

MOPS LEADER'S GUIDE

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HELLO, TEACHERS!

We are so excited for you to be a MOPS leader this year in the important ministry of preschool. And we are thrilled that the Moppets program will be using *My Favorite Bible* storybook as the basis for the curriculum. Wow! What an honor! And we want to help and encourage you, the wonderful teachers, by providing a simple yet comprehensive tool for leading your class with excitement, energy, depth, and fun.

This teacher's guide is designed to go with *My Favorite Bible: The Best-Loved Stories of the Bible*, a book of exciting, fun-to-read, theme-based Bible stories that we hope brings Jesus alive in the hearts and minds of God's precious children. We want to help you make Jesus real to small children . . . right here, right now.

Joy! Energy! Enthusiasm! Fun! Love of God! Experiencing Jesus! Bible truths! These are just a few of the adventures and experiences we want for you and your children through interactive stories, happy songs, great games, dramatic mimic, creative crafts, reproducible coloring sheets, and the many other exciting activities provided in these pages.

We have written each lesson with great flexibility. We want this leader's guide to be just that—a guide—to give you fun ideas and a concrete framework from which to lead your class while allowing you options to choose, add, and change the class structure to fit your specific needs. We want to inspire your creativity to lead the children God has given you in the most energetic, exciting experience possible.

We wish we could be there with you—first, to meet you the teacher, and also to meet every single child as they enter the door. We thank you

for taking on this most important responsibility to help put Jesus first in the lives of children everywhere. We know you adore children as we do, and we celebrate your willingness to lead and your excitement for each and every child. May the Lord bless your labor of love and allow you to find joy in him as you serve.

We hope the simple and flexible structure that follows will help you to confidently lead your wonderful class of children with energy, excitement, enthusiasm, depth, and control. We wish you God's richest blessings as you serve him by making his Son, Jesus, known and real to his precious children. Praise the Lord!

And remember to have tons of fun! We think you are awesome!

God bless,
Rondi DeBoer and Christine Tangvald



LESSON STRUCTURE

1. Welcome

Greet each child with enthusiasm and gentleness. Allow them to be how they are—shy, happy, apprehensive, excited, etc. Also, allow them to keep a “security” toy or blanket if they must. Expect a few tears from first-timers.

Make nametags ahead of time, or have each parent fill one out with the child’s name and any food allergies. Nametags can be as simple or as special as you choose. Easy stick-ons are great (maybe with a happy face sticker), or you can laminate a nametag, punch holes at the top corners, and thread it with yarn long enough to hang around the child’s neck. Collect these at the end of each session to reuse the next time. Nametags provide a sense of belonging and make it easy for you, the teacher, to quickly identify each child and call them by name from the first minute.

Slowly introduce each child to the free play stations in your teaching area, inviting and encouraging them to participate. Introduce them to a “helpful buddy” who can get them to participate and feel included.

2. Free Play

Set up several simple (or complex), separate play areas for the children to explore and enjoy. Allow some time for free play, when children can move from station to station. Adjust the stations and time to the needs of your own situation. Silently pray for each child during this time. Possible play station ideas:

- A pretend store—with a muffin tin for the money, toy food, shopping cart, etc.
- A dress-up box of fun items—sequined hat, gloves, blouses, weird shoes, scarf, wigs, long necklace, clown nose, cowboy hat, whatever you have . . . perhaps even a mirror!

- A stack of building blocks with several toy trucks, cars, and a rocket.
- A doll area with a few dolls, stuffed animals, blankets, etc.
- Make up your own creative play stations.

Keep it simple. Be sure not to include anything dangerous or small objects that could be swallowed. Have a sturdy sack or box to keep each play station in so it’s ready to pick up, store and set up for the next time.

3. Circle Time

Have the children hold hands in a circle, stretch out wide, and then sit down on the floor. This allows for nice spacing in a circle. Any child who has a security toy or blanket may set it behind them.

Optional song. We have listed a suggested song to begin with. Feel free to add, move, or choose songs from your own church’s children’s ministries. You might want to sing the song before they sit down. Children adore songs that have active hand and body motions to go with them. We have repeated each song twice so the children have a chance to learn them well. Repeat them more often if you like.

Lead-in questions. This is the time to get the children excited about today’s Bible story and help them to feel heard. We have listed some starter questions. Allow the children to answer the questions, talk briefly, or ask their own questions. Be careful not to allow them to take over the session. Little ones love to talk!

Story time. Read today’s fun-to-read story from My Favorite Bible with drama, voice inflection, and excitement. Show the children the illustrations.

LESSON STRUCTURE (CONTINUED)

