUZZLE

Today we are going to make a string puzzle to help us remember to stay on the path of God's will.

Have students draw an "endless squiggle line" on their paper with a black marker. This will divide the paper into little portions they can then color with different colored crayons. After drawing and coloring, run a line of glue across the squiggle line. Using the pieces of string from the Intro Activity, have students press the string to the glue.

The string is like God's will for our lives. It's always there, and it always sticks out. We just have to pay attention and follow it!

ACTIVITY, OLDER CHILDREN: LIGHTING THE WAY

Recreate the same activity as for the YOUNGER CHILDREN. Instead of coloring the little sections with solid colors, encourage them to use stripes, checks, flower patterns and glitter.

They should write at the bottom, GOD LIGHTS THE WAY FOR US. Have them use glue and glitter to highlight the words LIGHTS THE WAY.

GAME, YOUNGER CHILDREN: BANG THE POTS FOR GOD GAME

Use the pot lids for cymbals and the pot and sticks for drums from the earlier lesson. Have one child practice being God and saying something nice about another child. You should “huddle” with her first in private whispers so she can practice her compliment. As the child repeats it for the class, two other children should bang on the pots and make noise. Children should listen as she repeats it several times until they get what she is saying. Tell her not to scream, but to remain the still, small voice.

Note: If it is too hard for a child to talk while others are banging, have her hold her ears while reciting her compliment.

Prompt the “God players” with short lines they might use, so they don’t stumble once the banging starts:

Joanna’s dress is very nice today.

Johnny smiles really nice and makes me smile.

Alex is fun to play with.

Abbey’s laugh always makes me want to laugh.

It’s fun to practice hearing the still, small voice of God. And now we know that given time, practice and a strong desire...we always can!

GAME, OLDER CHILDREN: GOD'S WORD VERSUS THE WORLD GAME

One way we can figure out God's will is by reading His Word. However, there are challenges with that. We feel we don't have time. We have too much homework. Our friends are texting us to come over. The world is full of banging, noisy sounds and God's word is the still, small voice.

Return to the pots for cymbals and the sticks and pot for drums used in today's lesson. Give one student an index card with a scripture verse on it. He will play God. Have two other students bang and make noises. They will be the world.

Have the child playing God read the scripture in a normal voice while the others bang and hoot and holler. Repeat several times to see if the children can get it. The first to repeat it back verbatim wins.

Keep switching children so everyone has a turn to play an instrument and play the "God role."

Scriptures to use:

- John 6:35 I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry...
- 1 John 4: 7 Beloved let us love one another, for love is of God...
- Revelation 21:8 I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End...
- John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word. The word was with God and the word WAS God...
- Matthew 6:33 Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness...
- 1 Corinthians 13:4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast...
- Exodus 20:2 I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt...

CLOSING PRAYER

Father, thank you for always providing Your light to show us the way. Give us hope every day to follow You and not listen to the sounds of the world.

Amen.