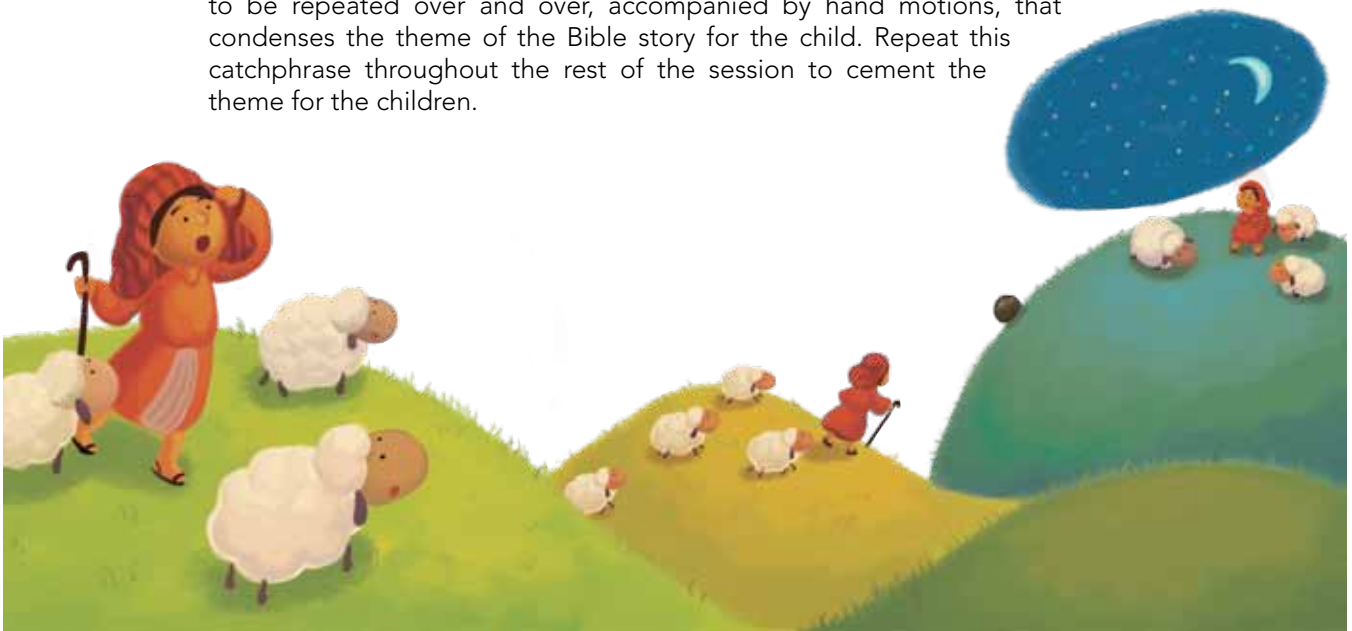
Review. We have used three types of review for the Bible story. These rotate week to week. (Note: Please also refer to the “Family Talk” page found after every story in My Favorite Bible, for the theme Bible verse, deeper questions, extra life applications, etc.)

1. Narration review. In narration, the children tell the story back to you in their own words. Ask leading questions, such as, “Jacob, what happened next?” Use the illustrations as prompts. Encourage the children with praise like, “Good, Rachel! Excellent, Jason.”

2. Questions. A few questions are listed to help you review. Discuss the story, the theme, the characters, life application, and so forth.

3. Show Me. Too fun! We have included some active starter ideas for the children to mimic from the story. Children love to actively show you things from the stories. Active participation and drama are two of the best reinforcement tools in teaching Bible stories. (“Show me how the animals tromped and stomped onto Noah’s ark!”) Now the children will be standing up, ready for the lesson’s “catchphrase.”

Catchphrase: Have the children stand up. This is a short theme phrase to be repeated over and over, accompanied by hand motions, that condenses the theme of the Bible story for the child. Repeat this catchphrase throughout the rest of the session to cement the theme for the children.



4. Table Time (Craft Time)

(Note: For more exciting ideas, crafts, and activities, please refer to the "Family Fun" page found after each Bible story in My Favorite Bible.)

We plan for at least one coloring sheet or craft for each child for each story and session.

For the younger children we have included a coloring sheet based on the illustrations in My Favorite Bible. This gives them an easy craft time that reinforces the day's story. The younger children may be included in the older children's craft when appropriate.

For the older children we have fun-to-make craft ideas that use everyday materials. If time or supplies are an issue, the coloring sheets may also be used by the older preschoolers.

5. Snack Time

You may want to have hand sanitizer available for little hands before the snack is passed out. We always pray at snack time. Each prayer includes (1) the story's theme, (2) thanking God for our snack, and (3) the closing "in Jesus' name." You can also have the children join hands and introduce them to circle prayer where they are encouraged to contribute topics to pray about.

6. Free Play

Not all children will finish their craft and snack at the same time, so the first ones done can go to free play. This also adds flex time for the leader to fill empty time



Joy! Energy! Enthusiasm! Fun! Love of God! Experiencing Jesus! Bible truths! These are just a few of the adventures and experiences we want for you and your children through interactive stories, happy songs, great games, dramatic mimic, creative crafts, reproducible coloring sheets, and the many other exciting activities provided in these pages.

if needed, and it leads smoothly into cleanup time.

7. Cleanup Time

Everyone helps clean up. This teaches responsibility and helps you, the teacher, leave with a clean room. Have the children help put the free play stations into separate sacks or boxes, ready for you to set up for the next session.

8. Goodbye & Game Time

Quickly review today's catchphrase so it is fresh in the children's minds. Repeat this over and over with great enthusiasm to help cement today's theme and story.

Finally, a fun game follows each day's theme that keeps the children happy and occupied as parents come to pick them up. Parents love to see their children in active participation and interaction with the teachers and the other children.

If you choose to use this game at a different time in your class schedule, you can end each session with free play.

Have fun!

LESSON ONE

GOD CREATES

1. Welcome Time

Greet each child by name and pass out nametags.

2. Free Play

3. Circle Time

Optional song. “The B-I-B-L-E”

Lead-in questions.

- What is your favorite animal?
- What sounds do they make?
- Today we are going to read all about how God made those animals . . . and everything else!

Story. “God Creates” on pp. 14–27 in *My Favorite Bible*

Review (Narration). Flip through each page beginning at page 18 and ask the children to call out what God made on each of the days. If they can’t remember, simply ask them what they see.

Catchphrase. “It is good!” What did God say when he was all done creating everything? “It is good!” Clap your hands with each word and say out loud: “It is good!” Again! Yes, it is—our world is very, very good indeed!

God, you are amazing! You made all the flowers, all the trees, all the animals, and everything. Thank you for our time together to learn about you, and thank you for our snack. In Jesus’ name. Amen.



4. Table Time

Younger children work on the coloring sheet. Older children can create “rock buddies” by painting rocks bright colors and attaching craft eyes with glue dots. Have the children name their playful animals.

5. Snack Time

Prayer: God, you are amazing! You made all the flowers, all the trees, all the animals, and everything. Thank you for our time together to learn about you, and thank you for our snack. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

6. Free Play

7. Cleanup Time

8. Goodbye & Game Time

Review today’s catchphrase: “It is good.” Clap three times. Yes, God made everything and he said, “It is good!”

Play “Animal Roundup.” Play praise music while the children walk slowly around the room. When the music stops, children freeze. The teacher then calls out an animal (or pulls a toy animal out of a bag). Everyone must pretend to be that animal—walk like that animal, sound like that animal while the music plays again. Each time the music stops, they must silently freeze to see what animal is next. Teachers, join in! Play until the parents pick up their children.

LESSON TWO

GOD CREATES AGAIN

1. Welcome Time

Greet each child by name and pass out nametags.

2. Free Play

3. Circle Time

Optional song. “The B-I-B-L-E”

Lead-in questions.

- Name something special about you.
- What are you good at? What do you love?
- Do you know who made you? That’s right, God did! He made you exactly right and so special.

Story. “God Creates Again” on pp. 30–37 in *My Favorite Bible*

Review (Show Me). Can you show me how God blew life into Adam? Cup your hands like you are holding Adam and blow. “Whooooo.” Nice job!

Catchphrase. “God created me!” Hold your hands out like you are holding something precious and wonderful—because you are wonderful and God loves you very much. Slightly bounce your hands as you say “God created” and then bring your hands to your chest when you

Wow, God! You made Adam and Eve in your image, and you made each one of us so special and amazing. Thank you for making us and loving us.



say “me.” Let’s do it all together: “God created me!” Do it a few more times.

4. Table Time

Younger children work on the coloring sheet. Older children can draw self portraits. Include your beautiful eyes, soft hair, and wonderful wide smile!

5. Snack Time

Prayer: Wow, God! You made Adam and Eve in your image, and you made each one of us so special and amazing. Thank you for making us and loving us. Help us to love you more every day. Please bless our snack today. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

6. Free Play

7. Cleanup Time

8. Goodbye & Game Time

Review today’s catchphrase: “God made me!” Do you remember our hand motions for today? “God made me!” Everyone do that with me: “God made me!”

Play “God Made Me.” The teacher is the leader, and when she raises her hands up, all the children freeze and say together, “God made me . . .” The leader then picks an action for the children to do and finishes the sentence, “. . . to jump on one foot!” Other examples include “to clap your hands,” “to sit down,” or “to dance.” You can even give the kids a turn at being the leader. Play until parents come to pick up their kids.

LESSON THREE

THE PROMISE

1. Welcome Time

Greet each child by name and pass out nametags.

2. Free Play

3. Circle Time

Optional song. "I've Got Peace Like a River"

Lead-in questions.

- Has anyone ever made a promise to you?
- Did they keep their promise?
- This story is about a very important promise that God made—he promised to save us from sin. And he kept his promise and sent us his very own Son, Jesus!

Story. "The Promise" on pp. 40–55 in *My Favorite Bible*

Review (Questions). How did Adam and Eve disobey God? What did they do?

So, God sent them out of the garden. But does God want us to be far away from him? No, he loves us and wants to be close to us. So God gave a big promise to send someone to save us. Does anyone know who he sent? That's right! It was Jesus! He kept his promise, didn't he? God always keeps his promises!

Catchphrase. "God keeps his promises!" Spread your arms out wide as you say "God keeps his" and clap and clasp them together tightly in front of you as you say "promises." Do this many times to show how strong God's promises are!

*Thank you, God, for your promises to us.
And thank you for keeping your promise
and sending Jesus to save us from sin.*



4. Table Time

Younger children can work on the coloring sheet. For older children, print up a promise poster for each child by writing the words "The Promised One" in large open lettering. Decorate with crayons, glitter glue, stickers, or jewels.

5. Snack Time

Prayer: Thank you, God, for your promises to us. And thank you for keeping your promise and sending Jesus to save us from sin. Thank you for our snack, and help us to learn about you today. In Jesus' name. Amen.

6. Free Play

7. Cleanup Time

8. Goodbye & Game Time

Review today's catchphrase: "God keeps his promises!" Clasp those hands tightly, because God is faithful and always keeps his promises! Do this a few times.

Play "Promises, Promises." All children sit in a circle with legs crossed. Their left hand rests on their left knee with palm up. With the right hand they make the motion of picking something up out of their left hand and placing it into the hand on the person on their left—as though an object is being passed around the whole circle of children. One button is placed in a hand and then everyone begins the passing motion while chanting, "Promises, promises, God keeps his promises." The button will slowly make its way around the circle. Whoever is "it" sits in the middle and when he shouts "Stop!" everyone freezes and he guesses who has the button. Play until the parents come to pick the children up.

LESSON FOUR AWESOME ARK

1. Welcome Time

Greet each child by name and pass out nametags.

2. Free Play

3. Circle Time

Optional song. "I've Got Peace Like a River"

Lead-in questions.

- Have you ever been on a boat?
- Did you like it? What did you like?
- Today our story is about a big, huge boat—a boat full of wild and noisy animals!

Story. "Awesome Ark" on pp. 58–71 in *My Favorite Bible*

Review (Narration). Flip through each page of today's story and ask the children to retell what is happening in the illustrations.

Catchphrase. "One way to be saved!" When you say "one" hold out your hand with your index finger pointing up. When you say "way" hold out the other hand pointing up, so that both hands are side by side. As you say "to be saved," move both hands upward toward the sky. "One way to be saved!" And that one way is Jesus!

*Thank you, God, that you have given us
one way to be saved—through faith in Jesus alone.*

Bless us in our class today



4. Table Time

Younger children can work on the coloring sheet. For older children, cut paper plates in half and let the kids make God's promise rainbow on the ridges. Use pens or crayons. For extra fun, use fruity cereal O's and glue!

5. Snack Time

Prayer: Thank you, God, that you have given us one way to be saved—through faith in Jesus alone. Bless us in our class today. Thank you for the snack. In Jesus' name. Amen.

6. Free Play

7. Cleanup Time

8. Goodbye & Game Time

Review today's catchphrase: "One way to be saved!" Repeat it a few times and praise the kids. God provided Noah one way to save the animals. Jesus provides the one and only way for us to be saved.

Play "Ark Musical Chairs." The animals all had to fit into the ark. Everyone will fit into our ark, too. Preschoolers often struggle with being "out" and little ones can get a bit pushy with this game. So put out one chair per person and don't take chairs away. Just have them walk around the chairs and sit when the music stops. No one is out. Fun for everyone!

LESSON FIVE

FATHER OF FAITH

1. Welcome Time

Greet each child by name and pass out nametags.

2. Free Play

3. Circle Time

Optional song. "This Little Light of Mine"

Lead-in questions.

- How many people are in your family?
- Do you have any brothers or sisters? Grandparents?
- Today we are going to talk about a very big family. A huge family! God's family!

Story. "Father of Faith" on pp. 74–85 in *My Favorite Bible*

Review (Show Me). Can you show me how the stars twinkled in the sky? Put your arms up and out and wiggle your fingers like a sparkly, twinkly star!

Catchphrase. "Family by faith." Families love each other. As you say "family" cross your right arm over your chest. As you

*God, you have a huge family!
Because of Jesus, you are our heavenly Father,
and we are your children. Thank you for inviting
us into your forever family.*



say "faith" cross your other arm and give yourself a big hug because God loves you!

4. Table Time

Younger children can work on the coloring sheet. For older children, cut out big stars printed on yellow paper. Have them write their name on their star on one side and decorate the other side. Hang the stars with string from the ceiling or on the windows. Send them home with the children at the end of the day.

5. Snack Time

Prayer: God, you have a huge family! Because of Jesus, you are our heavenly Father, and we are your children. Thank you for inviting us into your forever family. Thank you for our snack today. In Jesus' name. Amen.

6. Free Play

7. Cleanup Time

8. Goodbye & Game Time

Review today's catchphrase: "Family by faith!" Do it a few times with the kids and see how loud they can say it. Don't forget the big hug.

Play "Thankful Toss." Children stand in a big circle and gently pass a beanbag to each other. When you catch it, you say, "Thank you God for _____." The leader can start and thank God for family. Play until parents come.

LESSON SIX

SAVED FROM SLAVERY

1. Welcome Time

Greet each child by name and pass out nametags.

2. Free Play

3. Circle Time

Optional song. "This Little Light of Mine"

Lead-in questions.

- Have you ever needed help? Did you yell, "Help! Help!"?
- Who helped you?
- This story is about God's people. They needed help to become free. Let's see if God helped them.

Story. "Saved from Slavery" on pp. 106–19 in *My Favorite Bible*

Review (Questions). What was your favorite part of this story? What would it be like to walk through the Red Sea?

Catchphrase. "Save us, God, save us!" Wave your arms in the air as you shout, "Save us, God, save us!"

*God, only you can set your people free.
Only you can help us and save us. Thank you
for sending Jesus to save us from our sin.*



4. Table Time

Younger children can work on the coloring sheet. For older children, draw an outline of sticks for a bush and copy one for each child. Have the kids make a burning bush by letting them glue on red, orange, and yellow squares of tissue paper for the flames. Glue sticks work great for this one.

5. Snack Time

Prayer: God, only you can set your people free. Only you can help us and save us. Thank you for sending Jesus to save us from our sin. Thank you for this yummy snack we get to eat. In Jesus' name. Amen.

6. Free Play

7. Cleanup Time

8. Goodbye & Game Time

Review today's catchphrase: "Save us, God, save us!" Wave those arms high!

Play "Tightrope" as you cross the Red Sea. Using masking tape, make a line on the floor around the room. It can go straight, make turns, and even zigzag. Maybe even make a spot with a dashed line for jumping. This line is a tightrope.

Have the kids walk the tightrope and try not to "fall off" into the sea. Fun! Play until parents come.

LESSON SEVEN

FIGHT OF FAITH

1. Welcome Time

Greet each child by name and pass out nametags.

2. Free Play

3. Circle Time

Optional song. "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands"

Lead-in questions.

- Have you ever been afraid?
- What makes you feel better? What makes you feel brave?
- In today's story, David does something very brave because he knows God is his strength.

Story. "Fight of Faith" on pp. 128–39 in *My Favorite Bible*

Review (Narration). Turn back to the beginning of today's story and have the children tell you what happened on each page. Guide them to review the storyline.

Catchphrase. "God is my strength!" As you say this, put up your arms to make big muscles. Say it over and over until the kids can shout it by themselves.

God, you are strong and mighty!

We can trust in you all the time. Thank you for this class and for the snack we are about to eat.



4. Table Time

Younger children can work on the coloring sheet. For older children, copy an outline of a shield with the words "God is my strength" printed in the middle. Let the children decorate them, cut them out, and staple a strip of stiff paper on the back to use as a handle.

5. Snack Time

Prayer: God, you are strong and mighty! We can trust in you all the time. Thank you for this class and for the snack we are about to eat. In Jesus' name. Amen.

6. Free Play

7. Cleanup Time

8. Goodbye & Game Time

Review today's catchphrase: "God is my strength!" Make your arms strong and shout, "God is my strength!" Wow! Look at all those big muscles!

Play "Hot Potato." Sit in a circle and quickly pass around a small beanbag while the music plays. When the teacher pauses the song, whoever has the beanbag must say today's catchphrase and make a muscle. Be creative! Make up new things the winner gets to do, such as fall down like Goliath, twirl an imaginary slingshot, or yell "Hoo-ray" like God's army. Play until the children are picked up.

LESSON EIGHT

THE HERO QUEEN

1. Welcome Time

Greet each child by name and pass out nametags.

2. Free Play

3. Circle Time

Optional song. “He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands”

Lead-in questions.

- If you were a king or a queen, what would you wear?
- What new laws would you make?
- This story is about a brave woman who became a queen!

Story. “The Hero Queen” on pp. 142–55 in *My Favorite Bible*

Review (Show Me). Show me your happy face when Esther became queen. Show me your scared face when she went before the king. Show me how God’s people danced when they found out they were safe!

Catchphrase. “God has a plan for me!” Put your hands around your head like a crown and say, “God has a plan for me!” Smile as you say it—we can trust God. “God has a plan for me!”

*God, thank you for having a plan for Esther
and thank you for having a plan for us.*

We trust you, God.



4. Table Time

Younger children can work on the coloring sheet. For older children, cut out crowns from shiny gold poster paper. Decorate and staple to fit each child’s head.

5. Snack Time

Prayer: God, thank you for having a plan for Esther and thank you for having a plan for us. We trust you, God. Thank you for this snack. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

6. Free Play

7. Cleanup Time

8. Goodbye & Game Time

Review today’s catchphrase: “God has a plan for me!” Remember to put on your “crown” as you say it.

Play “Dress Up Relay.” Royalty wear fancy clothes. Get two hats or crowns and two pairs of gloves. Put them into boxes. Break up the kids into two groups and line up on one end of the room. One at a time, the child at the front of the line must run across the room, put on the hat and gloves, and run back to her team. There, she takes the hat and gloves off and the next person puts them on. They then run to the box and put the hat and gloves back in. They run back to the line and the next person goes. This continues until everyone has completed the task. Let the children just play with dress up clothes until their parents come to get them.

LESSON NINE

THE PROMISE COMES

1. Welcome Time

Greet each child by name and pass out nametags.

2. Free Play

3. Circle Time

Optional song. "Silent Night"

Lead-in questions.

- Who here likes Christmas?
- What do you like best?
- What do we celebrate on Christmas? Yes, Christmas is celebrating Jesus' birthday!
- What gift would you give baby Jesus? Let's read about his birth!

Story. "The Promise Comes" on pp. 186–99 in *My Favorite Bible*

Review (Questions). So, who was born? And who came to see him? Shepherds and wise men, that's right! Did Jesus come just for them? No, he came for everyone. He came for you and me!

Catchphrase. "Happy Birthday, Jesus!" Hold out your hands like you are receiving a gift. Jesus was the best gift ever given!

Thank you, God, for the greatest gift of Jesus.

Please give us faith in him.



4. Table Time

Younger children can work on the coloring sheet. Older children can color a picture of baby Jesus. Then, cut out squares of wrapping paper big enough to cover him up. Staple the top edge of the wrapping paper squares over the picture of baby Jesus. Glue on a ribbon. Then the kids can lift up the wrapped present and see the best gift ever given!

5. Snack Time

Prayer: Thank you, God, for the greatest gift of Jesus. Please give us faith in him. Bless us today as we eat this snack. In Jesus' name. Amen

6. Free Play

7. Cleanup Time

8. Goodbye & Game Time

Review today's catchphrase: "Happy Birthday, Jesus!" Do this several times.

Play "Duck, Duck, Goose," only say "Happy, Happy, Happy, Happy . . . Birthday!" Don't have anyone go into the "pot" (the center of the circle), just have them sit down and join the circle. Make sure all kids have a chance to be "it." Play this until the parents come to pick up their children.

LESSON TEN

BEHOLD, THE LAMB!

1. Welcome Time

Greet each child by name and pass out nametags.

2. Free Play

3. Circle Time

Optional song. "If You're Happy and You Know It"

Lead-in questions.

- What is your favorite snack?
- What is your favorite dessert?
- Today we will read about someone who liked a very interesting lunch. He ate bugs and honey!

Story. "Behold, the Lamb!" on pp. 202–13 in *My Favorite Bible*

Review (Narration). Flip through the pictures of this story and have the children retell the story to you.

Catchphrase. "Follow Jesus!" After John the Baptist pointed to Jesus, many people

*God, thank you that we can follow Jesus.
Thank you for this snack and for this class.
In Jesus' name. Amen*



began to follow Jesus everywhere he went. "Follow Jesus" is our catchphrase today. Point across the room and shout, "Follow Jesus!" Do this over and over.

4. Table Time

Younger children can work on the coloring sheet. For older children, trace each child's foot onto construction paper and cut them out. Write on each paper foot, "[child's name] follows Jesus." Let them decorate the feet.

5. Snack Time

Prayer: God, thank you that we can follow Jesus. Thank you for this snack and for this class. In Jesus' name. Amen

6. Free Play

7. Cleanup Time

8. Goodbye & Game Time

Review today's catchphrase: "Follow Jesus!" Play "Follow the Leader." We can all follow Jesus—he will lead us to do many things! Let the kids take turns being the leader. Keep playing as children are picked up by their parents.

LESSON ELEVEN BLIND FAITH

1. Welcome Time

Greet each child by name and pass out nametags.

2. Free Play

3. Circle Time

Optional song. “My God Is So Big”

Lead-in questions.

- Close your eyes tightly. What do you see?
- Remind the children that God created the dark and it is good. We have nothing to be afraid of. Today our story is about a man who couldn't see until Jesus did something amazing.

Story. “Blind Faith” on pp. 216–27 in *My Favorite Bible*

Review (Show Me). Pretend you are blind Bartimaeus, and show me with your face how surprised you would be if Jesus suddenly healed you!

Catchphrase. “Jesus is amazing!” When you say “Jesus is” put your fists up alongside your cheeks and squint your eyes closed. At the word “amazing” open your hands with fingers spread out and open your eyes wide and smile!

God, thank you for Jesus. He did amazing things!

*Thank you for this snack, and help us
to know you more.*



4. Table Time

Younger children can work on the coloring sheet. Have older children color hard and thick with a black crayon over a brightly colored piece of paper. Then, with a coin or a rounded stick, scratch off a design or picture or swirls to reveal the color underneath. This is like blind Bartimaeus. All he saw was darkness, and then Jesus healed him so he could see all the beautiful colors God created.

5. Snack Time

Prayer: God, thank you for Jesus. He did amazing things! Thank you for this snack, and help us to know you more. In Jesus' name. Amen.

6. Free Play

7. Cleanup Time

8. Goodbye & Game Time

Review today's catchphrase: “Jesus is amazing!” He was amazing then, and he is still amazing now!

Play “Blind Man.” Have all the children sit in a circle and close their eyes. Pass around a small brown lunch bag with a mystery item in it. After it has gone around, let the children guess what is inside. Do this many times. Possible items include: pencil, cotton balls, apple, small toys, peeled hard-boiled eggs, etc. Play until their parents pick them up.

LESSON TWELVE

PEACE IN THE STORM

1. Welcome Time

Greet each child by name and pass out nametags.

2. Free Play

3. Circle Time

Optional song. "My God Is So Big"

Lead-in questions.

- Have you ever seen a storm?
- What was it like? Was there lightning? Wind? Rain?
- Today we learn about a big, big storm and what Jesus did about it!

Story. "Peace in the Storm" on pp. 244–57 in *My Favorite Bible*

Review (Show Me). Everyone stand up and act like it's a wild storm. Oh, the wind is blowing! The rain is falling! Now everyone . . . be still! Shhhh . . . Wow, that was good. Let's do it again!

Catchphrase. "Jesus gives us peace." This one is to be whispered. Put both fingers up to your lips to make the shh motion and quietly say, "Jesus gives us peace."

God, thank you for Jesus.

God help us to trust you in hard times.

Give us peace when things get hard.



4. Table Time

Younger children can work on the coloring sheet. For older children, write "Jesus gives us peace" with a permanent marker on the outside of a small Ziploc bag. Then, let the children put fish stickers all along the outside of the bag. When done, put blue hair gel into the bag with a dash of glitter and zip it up tight. Now the kids can squish the gel around and make a "sea storm"!

5. Snack Time

Prayer: God help us to trust you in hard times. Give us peace when things get hard. Thank you for this snack. In Jesus' name. Amen.

6. Free Play

7. Cleanup Time

8. Goodbye & Game Time

Review today's catchphrase: Whisper "Jesus gives us peace."

Play "Stormy Sea!" Have all the children stand around the outside of a blue sheet, hanging on to the edge right in front of them. Wave it up and down to create a stormy sea. Place a ball in the middle of the sheet and try to keep it bouncing without falling off. Keep playing until all the kids are picked up by their parents.

LESSON THIRTEEN LOST AND FOUND

1. Welcome Time

Greet each child by name and pass out nametags.

2. Free Play

3. Circle Time

Optional song. "Jesus Loves Me"

Lead-in questions.

- Have you ever been lost?
- How did you feel?
- Who found you?
- Today's story is about a little lost lamb and how he got found.

Story. "Lost and Found" on pp. 260–69 in *My Favorite Bible*

Review (Narration). Walk the children through the story by asking, "And what happened in this picture?" Have the group retell the story in their own words.

Catchphrase. "Jesus is my Good Shepherd." Hold your hand above your eyes as though you are searching for someone. Jesus always watches over you, just like a good shepherd watches over his sheep. Say "Jesus is my Good Shepherd" while scanning the room with your hand shielding your eyes.

*God, thank you that Jesus
is my Good Shepherd. I feel safe with Jesus.*



4. Table Time

Younger children can work on the coloring sheet. For older children, print off a picture of a lamb with the phrase "Jesus is my Good Shepherd." Teachers can squiggle on the glue and the children can cover the lamb with cotton balls.

5. Snack Time

Prayer: God, thank you that Jesus is my Good Shepherd. I feel safe with Jesus. Thank you for our snack today, and help us to love you more and more. In Jesus' name. Amen.

6. Free Play

7. Cleanup Time

8. Goodbye & Game Time

Review today's catchphrase: "Jesus is my Good Shepherd!" Hand over your eyes! "Jesus is my Good Shepherd!"

Play "Find the Lamb." Hide photos of lambs (or little toy lambs) around the room. Tell everyone to pretend they are a good shepherd and must find one lamb. Make sure there is one lamb per child. When all of them are found, have the children close their eyes while you hide them again. Keep playing until everyone is picked up by their parents.

LESSON FOURTEEN CHILDREN OF GOD

1. Welcome Time

Greet each child by name and pass out nametags.

2. Free Play

3. Circle Time

Optional song. “Jesus Loves Me”

Lead-in questions.

- How old are you?
- Did you know that Jesus loves children just your age? He loves people of every age. He does! And we are going to read about it in today’s story.

Story. “Children of God” on pp. 286–93 in *My Favorite Bible*

Review (Questions). So, does Jesus love grownups? Does he love kids? Does he love babies? Oh, yes! Jesus loves everyone who is a child of God!

Catchphrase. “Jesus loves me!” When you say “Jesus” point up to the sky. When you say “loves” cross your arms over your chest in the sign for love. When you say “me” point to yourself. “Jesus loves me!”

God, thank you that Jesus loves us so much.

It feels good to be loved by you.

Thank you for this day and for this snack.



4. Table Time

Younger children can work on the coloring sheet. Direct older children to string beads on a pipe cleaner. Twist the ends together and then form it into the shape of a heart. Tie ribbon around the top with a little note that says “Jesus loves me!”

5. Snack Time

Prayer: God, thank you that Jesus loves us so much. It feels good to be loved by you. Thank you for this day and for this snack. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

6. Free Play

7. Cleanup Time

8. Goodbye & Game Time

Review today’s catchphrase: “Jesus loves me!” With all the kids standing in a circle, let each child take a turn saying aloud “Jesus loves _____” with their own name inserted (e.g., “Jesus loves Emma” or “Jesus loves Jada”).

Play “Jesus Loves Me Limbo.” Play or sing “Jesus Loves Me” while the children walk in a circle, and let them each limbo under a stick. Hold it up very high to begin with and don’t put it down too low—we want everyone to have fun and feel successful. Play until the parents come to pick up their children.

LESSON FIFTEEN GOOD, GOOD NEWS

1. Welcome Time

Greet each child by name and pass out nametags.

2. Free Play

3. Circle Time

Optional song. “This Is the Day That the Lord Has Made”

Lead-in questions.

- What makes you happy?
- What makes you sad?
- Well, this story today is the most important story ever told. It starts with something sad—but then ends with something glad. It’s the best news ever!

Story. “Good, Good News” on pp. 304–15 in *My Favorite Bible*

Review (Narration). Show the children the picture on page 315. What is happening in this picture? Why is everyone so happy? Is Jesus still alive today? Oh yes, this is the best story ever!

Catchphrase. “Jesus is alive!” Flap your arms like angel wings and announce the very good news: “Jesus is alive! Jesus is alive!”

God, thank you that Jesus took all the punishment for our sins. Thank you, thank you, God, that Jesus is alive now and forever.



4. Table Time

Younger children can work on the coloring sheet. The butterfly is a symbol of new life. For older children, take coffee filters and let drops of food coloring or watered down paint fall on them to create beautiful bursts of color. Gather the filters in the middle with clothespins or pipe cleaners to make a butterfly.

5. Snack Time

Prayer: God, thank you that Jesus took all the punishment for our sins. Thank you, thank you, God, that Jesus is alive now and forever. Give us faith in Jesus, our Savior. Thank you for this food. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

6. Free Play

7. Cleanup Time

8. Goodbye & Game Time

Review today’s catchphrase: “Jesus is alive!” Fly around the room like angels proclaiming the good, good news: Jesus is alive! Jesus is alive!

Play “Simon Says.” Do the usual things, but also include elements from today’s story. For example, “Simon says to fly like an angel.” “Simon says to shout Jesus is alive!” “Simon says to smile for the good news.” Keep playing till the children are picked up.

LESSON SIXTEEN UP!

1. Welcome Time

Greet each child by name and pass out nametags.

2. Free Play

3. Circle Time

Optional song. “I’ve Got the Joy, Joy, Joy, Joy”

Lead-in questions.

- Have you ever seen a helium balloon? When?
- What does it do when you let it go?
- Today we are going to read a story about when Jesus went up, up, up into the clouds. It’s so exciting!

Story. “Up!” on pp. 318–23 in *My Favorite Bible*

Review (Show Me). Today for review it would be wonderful to go outside and let go of a helium balloon and see how long you can watch it rise. For a show me review, crouch down on the floor, sooo low. Now slowly rise higher and higher until you are reaching for the sky!

Catchphrase. “Jesus ascended—up, up, up!” Put your arms down and slowly raise

them all the way up as you say “Jesus ascended” progressively louder. Hop three times when you say “up, up, up!”

4. Table Time

Younger children can work on the coloring sheet. For older children, make a stick puppet of Jesus. Color and cut out a picture of Jesus and glue him onto a popsicle stick. Direct the kids to act out his ascension by raising him in the air.

5. Snack Time

Prayer: God, thank you that Jesus lives with you in heaven and that someday he will come back. I’m glad we get to live joyfully with you forever. Thank you for this snack and for this day. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

6. Free Play

7. Cleanup Time

8. Goodbye & Game Time

Review today’s catchphrase: “Jesus ascended—up, up, up!” Do this a few times in dramatic fashion.

Play “Up, Up, Up!” Blow up a balloon for each child. (You may want to have a few extras on hand in case they pop.) Instruct the children to bat the balloon up in the air for as long as they can. Count how many times you can hit it before it touches the ground. Play this until the parents come to pick up their children.

God, thank you that Jesus lives with you in heaven and that someday he will come back. I’m glad we get to live joyfully with you forever.



LESSON SEVENTEEN

COME, HOLY SPIRIT

1. Welcome Time

Greet each child by name and pass out nametags.

2. Free Play

3. Circle Time

Optional song. “This Is the Day That the Lord Has Made”

Lead-in questions.

- Can you see the wind? No?
- How do you know it’s there?
- You can feel it and see what it does, that’s right. The Holy Spirit is like that. We can’t see him, but we can feel him and he works in our hearts.

Story. “Come, Holy Spirit” on pp. 326–37 in *My Favorite Bible*

Review (Question). Yes, when you put your faith in Jesus, the Holy Spirit comes and lives in your heart forever. Are we ever alone? No. Is the Holy Spirit always with us? Yes!

Catchphrase. “Holy Spirit is with me!” While saying this, move your hands back

*Dear God, thank you for sending
your Holy Spirit to live inside my heart.
I’m so glad you are always with me!*



and forth in front of you like wind blowing. “Holy Spirit is with me!”

4. Table Time

Younger children can work on the coloring sheet. For older children, make a wind spiral. Cut 6- to 9-inch circles out of foam sheets or colored paper. Cut a strip around and around—about a half inch wide—spiraling into the center. Hang these with paper clips outside for the wind to blow and make them spin!

5. Snack Time

Prayer: Dear God, thank you for sending your Holy Spirit to live inside my heart. I’m so glad you are always with me! Thank you for this class and for our snack today. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

6. Free Play

7. Cleanup Time

8. Goodbye & Game Time

Review today’s catchphrase: “Holy Spirit is with me!” Show the wind blowing with your hands and say, “Holy Spirit is with me!”

Play “Blow, Wind, Blow.” Give everyone a ping pong ball and a straw. When you shout, “Blow, wind, blow!” everyone blows through their straw and moves their ball around the room. So much fun! They’ll play until their parents come.

LESSON EIGHTEEN

ALL THINGS NEW

1. Welcome Time

Greet each child by name and pass out nametags.

2. Free Play

3. Circle Time

Optional song. “This Is the Day That the Lord Has Made”

Lead-in questions.

- Where is your favorite place to be?
- Why do you like it there?
- Today we are going to learn about the best place ever!

Story. “All Things New” on pp. 350–63 in *My Favorite Bible*

Review (Question). What is your favorite description of heaven from this story? What a happy place! Do you want to go there someday? If you trust in Jesus alone, you do get to go there and live happily with God forever!

Catchphrase. “Praise God! Hallelujah!” Heaven is a wonderful place where we will be with God—happy forever! “Praise God! Hallelujah!” When you say “Praise God” shake your hands with fingers outstretched. When you say “Hallelujah!”

Thank you God that heaven is a promise for all those who believe in Jesus. I can't wait to see you there!
Give us faith in Jesus alone.



clap loudly over your head. Celebrate! Heaven is a promise!

4. Table Time

Younger children can work on the coloring sheet. For older children, make a heavenly mural on a huge piece of butcher paper. Let the children draw anything they remember about the wonders of heaven: the tree of life, jewels, gold, angels, people rejoicing, music, the river of life, the throne, etc.

5. Snack Time

Prayer: Thank you God that heaven is a promise for all those who believe in Jesus. I can't wait to see you there! Give us faith in Jesus alone. Thank you for this snack. In Jesus' name.

6. Free Play

7. Cleanup Time

8. Goodbye & Game Time

Review today's catchphrase: “Praise God! Hallelujah!” Say it like you mean it—because you do!

Play “Mirror, Mirror.” In heaven, we will see God face to face. Pick a partner and stand facing each other. One person is the leader. As the leader moves, the follower needs to imitate their partner like they are the mirror image of each other. Take turns leading. Trade partners and keep playing until parents pick up the children.